



USAID/EL SALVADOR COUNTRY FACT SHEET

www.usaid.gov/el-salvador

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Note: Future funding is subject to appropriation by Congress

Consistent with the goals of the U.S. Strategy for Central America, and in broad alignment with the Northern Triangle Countries' Alliance for Prosperity Plan, USAID programs in El Salvador expand broad-based economic growth to support a more secure and prosperous El Salvador where citizens can envision a future in their own country. Security activities help to strengthen the justice system and government accountability, reduce crime and violence, and improve education for secondary students and out-of-school youth. Economic assistance helps to create jobs, promote a better business environment, and expand opportunities through increased trade. USAID programming addresses the key drivers of migration to the United States and actively engages civil society, community organizations, and the private sector to sustain program efforts.

Examples of Program Impact

61 Percent Decrease in Homicides

Together with Honduras, El Salvador remains one of the most violent countries in the world. In 2016, for example, homicide rates reached 81 per 100,000 people. Working in close partnership with the Department of State and in support of the Government of El Salvador's Security Plan, USAID is implementing proven methodologies to reduce crime and violence through a "place-based" approach that integrates law enforcement efforts with community-based prevention programs. USAID programs target youth most likely to be impacted or become perpetrators of crime and violence. USAID's crime prevention work, which has been validated through rigorous impact evaluations, has contributed to historic decreases in homicides within El Salvador's most violent communities. **Between 2015 and 2016, El Salvador saw a 61 percent reduction in the municipalities in which USAID operates. This compares to a 21 percent reduction nationwide. In 2017, the figures are even more encouraging, with a 50 percent reduction nationwide from January to May, when compared with the same timeframe for 2016.**

22,000 Jobs Created

USAID assistance helps to stem the flow of irregular migration by creating greater economic opportunities for Salvadorans. Activities help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to increase sales and create new jobs. SMEs account for 60 percent of the economy and 35 percent of GDP; their continued growth provides licit alternatives for youth, thus reducing the factors contributing to migration and involvement in illegal activities. USAID works in partnership with the Salvadoran government and the private sector to provide effective trade and business development services to SMEs, primarily through a local network of small business development centers, which has become a model for the region. **Between 2011 and 2016, USAID assistance to 11,000 SMEs generated more than \$153 million in sales and exports and 22,000 new jobs.**

Increased Transparency

USAID works with the Salvadoran government and municipal authorities to provide training, advisory assistance, and expertise to regulatory agencies that monitor accountability, adherence to ethics regulations, and access to public information. Activities also promote citizen awareness and oversight of public resources to reduce opportunities for corruption and to advocate for respect of human rights. USAID supported the establishment of a new Freedom of Information Institute in 2016, which has resulted in unparalleled access to official documents. **Disclosure of information ordered by the Institute has triggered investigations on illicit enrichment of public officials (including three former Presidents), waste and abuse of public funds, and nepotism.**

USAID/El Salvador is implementing the following activities to achieve these objectives:

Alliance for Prosperity alignment key:

Citizen Security ● Human Capital ● Productive Sector ● Strengthening Institutions ●

Citizen Security

Crime and Violence Prevention ●

Implemented by: Creative Associates

Duration: March 14, 2013 - March 13, 2019

Total Projected Investment: \$39.8 million

This activity aims to increase safety for Salvadoran citizens by supporting the Government of El Salvador's (GOES) National Strategy on Violence Prevention and by expanding municipal-led, community-based crime and violence prevention efforts. It consists of three components: 1) increasing GOES capacity to prevent violence and crime on a national scale by helping to implement the National Strategy on Violence Prevention, strengthening the unit of *Dirección General de Prevención Social de la Violencia y Cultura de Paz (PRE-PAZ)*, establishing and strengthening 55 Municipal Prevention Councils in selected, high-violence municipalities, supporting emerging laws and policies, and supporting municipal crime prevention observatories; 2) expanding municipal-led, community-based crime and violence prevention to at least 114 communities in 20 new high-risk municipalities and financing community prevention actions; and 3) supporting innovative ideas for crime and violence prevention. The project supports community youth centers, where children and adolescents can study and receive tutoring; learn computer and other vocational skills; take music, dance, and art lessons; engage in sports activities, and meet with friends in a safe place with adult supervision. There are currently 119 centers nationwide, providing services for more than 25,000 youth. The project also supports municipal prevention centers that provide citizens a "one-stop shop" for crime and violence prevention services, including conflict resolution, employment facilitation, services for women and youth, and guidance and information on laws and services available to the public. USAID provides funding for specific municipal projects, such as the rehabilitation of public spaces, vocational training, and crime prevention campaigns.

