



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP El Salvador Country Brief August 2024



Beneficiaries of the resilience building programme received packages for sorghum and maize production in the Department of San Vicente - ©WFP Photo

Operational Context

El Salvador has a population of 6.3 million. In 2024, GDP is forecast to grow by 3 percent. Although the rural basic food basket slightly varied during the year, inflation increased by 4 percent in 2023. 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). El Salvador is currently under the influence of the La Niña phenomenon. According to current forecasts, a very active hurricane season is expected until November. Considering that the maximum cyclonic development for the Atlantic occurs in September, there is a 40 to 70 percent probability that at least one or two cyclonic systems influence the region. La Niña is likely to affect the production of basic grains by the end of the first harvest cycle (April-August) and the sowing activities of the second cycle (September- November), 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**

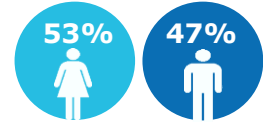
Chronic malnutrition: **14% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 729,600 delivered as cash-based transfers*

USD 19.6 m six months (September 2024 - February 2025) net funding requirements, representing 79 percent of the total

22,424 people assisted* in AUGUST 2024



*Preliminary numbers

Operational Updates

- WFP assisted 22,244 food-insecure people (53 percent women) affected by climate-related disasters and the global economic crisis in the departments of San Miguel, Sonsonate, La Libertad and Cuscatlán. USD 120 monthly were transferred per household to cover their immediate food needs.
- WFP delivered 397 packages including seeds, fertilisers, insecticides, and fungicides to support the production of maize and sorghum benefitting 602 smallholder farmers in the departments of San Miguel, La Unión and Morazán.
- WFP delivered 400 poultry farms along with chicken feed and established 40 community gardens, 12 irrigation systems and 10 water harvesting systems. These inputs benefit 1,600 individuals in the Department of Sonsonate.
- WFP continued the adaptation of containers for Kitchen-in-a-Box (KIAB) in two schools in the Department of San Salvador. These smart kitchens are made from used shipping containers, equipped with modern eco-friendly technology to cook school meals and save time. The Ministry of Education and WFP identified 4 additional schools to install KIAB in the departments of Santa Ana, La Union, Sonsonate and La Libertad.
- Gastro-Lab held three bootcamps to select 150 young participants for the new cohorts in the departments of La Unión, Santa Ana and La Libertad. In the bootcamp, WFP evaluated the youngsters' skills, interests, aptitudes and life plans to develop them in the field of gastronomy.

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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	41.9 m	19.6 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

- WFP collected baseline information in the last week of August from the Anticipatory Actions project participants in the Department of San Vicente to determine the household's food security situation, access to insurance, and access to timely climate information for decision-making. Preliminary results revealed that 99 percent has no access to weather-based insurance in the last three years; 72 percent have access to weather information and 65 percent plan to plant in the post rainy season, from September onwards.

Donors

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