



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP El Salvador Country Brief March 2025



Women demonstrate piloting drones in San Vicente Department - ©WFP Photo

Operational Context

El Salvador has a population of 6 million people. Food production represents only 5 percent of the GDP, relying heavily on food imports and remittances, which comprise 24.5 percent of GDP. Additionally, 25 percent of families live in multidimensional poverty, with multiple disadvantages (e.g., poor health or malnutrition, poor quality of work, or little schooling). The GDP grew by 2.6 percent in 2024. The fiscal deficit shrank to 4.4 percent of GDP, while public debt peaked at 88.9 percent.

Recurrent and adverse weather conditions often affect crops, limiting efforts to reduce food insecurity (rank 28th, Global Climate Risk Index 2021). During the first four months of 2025, a transition from El Niño to neutral conditions is expected, with a possible evolution towards a weak La Niña phase from April onwards. Temperatures will be between +0.4°C and +1.3°C above the climatological average. These conditions may negatively affect land preparation and early planting of basic grains, compromising the food security of rural households and 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**

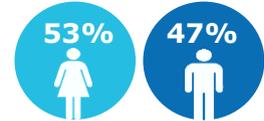
Chronic malnutrition: **14% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 102,000 delivered as cash-based transfers*

USD 14.4 m six months (April - September 2025) net funding requirements, representing 69 percent of the total

2,576 people assisted* in MARCH 2025



*Preliminary numbers

Operational Updates

- WFP assisted 1,668 food-insecure people (53 percent women) affected by climate-related disasters in the departments of Usulután, Sonsonate, San Vicente and Cuscatlán. WFP transferred USD 120 monthly per household to cover their immediate food needs for three months.
- On 27 March, WFP graduated a new cohort of Gastro-Lab. WFP certified 442 young people (70 percent women) from Santa Ana, La Libertad, La Unión and San Miguel.
- WFP organised two Opportunity Fairs at the Santa Ana and La Libertad branches of Gastro-Lab where 77 young people and 15 companies participated. These fairs facilitate Gastro-Lab's students' interviews with employers in the tourism sector to obtain internships, a prerequisite for graduation in the Gastronomy Certification.
- As part of the Resilience Building Programme, WFP delivered 147 irrigation systems to strengthen vegetable production in individual plots, benefiting 408 people in the departments of San Miguel and San Vicente. These assets strengthen farmers' technical capacities and facilitate food production in the dry season.
- WFP conducted a drone training for 20 women from six communities in the Department of San Vicente, equipping them with cutting-edge technology to monitor crops, identify areas affected by climate emergencies, and support early warning systems. The data collected will be analyzed and shared with Civil Protection to strengthen emergency response capabilities.

Contact info: [Liggia Samayoa \(liggia.samayoa@wfp.org\)](mailto: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 | 51.1 m | 14.4 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

- From March 18 to 20, 2025, WFP surveyed 50 GastroLab participants to assess satisfaction with cash assistance. Findings showed that in 46% of households, women decided how to allocate resources, while 64 percent of youth felt cash withdrawals were safe and reported respectful treatment from WFP staff or partners.
- From 4 to 7 March, WFP tracked and monitored the socio-economic impact of the Gastro-Lab project on the lives of 72 young graduates. Results showed an increase in average income from USD 191 to USD 243. After the internship, 34 percent of the young people were employed, and 98 percent wish to continue in the gastronomy area.

Donors

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