



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

EL SALVADOR

COUNTRY BRIEF

APRIL 2026



328, 271 people assisted in March 2026
(60% female)



USD 0.34 M cash transferred in March 2026



USD 12.7 M required in the next six months (May-October 2026)



429 people received capacity strengthening

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Anticipating El Niño impacts, WFP is working closely with government and partners to protect rural livelihoods, as erratic rainfall and the potential for drought threaten crop production, incomes, and food access by mid-year.
- In line with the Government's priority to advance education outcomes and child nutrition, WFP works closely with the Ministry of Education and key partners to strengthen and further develop the national School Feeding Programme.
- Predictable, flexible contributions help WFP stay ahead of shocks and prevent harmful coping strategies.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Erratic rainfall and rising temperatures may affect staple crop production from May on. Working closely with national authorities, WFP has advanced Anticipatory Actions and Emergency Preparedness efforts, strengthening institutional readiness and ensuring the capacity to respond swiftly and effectively to emerging shocks.
- Elevated food and input prices are affecting the purchasing capacity of low-income households. In March, inflation rose to 1.47 percent, impacting food security. In response, WFP is carrying out food assistance in April to support households in most vulnerable conditions.
- Early warning triggers for anticipated drought impacts were activated, allowing CERF resources to be mobilized in a timely manner prompting WFP, in coordination with DGPC and other UN agencies, further strengthening preparedness efforts. Efforts include enhanced readiness measures and targeting smallholder farmers who are most likely to be impacted, ensuring timely and appropriate support.

Reporting Period: March 2026

Photo Caption & Credit: Applying agricultural knowledge to grow stronger livelihoods. WFP/Versative

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- In partnership with the General Directorate of Civil Protection (DGPC), WFP supported the strengthening of community preparedness and emergency response capacities, reaching 150 people across six vulnerable communities in Ahuachapán and Sonsonate. As a result, participating communities have established formal, operational civil protection committees with basic capacities for evacuation planning, shelter management, and early warning monitoring, contributing to more coordinated and timely responses to emergencies.
- Following the activation of CERF on 16 March, WFP will deliver anticipatory action support in May to drought-prone communities in Santa Ana and Ahuachapán, in coordination with FAO and UN partners, ahead of expected El Niño impacts.

Resilience and Livelihood Support

- In partnership with IOM and UNFPA, WFP launched the project *Strengthening Government Capacities for the Protection and Reintegration of Returned Migrants and Their Families*. Through certified training in bakery and barista skills, 26 returned migrants are building productive capacities in a modern, fully equipped training laboratory, with pathways toward future access to seed capital. This support promotes self-employment opportunities and facilitates sustainable economic reintegration.
- Monthly USD 120 cash transfers enabled 140 Gastro-Lab trainees to remain engaged in certified culinary training. By linking financial support to skills development, hands-on experience, and tourism sector employment, the programme strengthens youth incomes, employability, and food access while promoting locally sourced, nutritious foods.
- By creating stable demand from trained Gastro-Lab graduates and partner restaurants, the programme strengthens market linkages for

smallholder farmers, incentivizing the purchase of locally produced, nutritious foods and reinforcing short supply chains that expand farmer incomes while anchoring youth employment within local food systems.

- WFP is preparing to provide micro insurance coverage to 1,000 smallholder farmers from communities in the Goascorán watershed in La Unión. This support will play a critical role in mitigating the impacts of El Niño.
- WFP concluded a capacity strengthening programme reaching 1,100 smallholder farmers across the departments of Sonsonate, La Libertad, Santa Ana and Ahuachapán, enhancing their resilience to weather-related hazards while improving their market access. Smallholder farmers are now better equipped to sustain their livelihoods, strengthen economic stability and reduce vulnerability to shocks, supported by community committees that help ensure the long-term sustainability of productive and commercialization efforts.
- WFP supports the National School Feeding and Health Programme through technical assistance to the Ministry of Education, strengthening programme design and planning and monitoring systems to enhance quality and sustainability. Ultimately strengthening school retention and creating healthier learning environments.

Protection and Accountability

- WFP conducted an awareness session of its Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM), with 25 participants of MPTF project in San Salvador, ensuring that communities have safe, clear and reliable access to information.
- By strengthening accountability, enabling timely feedback and facilitating early identification of protection risks, WFP reinforces a people-centred approach and ensures that community voices are heard, contributing to more effective and responsive assistance.

Monitoring

- In March, WFP carried out the annual monitoring exercise of the smallholder farmers' market linkages in La Libertad, Santa Ana, La Unión and San Miguel, based on a sample of 197 producers. Results showed tangible improvements in livelihoods, with commercial production increasing as the share of producers allocating vegetable cultivation for both household consumption and sales rose from 55 percent (June–September 2025) to 75 percent (January 2026).



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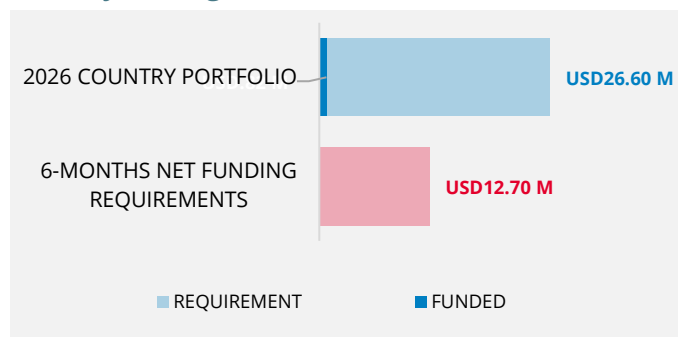
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FUNDING OVERVIEW

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.