Alliance for Prosperity Alignment: Citizen Security

SolucionES / Prevention Alliance ●

Implemented by: Fundación Empresarial para el Desarrollo Educativo (FEPADE)

Duration: July 13, 2012 - January 12, 2018

Total Projected Investment: \$20 million

This public-private partnership brings together five of El Salvador's leading foundations to help prevent crime and violence in El Salvador. This alliance is leveraging an additional \$22 million from the private sector for crime and violence prevention activities in key municipalities.

Together, these five organizations have notable expertise in education, health, community development, economic development, research, and youth leadership, and are combining their strengths to prevent crime and violence in El Salvador. The project is reaching approximately 50 communities in several high-crime municipalities, chosen from among the GOES's list of the most violent communities. The program works closely with mayors, municipal councils, and local residents on designing prevention plans tailored to the needs of each community. Activities include training youth and families in conflict prevention, youth leadership programs, recreational activities for youth in after school clubs and sports leagues, and job training and entrepreneurship. It also promotes the increase of private sector investments in crime and violence prevention efforts through advocacy, learning exchanges, and consultancies. The program also includes research on crime- and violence-related topics to inform decision-making on citizen security. Completed studies include the prevention of crime on public transportation, mitigation of youth involvement in gangs, and identification of ways to reduce the extortion of small and medium enterprises.

Alliance for Prosperity Alignment: Citizen Security

Bridges for Employment

Implemented by: Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI) ● ● ●

Duration: October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2020

Total Projected Investment: \$42.2 million

This activity supports technical education training providers, civil society organizations, the GOES, and the private sector to increase and improve employment of at-risk youth living in high-crime municipalities prioritized by the Government of El Salvador under Plan El Salvador Seguro. The ultimate goal is to improve the technical and soft skills of Salvadoran youth so that they can obtain new or better jobs (including through self-employment), and to train service providers to deliver holistic support services to at-risk youth. The activity is promoting linkages between private sector needs and training centers to develop a long-term relationship in which youth are tailor-trained for existing opportunities with a private sector client. Additionally, the activity is promoting the delivery of services for youth such as psychometric testing, resume development workshops, coaching for interviews, job counseling, and job intermediation, in alliance with public and private sector partners. This activity aims to help 5,000 at-risk youth find new or better employment so they can contribute to the development of their country and be less vulnerable to gang recruitment.

Alliance for Prosperity Alignment: Citizen Security; Human Capital; Productive Sector

Governance

Justice Sector Strengthening ● ●

Implemented by: Checchi and Company Consulting, Inc.

Duration: March 4, 2013 – March 3, 2019

Total Projected Investment: \$31.4 million

The objective of this program is to provide support to the GOES to reduce impunity and improve citizen trust in government institutions. The activity seeks to better satisfy citizens' needs through a justice system that more effectively and transparently solves criminal cases. The project provides assistance to the Supreme Court, Prosecutor's Office, Public Defender's Office, and the National Police to elevate professionalism among justice sector employees, improve investigation techniques and inter-institutional coordination, and establish efficient systems and procedures that facilitate the administration of justice. The project is helping to expand community policing as a means of improving public confidence in the police and to reduce crime. To strengthen judicial transparency, the project promotes merit-based selection and promotion of judges, works with the Supreme Court to strengthen units that are responsible for investigating malpractice by judges and attorneys, and supports civil society advocacy efforts for a new law against illicit enrichment that will reduce opportunities for corruption.

