



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP El Salvador Country Brief October 2024



WFP delivered seed capital to Innova Bakery beneficiaries - ©WFP Photo

Operational Context

El Salvador has a population of 6.3 million. In 2024, GDP is forecast to grow by 3 percent. 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). In 2024, the weather in El Salvador has been notably unusual due to the lack of a clear and defined influence of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation phenomenon. This situation led to periods of extreme heat and irregular rainfall that did not follow traditional patterns. As a result, we have experienced excess and deficit rainfall in different areas of the country, which affected the production of basic grains, putting household food stocks at risk of depletion, negatively affecting smallholder farmers' income and dietary diversity.

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**

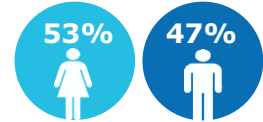
Chronic malnutrition: **14% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 444,360 delivered as cash-based transfers*

USD 22.7 m six months (November 2024 - April 2025) net funding requirements, representing 77 percent of the total

7,532 people assisted*
in OCTOBER 2024



*Preliminary numbers

Operational Updates

- WFP assisted 1,800 food-insecure people (53 percent women) affected by climate-related disasters in the departments of San Miguel, Sonsonate, La Libertad, La Paz, San Vicente and Cuscatlán. Monthly USD 120 were transferred per household to cover their immediate food needs.
- On 15 October, WFP provided seed capital to 45 bakery micro-enterprises led by participants of the Innova Bakery project. This initiative trains small-scale entrepreneurs to produce healthier and innovative bakery products. The seed capital was delivered according to the business plans prepared by the micro-entrepreneurs to enhance their businesses.
- WFP delivered 372 kits of insecticides, fungicides, acaricides and bactericides for crop protection in resilience and early recovery interventions. WFP supported 400 beneficiaries in producing organic fertilisers (bokashi and biofertilisers) and built 3,000 linear metres of soil and water conservation works (infiltration ditches, living barriers, stubble management). In the resilience phase, WFP continues with the implementation of staggered production plans so that the communities have food available for most of the year as well as a surplus for marketing.
- Young people from Gastrolab trained 102 smallholder farmers (75 percent women) of the resilience-building programme from the department of La Unión in fruit and vegetable processing. The beneficiaries learned how to maximize the potential of their local harvests and increase their income by producing jams, pickled vegetables, and sauces.

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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	44.4 m	22.7 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 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 carried out a price monitoring exercise for the basic food basket at departmental and community levels. This exercise included monitoring the prices of the new food supply centre promoted by the Government and comparing prices with those of Guatemala (the leading food importers). Monitoring results showed that prices in the communities are 37 percent higher than in the primary markets. The food supply centre offered up to 45 percent cheaper prices for vegetables. Compared to Guatemala, fruit prices in El Salvador are 52 percent higher and 103 percent higher for vegetables.

Donors

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