



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP El Salvador

Country Brief

March 2024



Kitchen-in-a-Box regenerated a vegetable garden in the department of San Salvador - ©WFP Photo

Operational Context

El Salvador has a population of 6.3 million. In 2023, the economy grew at a rate of 3.5 percent. Although the rural basic food basket slightly varied during the year, inflation decreased to 0.8 percent. The fiscal deficit reached 2.5 percent of GDP, and the debt exceeded 90 percent. Food production represents only 5 percent of the GDP, relying heavily on food imports and remittances (24.5 percent of the GDP). Further, 26 percent of families live in multidimensional poverty with multiple disadvantages (e.g., poor health or malnutrition, poor quality of work, or little schooling).

Recurrent and adverse weather conditions often affect crops, limiting efforts to reduce food insecurity (rank 28th, Global Climate Risk Index 2021). For the April-June period, which coincides with the transition from the dry-rainy phase, the predominant phase is Neutral at 80 percent and extends through May to July. According to current forecasts for the second half of 2024, there is an 80 percent probability of a La Niña phenomenon. La Niña may affect the production of basic grains by the end of the first cycle and the sowing activities of the second cycle, which put household food stocks at risk of depletion, negatively affecting smallholder farmers' income and dietary diversity. This factor may increase malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months (10 percent stunted). WFP has been present in El Salvador since 1971.



Population: **6.3 million**

2022 Human Development Index:
125 out of 189

Income Level: **Lower middle**

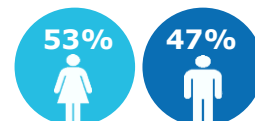
Chronic malnutrition: **14% of children
between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 84,829 delivered as cash-based transfers*

USD 12.7 m six months (April 2024 - September 2024) net funding requirements, representing 61 percent of the total

2,824 people assisted*
in MARCH 2024



*Preliminary numbers

Operational Updates

- WFP assisted 2,824 food-insecure people (53 percent women) affected by climate-related disasters and the global economic crisis in the department of Sonsonate. WFP delivered a USD 120 monthly transfer to every household to cover their immediate food needs.
- WFP provided computer equipment and furniture for the crisis rooms for the Directorate General of Civil Protection (DGPC) in the departments of San Miguel and La Unión. These rooms will improve communication between the departments and the DGPC headquarters and manage information in the event of an emergency response to provide an effective response to the affected population.
- WFP revived a vegetable garden for the Kitchen-in-a-Box in the department of San Salvador to provide fresh, local produce for school meals and encourage healthy nutrition. In addition, WFP advocated for this initiative with 80 school parents, teachers and trained 32 schoolchildren in nutrition.
- As part of its service provision, WFP collaborated with a local NGO, EDUCO, to provide cash-based transfers of USD 7,166 to 72 beneficiaries affected by forced displacement and migration, among others.

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Country Strategic Plan (2022-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
134.1 m	38.4 m	12.7 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1 (SO1): SO1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

1. Provide immediate nutrition-sensitive food assistance to crisis-affected populations to meet their essential needs and facilitate relief and early recovery.
2. Strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacity at the community and institutional levels.

Strategic Result 2: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 2 (SO2): People have improved & sustainable livelihoods.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

3. Empower food-insecure communities to adopt improved and inclusive climate risk management and adaptation practices, as well as services to enhance production and resilience against shocks and stressors.
4. Strengthen the production, management, and marketing capacities of urban and rural.
9. Strengthen the national capacity to manage social protection programmes, to attend the most vulnerable population including school children through provision of food assistance.

Strategic Result 3: Developing countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs.

Strategic Outcome 3 (SO3): National programmes & systems are strengthened.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

5. Provide technical assistance to strengthen institutional capacity and social protection systems, enhancing inclusivity to meet the differentiated food and nutrition security needs of people and communities in conditions of vulnerability.

Strategic Result 4: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs.

Strategic Outcome 4 (SO4): Humanitarian & development actors are more efficient & effective.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

6. Provide cash-based transfer platform services to government partners, United Nations agencies and national and international non-governmental organizations to meet the essential needs of targeted populations.
7. Provide food procurement services to government partners, United Nations agencies and national and international non-governmental organizations to meet the essential needs of targeted populations.
8. Provide logistics and non-food item procurement services to government partners, United Nations agencies and national and international non-governmental organizations for the delivery of social protection.

Challenges

- The climatic outlook foresees the arrival of the La Niña phenomenon, excess rainfall, which may cause damages and losses in harvests, putting the population's food security at risk by the end of the year. Subsistence farmers would be the most population group, as their access to food would depend on the extend of the losses.

Donors

Canada, United States of America (the), Saudi Arabia, Sweden, El Salvador and private donors.

Additional support has been provided by the Adaptation Fund.