Alliance for Prosperity Alignment: Citizen Security; Strengthening Institutions

Government Integrity ●

Implemented by: Tetra-Tech - DPK

Duration: March 3, 2016 – March 2, 2021

Total Projected Investment: \$20.3 million

The objective of this activity is to work in partnership with central- and municipal-level GOES institutions to improve transparency and accountability. It seeks to enhance the professionalism of public officials and strengthen regulatory agencies that monitor accountability and adherence to ethics regulations. Activities include support for the Institute of Access to Public Information to implement the Access to Public Information Law; support for the Government Ethics Tribunal and ethics commissions to implement the Government Ethics Law; assistance to municipalities to increase compliance with access to information and ethics regulations and to promote citizen participation and monitoring of public projects; training for civil society monitoring and oversight; small grants to civil society organizations to support anti-corruption and transparency initiatives; and a public education campaign to increase awareness of transparency regulations, with particular emphasis on vulnerable populations.

Alliance for Prosperity Alignment: Strengthening Institutions

Strengthening Human Rights Systems in El Salvador ● ●

Implemented by: Counterpart International, Inc.

Duration: January 9, 2017 - January 8, 2022

Total Projected Investment: \$15 million

The objective of this activity is to help strengthen governmental and non-governmental human rights protection systems to enhance the protection of human rights in El Salvador, resulting in an increasingly tolerant, just, and equitable El Salvador. The activity will promote democratic space, strengthen human rights advocacy and monitoring of the security sector, and prevent discrimination and exclusion of vulnerable groups and improve their access to services. By the end of the program, the activity results will include legislative and policy changes to the security sector; improved prison and pre-detention conditions for convicted and accused individuals; improved capacity of human rights organizations (HROs); the establishment of a national human rights observatory; an increased number of human rights cases reported and acted upon by government and HROs; the identification and prioritization of anti-discrimination issues through a dialogue process; the adoption of new anti-discrimination legislation and policies; the establishment of a national anti-discrimination public information campaign; and a reduction of public acceptance of discrimination.

Alliance for Prosperity Alignment: Citizen Security; Strengthening Institutions

Return and Reintegration in the Northern Triangle Program ● ● ● ●

Implemented by: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Duration: June 23, 2016 - June 22, 2019

Total Projected Investment: \$16.8 million*

The objective of this activity is to provide services to help returning migrants reintegrate into local communities and to alert the public of the risks of irregular migration. Through this investment, IOM provides technical assistance and support to the Northern Triangle countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to provide returnees with appropriate assistance and to improve services for the protection of returning migrants including vulnerable populations, such as unaccompanied children (UAC) and families. The program has four objectives: improving and expanding capacity of the in-processing and care of returning migrants; expanding the range of Northern Triangle government-supported opportunities for returning migrants, while contributing to the provision of high-quality services during the reintegration process at the local level; enhancing government capacities to address root causes of irregular UAC emigration, including alleviating negative push factors, strengthening prevention measures, and upgrading small-scale infrastructure; and improving the availability, quality, and use of information to strengthen the reception and reintegration process and to prevent remigration.

**This is a regional activity funded with El Salvador bilateral (\$5,500,000) and Central America and Mexico (\$500,000) regional funds. Guatemala and Honduras also contribute to the total cost of this activity.*

Alliance for Prosperity Alignment: Citizen Security; Human Capital; Productive Sector; Strengthening Institutions

Strengthening Local Governance for Security and Development ●

Implemented by: The Louis Berger Group, Inc.

Duration: September 14, 2017 – March 14, 2022

Total Projected Investment: \$36.6 million

This activity will strengthen decentralization and local government capacity in El Salvador in order to increase security and development. USAID will increase trust in governance by supporting decentralization and strengthening the ability of municipalities to govern and provide services to constituents. At the national level, USAID will build consensus for increased decentralization by enhancing the capacity of government entities and municipal associations to more effectively deliver and manage public services and better respond to local interests. At the municipal level, USAID will increase the capacity of municipalities to plan, budget, pay for, and deliver key services in an effective and participatory manner. Attention will be given to improving municipal financial health and independence, strengthening the ability of municipalities to plan and budget, and enhancing service provision. Through this activity, USAID will support improvements in governance throughout El Salvador by increasing government effectiveness in service provision and the management of public resources.

Alliance for Prosperity Alignment: Strengthening Institutions

Juvenile Justice Strengthening Project ● ●

Implemented by: World Vision, Inc.

