



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP El Salvador Country Brief April 2024



Operational Context

El Salvador has a population of 6.3 million. In 2023, the economy grew at a rate of 3.5 percent. The rural basic food basket slightly varied during the year and inflation increased at 1.14 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**

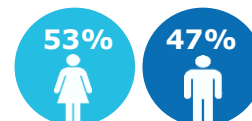
Chronic malnutrition: **14% of children
between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 289,931 delivered as cash-based transfers*

USD 14.7 m six months (May 2024 - October 2024) net funding requirements, representing 64 percent of the total

6,228 people assisted*
in APRIL 2024



*Preliminary numbers

Operational Updates

- WFP assisted 6,228 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 or 240 transfer per household to cover their immediate food needs.
- WFP trained 24 smallholder farmers on Negotiation Skills for basic grains commercialisation in the departments of La Unión and San Miguel. The smallholder farmers learned to commercialise their products (sorghum or other basic grains) in local markets. The initiative with small producers aims to link them to markets.
- A new cohort of 50 youngsters (84 percent women) started the gastronomic certification programme in the Department of La Unión. The participants will learn about cooking techniques, nutrition, food safety, customer service, personal development, and citizenship. They will also gain job experience through internships in private tourism companies.
- WFP inaugurated the new certification programme "Innova Bakery" with 50 microentrepreneurs in the Department of San Salvador. The participants will learn how to create business plans, enable them to access venture capital and facilitate the connection to markets. This will support participants' livelihoods in a sustainable manner. WFP develops Innova Bakery with a Sustainable Food Systems approach, promoting the strengthening of the different actors involved in the value chain.

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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	14.7 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.

Monitoring

- WFP conducted a monitoring exercise of young graduates of the Gastro-Lab gastronomy certification programme in the department of Santa Ana. The monitoring exercise aimed to understand the impact of certification programme on their income. Preliminary results revealed that 73 percent of the young participants are currently working, 75 percent in gastronomy.
- WFP conducted a baseline and post-distribution monitoring of the emergency response intervention. These exercises revealed that 40 percent of the beneficiaries' main income comes from daily labour in agricultural activities and that they have an average income of USD 155 which is insufficient to cover the basic food basket (valued at USD 183 for the rural areas and USD 255 for urban areas).

Climate Forecast

- The hurricane season starts on 15 May for the Eastern Pacific. This year is expected to be a very active season. During May and June, there is a medium probability that at least two cyclonic systems will move near the Central American Pacific coast and affect the national territory.

Donors

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

Additional support has been provided by the Adaptation Fund.