



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP El Salvador



COUNTRY BRIEF

MARCH 2026

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Forecasts point to a likely shift toward El Niño later in 2026, increasing the risk of irregular rains and prolonged dry spells. For rural families who depend on agriculture, early action is critical to protect livelihoods, food security, and wellbeing before weather shocks escalate into crisis.
- WFP adjusts programming as risks are identified, strengthening preparedness and prioritizing early warning operations, triggering timely action. Predictable, flexible contributions help WFP stay ahead of shocks, prevent harmful coping strategies, and protect people's dignity.

### IN NUMBERS



**372,282** people assisted in February 2026

**333 families** trained in early preparedness



**40%**  
Male



**60%**  
Female



**960.912 mt** food distributed



**USD 12.8 M** (March – August 2026) net funding requirements

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Despite national progress, many vulnerable families remain just one shock away from food insecurity, particularly rural households, women, and young people affected by poverty and income instability. In coordination with the Government of El Salvador, WFP focuses on strengthening systems that protect vulnerable populations by ensuring reliable access to food and supporting more resilient livelihoods.
- Increasing weather variability and the potential for El Niño conditions in 2026 underscore the importance of early, preventive action. WFP is working with the Government of El Salvador to strengthen early warning and preparedness mechanisms that help communities anticipate shocks, safeguard livelihoods, and protect progress achieved through previous interventions and government initiatives.
- Investing in people remains central to WFP and the Government of El Salvador's approach. Through the National School Feeding Programme, WFP supports children's learning and wellbeing by providing school meals nationwide. This support helps ensure that students can focus on learning, strengthening both educational outcomes and long-term human capital development.

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### General Food Assistance (Crisis Preparedness and Response Readiness)

- WFP strengthened crisis preparedness capacities to enable timely and well-targeted food assistance in the event of shocks, helping ensure that families in vulnerable conditions are not left without support if crises occur. WFP enhanced its targeting strategy, refined beneficiary selection criteria, and conducted community validation exercises to improve the efficiency, and accountability of future assistance.
- WFP also strengthened inter-agency coordination (FAO, UNICEF, PAHO) and government partnerships, including Civil Protection, to pre-identify communities in vulnerable conditions and improve emergency response readiness.
- WFP advanced anticipatory action efforts by supporting early warning systems and preparedness planning, including the training of 333 vulnerable families, helping communities better prepare for acute weather risks and protect their food security and livelihoods.

### Resilience & Sustainable Food Systems

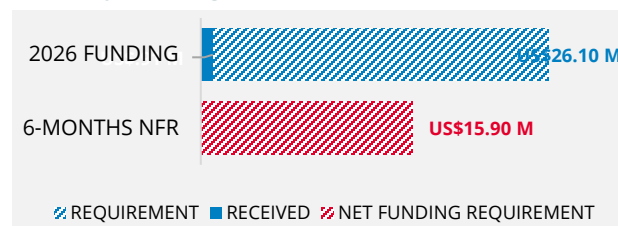
- WFP continued implementing resilience-building interventions focused on strengthening livelihood pathways for vulnerable youth while improving market access for local producers. Through the GastroLab initiative, WFP delivered structured theoretical and practical training to 29 young people in the departments of La Libertad and Santa Ana, covering food preparation techniques, use of locally sourced commodities, and market relevant culinary skills.
- This initiative links youth training with smallholder farmers by promoting the use of locally produced agricultural commodities and creating demand-driven market opportunities. By connecting 200 smallholder farmers to the programme, the initiative strengthens resilience across the value chain, improving youth employability and income diversification while expanding farmers' access to stable markets and enhancing their capacity to sustain production and recover from future shocks.

### School-Based Assistance

- In partnership with MINEDUCYT, WFP supported the first distribution for the 2026 school year with the fortified beverage *Biofortik*, reaching 372,282 children from pre-primary to third grade in 4,237 schools.
- WFP continued to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Education to enhance programme quality, ensure sustainability, and strengthen national capacities. This support includes programme design and planning, capacity building in supply chain management, and the development of monitoring, evaluation and data systems.
- Together, these efforts contribute to building a sustainable, nationally led school feeding programme that enhances educational achievement and supports positive child development outcomes.

## FUNDING OVERVIEW

### Country Strategic Plan (2022-2027)



### Donors:

Adaptation Fund, Canada, El Salvador (Government of), European Union (EU), Food for The Poor, Luxembourg, 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), and the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), among other multilateral donors.