Duration: September 28, 2017 - September 27, 2022

Total Projected Investment: \$10 million

This activity will enable the juvenile justice system to better reintegrate and reduce recidivism rates for children in conflict with the law (CICL). Activities will increase the application of alternative sentencing for eligible CICL within the target areas; build the capacity of judicial staff and government stakeholders to contribute to improved juvenile justice processes; engage private sector and community-based organizations and faith-based organizations as active contributors to improved reintegration and alternative sentencing programs; and provide quality reintegration services for CICL.

Alliance for Prosperity Alignment: Citizen Security; Strengthening Institutions

Domestic Resource Mobilization ●

Implemented by: DAI Global

Duration: April 27, 2017 - April 26, 2022

Total Projected Investment: \$27.5 million

The objective of this activity is to assist the GOES to improve public financial management practices, increase domestic resource mobilization, and generate additional revenue. The activity will support the national government, interacting with the Ministry of Finance, the Technical Secretariat of Planning for the Presidency, the National Assembly, the private sector, other donors, and civil society organizations. The activity will provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Finance in order to improve the budget planning and preparation process, improve the GOES' budget execution, improve national tax policy and administration by supporting key fiscal reforms, and strengthen transparency and public-private dialogue on

fiscal policy. The activity will contribute to the GOES' efforts to achieve increased tax revenue, improved public expenditure management, and increased fiscal transparency, all of which contribute to fiscal sustainability and increased public investment in priority sectors such as security, education, and health.

Alliance for Prosperity Alignment: Strengthening Institutions

Prosperity

Economic Competitiveness Project ●

Implemented by: Palladium

Duration: March 31, 2017 - March 30, 2022

Total Projected Investment: \$47.8 million

The objective of this activity is to help the GOES to increase the competitiveness of the nation's key economic sectors by strengthening the capacity of micro, small, and medium (MSME) enterprises to compete in domestic and export markets. By improving the national and subnational business environment to encourage private sector investment, innovation, and business expansion, the activity will foster economic growth, increased productivity and competitiveness, and job creation. The activity's key areas of intervention are strengthening business development services to MSMEs; improving innovation and technology processes by MSMEs; expanding market access for MSMEs; facilitating greater access to finance for MSMEs; improving municipal services to companies; and simplifying policy, regulatory, and procedural processes. This activity expects to generate at least \$225 million new sales and foster the creation of 30,000 new jobs.

Alliance for Prosperity Alignment: Productive Sector

Higher Education for Economic Growth ● ● ●

Contractor/Grantee: RTI

Duration: June 6, 2014 – June 5, 2019

Total Projected Investment: \$22 million

This activity builds partnerships between industry sectors and higher education institutions to develop demand-driven educational programs and research in order to improve educational opportunities for citizens in El Salvador and stimulate economic and social development. The project is implementing an innovative model through four industry higher education clusters in the following sectors: information and communications technology; energy and energy efficiency; light manufacturing; and agro-industry and food processing. Each cluster includes the private sector, an anchor university, associate higher education institutions, and public sector representatives. Industry Advisory Boards have been created to strengthen the link between educators and business leaders and to share information on the labor market, curriculum planning, internships and practical training, to match industry needs with educational programs. USAID also helps develop the capacity of higher education institutions to perform applied research, thus meeting the technical and technology-related challenges of Salvadoran industry.

Alliance for Prosperity Alignment: Human Capital; Productive Sector; Strengthening Institutions

El Salvador Cacao Alliance ●

Implemented by: Catholic Relief Services

Duration: September 26, 2014 - September 25, 2019

Total Projected Investment: \$10 million

The objective of this activity is to support the revival of the cacao market in El Salvador, targeting international specialty and gourmet markets, while supporting sustainable development and conservation of natural resources. The El Salvador Cacao Alliance is a public-private partnership with the Howard Buffett Foundation and other organizations. The activity is boosting economic growth in the sector by positioning El Salvador as a net producer and exporter of high-quality fine-aroma cacao. To achieve this objective, the activity is providing training to producer organizations, supporting a national policy framework, and building institutional capacity in the cacao value chain. Approximately 6,000 small farmers are targeted for assistance to learn how to grow cacao in a sustainable way. The activity provides assistance to small farmers and enables Salvadoran producers and companies to improve their competitiveness in global markets for cacao and its derivatives, and supply the domestic market. The reactivation of the cacao market is expected to increase farmers' incomes and food security, and create new jobs in the cacao value chain.

