



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP El Salvador Country Brief September 2025



For Healthier Families communication campaign launch – part of an interagency UN effort ©WFP/Gabriela Moreno

Operational Context

El Salvador is highly vulnerable to sudden crises due to its location in the Dry Corridor and recurrent exposure to droughts, hurricanes and floods. These hazards, along with widespread multidimensional poverty (impacting 25 percent of households) and reliance on imports and remittances (24 percent of GDP), heighten food insecurity risks for many families.

Families in vulnerable conditions, especially those led by women, are increasingly struggling to meet their basic food needs, often resorting to negative coping strategies that compromise their well-being. Food insecurity is most acute in regions with rural economies and highly exposed to weather shocks. National food production accounts for 4 percent of GDP, which limits resilience to climate and economic shocks, threatening dietary diversity and smallholder farmer incomes and placing children at risk of malnutrition (9 percent of children under five are stunted).

Over 818,000 people need humanitarian assistance and 731,500 facing food insecurity. WFP plays a key role in emergency preparedness, strengthening community resilience, food security and mitigating the negative impacts of climatic and social events on the country's most vulnerable populations.

WFP has been present in El Salvador since 1971.



Population: **6.3 million**

2025 Human Development Index:
132 out of 193

Income Level: **Middle**

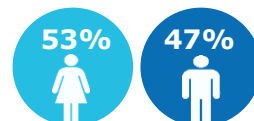
Chronic malnutrition: **14% of children
between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 487,200 delivered as cash-based transfers

USD 13.7 m six months (October 2025 – March 2026) requirements, representing 74 percent of the total

134,468 people assisted
in SEPTEMBER 2025



Operational Updates

- WFP assisted 9,820 individuals in vulnerable conditions with critical food needs in the departments of San Vicente, La Libertad, La Unión and Usulután, through the provision of USD 120 monthly transfer per household to cover their immediate food needs.
- WFP strengthened national emergency preparedness through consultations with Civil Protection and civil society, supported by international experts, to identify gaps and define priorities such as early warning systems, anticipatory actions and target populations such as vulnerable returnees.
- WFP in partnership with the Salvadoran Red Cross, FAO, Civil Protection and others, joined efforts to strengthen operational collaboration, update response strategies and develop actionable roadmaps. These efforts ensure a more efficient humanitarian response during emergency situations.
- WFP, through its collaboration with its partner FUNSALPRODESE, trained 250 smallholder farmers in Ahuachapán on addressing climate vulnerability and adopting good agricultural practices. Farmers received toolkits including agrochemicals, fertilizers and basic farming tools to boost production and establish sustainable community vegetable gardens.
- WFP strengthens livelihoods by creating sustainable economic opportunities, promoting local Food Systems. Through Gastro-Lab, WFP carried out two opportunity fairs in the departments of La Libertad and Santa Ana linking 92 youth with 22 tourism companies, resulting in 44 internships to complete their gastronomic certification process. Gastro-Lab also links smallholder farmers to value chains feeding into the tourism industry, promoting income diversification, resilience and rural development.

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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	54.1 m	13.7 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.

Partnerships

- WFP promoted a regional exchange through the Gastro-Lab initiative, within the framework of South-South Cooperation, to strengthen innovative solutions for sustainable food systems. The activity brought together the Ministry of Tourism of El Salvador and Peru's Center for Tourism Training, who shared experiences and best practices focused on sustainability and resilience. This exchange enhanced technical capacities and encouraged the use of local products, food diversification and inclusive value chains. Through this effort, it contributes to more sustainable food systems, improves nutrition in vulnerable communities, and positions GastroLab as a regional platform to reduce food insecurity and strengthen livelihoods.
- On 9 September, WFP joined the launch of the ["For Healthier Families" campaign](#), promoting sustainable, nutrition-sensitive practices. Through this interagency UN initiative, WFP engaged communities and key government entities such as the First Lady's Office and Ministry of Health to strengthen governance, encourage responsible consumption and drive behavioural change aligned with national priorities.

Donors

Adaptation Fund, Canada, El Salvador (Government of), European Union (EU), Food for The Poor, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and private donors.

Additional support has been provided by the United Nations Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), among other multilateral donors.