El Salvador

Population: 6.38 million

Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

El Salvador has, in 2017-2018, expanded the governance model to implement the National Food and Nutritional Security Policy (SAN) – by including new departmental and municipal committees in territories with the highest rates of chronic malnutrition and obesity. The monitoring of food security and nutrition indicators, through the food and nutritional security observatory (OBSAN), is ongoing, aiming to strengthen decision-making in the design and monitoring of public policies. Dialogue and awareness-raising with the private sector has continued, by sharing the results of the recent national height and weight census.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

In the past year, the SAN was updated after extensive consultations with various sectors, territories, indigenous people and women’s groups. CONASAN, civil society organisations and FAO advocated for the approval of the Law on Food and Nutritional Sovereignty and Security, which is still pending approval. Raising awareness among stakeholder of the importance of food security and nutrition is still needed, as is the case for ensuring a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach – especially among new legislators, municipal governments and presidential candidates.

Aligning actions around common results

Initiatives – across Governmental bodies and sectors – are aligned with national goals, as per policies and agreements. Progress has been made in expanding the food security and nutrition policies to priority territories – based on the results of the national height and weight census. The National Council for Food and Nutritional Security and Nutrition (CONASAN) and development cooperation agencies work hand-in-hand to implement strategies in line with the country’s overall goals. Capacity strengthening is needed to better manage indicators and monitor food security and nutrition actions across territories.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

Development cooperation agencies and civil society have joined forces with the Government to implement national food security and nutrition goals. Technical and financial support has also helped to promote nutrition in the public agenda, develop skills and raise awareness, at various levels. Coordination resources have been managed for relevant food and nutritional security actions. The institutional, administrative and financial capacities of CONASAN must be strengthened, its scope extended, and the analysis of budget gaps completed to implement the new policy.

2018-2019 PRIORITIES

- Raise awareness of the National Food and Nutritional Security Plan and design new Strategic Plan;
- Expand the policy governance model;
- Raise awareness of food security and nutrition among legislators and presidential candidates;
- Continue to monitor food security and nutrition and strengthen data collection, analysis and usage;
- Continue to implement the Education and Social Communication Strategy to change feeding behaviours;
- Advocate for the approval of laws, including the Law on Food and Nutritional Sovereignty and Security.