



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP El Salvador Country Brief June 2024



Elderly woman affected by rains received food assistance from WFP at a shelter in the department of Usulután - ©WFP Photo

Operational Context

El Salvador has a population of 6.3 million. In 2024, GDP is forecast to hold steady at an average of 2.7 percent. Although the rural basic food basket slightly varied during the year, inflation reached 1.48 percent by June. The fiscal deficit reached 1.8 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). From July onwards, La Niña phenomenon will be affecting the country. According to current forecasts, a very active hurricane season is expected with approximately 17 storms in the Pacific region, 23 in the Atlantic region and extreme weather events affecting the country. La Niña is likely to affect the production of basic grains by the end of the first harvest 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**

2023 Human Development Index:
127 out of 189

Income Level: **Lower middle**

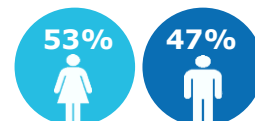
Chronic malnutrition: **14% of children
between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 107,280 delivered as cash-based transfers*

USD 15.2 m six months (July 2024 - December 2024) net funding requirements, representing 69 percent of the total

4,536 people assisted*
in JUNE 2024



*Preliminary numbers

Operational Updates

- WFP complemented the Government's efforts by providing value voucher for USD 120 to 877 families in shelter (3,508 individuals) affected by torrential rains and flooding, to cover 50 percent of their basic food needs for one month. Beneficiaries redeemed food and basic items from the nearby markets.
- WFP inaugurated two crisis rooms to strengthen the capacity of Civil Protection in the departments of San Miguel and La Unión. The rooms are equipped with latest technology to monitor emergencies and update information. Crisis rooms enhance coordination with the National Emergency Operations Centre to facilitate decision-making and response during emergencies.
- WFP Innova Bakery programme started functioning at the Laboratory in the Department of San Salvador. Through training, Innova Bakery benefits 59 bakers to improve the productivity, quality and profitability of their businesses, using innovative techniques and sorghum as a gluten-free product.
- As part of the resilience building programme in the departments of Morazán, San Miguel and La Unión, WFP provided technical assistance to a poultry farm and a macro-tunnel, benefiting 108 persons. WFP also trained 960 individuals in community organisation and implemented the Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

Contact info: Liggi Samayoa (liggia.samayoa@wfp.org)

Country Director: Riaz Lodhi

Further information: [WFP El Salvador](#)

Country Strategic Plan (2022-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
134.1 m	41.4 m	15.2 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 populations.
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

- Following the National Emergency declared by the Government due to excessive rainfall nationwide, WFP carried out an Emergency Food Security Analysis (EFSA 72h). The results showed that 111,000 people partially lost their housings and livelihoods by rainfall above 350 mm in 7 days.
- In response to the emergency, WFP conducted an assessment in 45 shelters to identify people in need of assistance for a longer period due to losses or affectations on their livelihoods. This exercise showed that 63 percent of sheltered people lost incomes and/or their assets, and 48 percent were affected or at risk from flooding.

Challenges

- Beneficiaries of WFP's resilience programmes, which consist of recovery and asset building in the departments of San Miguel and La Unión, reported 66 percent of active plots suffered damage and losses were up to 90 percent. In addition, 23 people out of the 416 registered in the projects were evacuated to shelters in the area.

Donors

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

Additional support has been provided by the Adaptation Fund.