

## CONTEXT

- El Salvador is highly vulnerable to climate shocks and other risks related to structural poverty and chronic violence. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, flooding, and various tropical storms exacerbated existing needs facing vulnerable populations across the country. As of February 2023, the UN estimated that approximately 1.1 million people required humanitarian assistance.
- The 2022 Atlantic hurricane season resulted in significant damage or destruction to agricultural lands and infrastructure, as well as displacement in affected areas. These crises contributed to increased humanitarian needs throughout Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, particularly among vulnerable populations such as children, indigenous people, LGBTQI+ populations, persons with disabilities, and women.
- The socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated existing food, nutrition, protection, health and water, sanitation, and hygiene needs, increasing the number of people requiring humanitarian assistance across the country. Meanwhile, inflation and price spikes for essential agricultural inputs, such as fertilizer, have left many farming households either unable to plant their crops or with significantly reduced harvests. As of February, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) projected that up to 500,000 people in El Salvador would likely face Stressed—IPC 2—or worse levels of acute food security through August.<sup>1</sup>



## ASSISTANCE

- In response to persistent food insecurity, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supports the delivery of cash transfers to meet emergency food needs. USAID/BHA food assistance aims to address increased needs in a manner that improves food consumption patterns and increases dietary diversity. Additionally, USAID/BHA partners are supporting subsistence farmers and other agriculture-dependent households through the provision of appropriate and timely inputs for planting and growing seasons—such as farming tools, fertilizer, and seeds—to improve food security. USAID/BHA partners also provide training on climate-smart farming practices—such as drip irrigation, diversification of crops, and soil management—to increase crop production and build resilience to future climate shocks. Moreover, USAID/BHA partners also provide multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to help households meet critical food, hygiene, shelter, and other basic needs.
- USAID/BHA protection partners in El Salvador provide psychosocial support, learning and recreational opportunities, and case management and referral services for women, children, and other groups facing heightened risk of exploitation, gender-based violence, and other forms of abuse. USAID/BHA also funds child protection activities, including coordination, advocacy, and response efforts.

<sup>1</sup>The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

- USAID/BHA partners are supporting vulnerable households to restore livelihoods, increase financial resilience, and mitigate the effects of future shocks. Program activities include financial literacy courses, establishing community savings and loans groups, and restarting income-generating activities.
- USAID/BHA funds early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities that focus on building long-term resilience and response capacity in El Salvador’s La Union, San Miguel, San Salvador, San Vicente, and Usulután departments. USAID/BHA partners are increasing disaster resilience by bolstering the technical capacity of local governments and communities to prepare for, mitigate, and respond to natural hazards, including earthquakes. USAID/BHA is also supporting efforts to increase food security among drought-affected households by training smallholder farmers to apply sustainable agriculture practices, diversify agricultural income, and strengthen local management of water sources.



USAID/BHA and WFP staff speak to beneficiaries in El Salvador’s Morazán Department about innovative techniques to improve crop and nutrition outcomes. *Photo Credit: Nichole Graber-Simmons*

USAID/BHA Funding in El Salvador <sup>2</sup>			
	Emergency	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2022	\$18,025,015	\$880,000	\$18,905,015
FY 2023	\$9,500,000	–	\$9,500,000

<sup>2</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of February 15, 2023. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement, subject to change.