



2018
EL SALVADOR
COUNTRY CAPSULE
International Program



Update

2018 INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM NUMBERS

158

COMMUNITIES SERVED

31,712

CHILDREN'S FEEDING PARTICIPANTS

8,562,240

MEALS SERVED

975

TOTAL AGRICULTURE PARTICIPANTS

560

TOTAL WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PARTICIPANTS

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

El Salvador is the smallest and most densely populated country in Central America. Development is threatened by poverty, inequality, poor access to nutritious food, and a lack of emergency preparedness and response. Extreme levels of violence and insecurity cause thousands of people to flee the country every year. El Salvador is also vulnerable to severe weather conditions, such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and alternating flood-drought cycles. The country is heavily dependent on food imports due to uncontrollable stressors on the local food system.

COUNTRY FAST FACTS

6,187,271¹

POPULATION

32.7%

POPULATION LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

14%²

CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD SUFFERING FROM STUNTING

12%

LABOR FORCE WORKING IN AGRICULTURE

16th⁴

RANKING OF COUNTRIES MOST AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS FROM 1998-2017

¹Except where otherwise indicated, all figures are cited from the CIA World Factbook. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/es.html>

²<https://www.wfp.org/countries/el-salvador/> ³<https://www.germanwatch.org/en/16046>



Feeding children nutritious meals opens doors to provide them and their families with education, clean water, job and agricultural training, a sense of hope, and much more. Currently, Convoy of Hope feeds more than 200,000 children in **El Salvador**, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Honduras, Haiti, Kenya, Ethiopia, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Lebanon, South Africa, Uganda, and Tanzania.



CONVOY OF HOPE'S *History in El Salvador*

Convoy of Hope began working in El Salvador in 1998 after Hurricane Mitch devastated the country. While continuing to aid affected Central American countries in the wake of recurring natural disasters, Convoy launched the Children's Feeding initiative in 2006. Convoy expanded its presence in 2011 to include Women's Empowerment and Agriculture projects that helped address the underlying causes of childhood malnutrition.



CHILDREN'S FEEDING – Convoy of Hope is currently feeding thousands of children every day in dozens of locations across El Salvador. By providing nutrient-dense school meals, Convoy is helping children stay in school. Along with food provisions, Convoy conducts educational training for teachers, local leaders, and others in the community. Mothers, for example, are trained in food preparation/handling and proper hygiene. Students also learn about the importance of a daily bath, oral hygiene, and handwashing. Our program in El Salvador also focuses on:

- **Micronutrient supplementation**
- **Deworming**
- **Additional education/training for children or parents on nutrition, water sanitation, hygiene, health, food preparation, values, disease prevention, food security, and self-awareness.**

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT – While working with children, local staff found that mothers in the surrounding communities showed a desire to learn more about family health and engage in small business initiatives. As a result, Convoy began an empowerment project among these women where they learned to address physical and emotional needs through self-esteem building exercises, training in small-scale agriculture, and other job skills. We also provided education to secondary age girls on life skills, harmful cultural practices, self-esteem building, and advocacy.

- **Mothers' Clubs** – The goal of this program is to reach mothers of children during the most important window of opportunity for nutrition and health, which is from birth to age 5. Women learn how to address physical needs through proper nutrition, hygiene, and sanitation.
- **Micro+** – Groups of participants receive seed capital to create a micro-enterprise through Micro+. This component allows Convoy of Hope to place a greater focus on financial education, vocational training, and income-generating activities.

AGRICULTURE – Convoy of Hope includes small-scale agriculture projects in Mothers' Clubs to train women on home and community gardens that help families grow diverse, nutrient-rich crops. This agricultural training has grown and now supports Micro+ endeavors through animal husbandry, small crop production, and organic wholesale feed. Agriculture projects have included papaya farms, herb gardens, school gardens, and more. In addition, school gardens and animal production is offered to help finance and support food and expenses for feeding programs.

DISASTER SERVICES – In May 2015, ocean swells due to a tropical storm caused significant damage to El Salvador's coastline. Convoy of Hope responded by providing supplies to help 912 families and three shelters.



CONVOY OF HOPE + EL SALVADORS [EST. 1998]



Convoy of Hope wants to see lives changed as we promote healthy children and communities that are free from poverty and hunger. Many of the children enrolled in our program have their only meal of the day at school — a meal provided by Convoy and our numerous partners.



When we first met Isabel, flour covered her hands and she donned a bright white apron with a Convoy of Hope logo on the front. She used a rolling pin like it was an artform as she meticulously prepared dough for the day.

Isabel knows how important this food is because she has received it herself for the last two years.

Isabel, is part of Convoy of Hope's Children's Feeding initiative in El Salvador.

Not only does she receive nutritious food — she volunteers to help prepare and serve the younger children in the program. Isabel says the program is helpful

because she not only gets food at the center, but she also receives take-home rations for her family.

“My mom stays home with my brother and my dad works odd jobs,” Isabel says. “This is a great help for me and the kids at the center.” When we ask Isabel what her favorite part about baking is, she responds with an answer far beyond her years. “It’s fun to see how things can change from one thing to another,” she says with excitement in her eyes.

On behalf of Isabel and tens of thousands of kids like her around the world, thank you for offering life transformation through nutritious food. **You are truly making a difference in the lives of future generations.**



DELIVERING HOPE
since 1994



SINCE 2002