Alliance for Prosperity Alignment: Productive Sector

Development Credit Authority (DCA) Loan Portfolio Guarantee ●

Contractor/Grantee: Banco de América Central (BAC)

Duration: September 2011 – September 2021

Total Projected Investment: \$155,000

USAID is working with private sector banks to increase credit availability for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in order to generate increased economic growth and prosperity in El Salvador. By increasing access to affordable credit, USAID is helping businesses and entrepreneurs take advantage of market opportunities and expand their operations, which may include increasing employment for at-risk youth and others. Through this activity, USAID is helping mobilize approximately \$10 million in loans for MSMEs.

Alliance for Prosperity Alignment: Productive Sector

Development Credit Authority (DCA) Loan Portfolio Guarantee ●

Contractor/Grantee: Banco Davivienda

Duration: September 2013 – September 2021

Total Projected Investment: \$204,736

USAID is working with private sector banks to increase credit availability for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in order to generate increased economic growth and prosperity in El Salvador. By increasing access to affordable credit, USAID is helping businesses and entrepreneurs take advantage of market opportunities and expand their operations, which may

include increasing employment for at-risk youth and others. Through this activity, USAID is helping mobilize approximately \$25 million in loans for MSMEs.

Alliance for Prosperity Alignment: Productive Sector

Development Credit Authority (DCA) Loan Portfolio Guarantee ●

Implemented by: Banco Promerica, Banco G&T Continental and Banco de América Central (BAC)

Duration: September 2017 - September 2032

Total Projected Investment: \$1.9 million

USAID is working with private sector banks to increase credit availability for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in order to generate increased economic growth and prosperity in El Salvador. By increasing access to affordable credit, USAID is helping businesses and entrepreneurs take advantage of market opportunities and expand their operations, which may include increasing employment for at-risk youth and others. Through this activity, USAID is helping mobilize approximately \$53.8 million in loans for MSMEs with a particular focus on clean energy and energy efficiency projects.

Alliance for Prosperity Alignment: Productive Sector

Young Entrepreneurs ● ●

Implemented by: ASI (Asociación Salvadoreña de Industriales)

Duration: January 2, 2017 - July 31, 2020

Total Projected Investment: \$2.9 million

The objective of this activity is to expand business opportunities within the productive chain of the ASI member companies (ASI is the national association of manufacturers, formed by companies in diverse industrial sectors) by generating business ideas and creating microenterprises that can become suppliers in the industrial sector. The activity will work with at-risk youth (ages 18 to 29) from municipalities prioritized under Plan El Salvador Seguro. The activity will provide the selected youth with training to develop entrepreneurial and managerial skills and will help them develop business ideas into microenterprises that fulfill unsatisfied demand by industrial companies. It is expected that this activity will facilitate the creation of 189 new microenterprises and 378 new jobs in some of the most marginalized communities in the country, and help keep at-risk youth away from gangs and violence.

Alliance for Prosperity Alignment: Human Capital; Productive Sector

Education for Children and Youth ●

Implemented by: Fundación para la Educación Integral Salvadoreña (FEDISAL)

Duration: January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2018

Total Projected Investment: \$25 million

The objective of this activity is to support the Ministry of Education in the implementation of the Full-Time Inclusive School model to improve quality and access to education and provide safe learning environments for students. The activity is helping to improve educational results of

lower secondary students through an extended school day (from 4 to 8 hours), educational and recreational activities, teacher training in interactive teaching methodologies with a gender approach, and development of educational opportunities for students, including violence prevention and empowerment for women and girls. The activity also provides educational opportunities for approximately 23,000 out-of-school youth that would allow them to return to formal classes or earn an equivalent diploma in special weekend classes. Additionally, the activity offers technical and vocational training so that students can gain access to local labor market offers.

Alliance for Prosperity Alignment: Human Capital

Supérate ●

Implemented by: Fundación Sagrera Palomo (FSP)

Duration: July 14, 2010 – March 31, 2018

Total Projected Investment: \$3 million

Supérate is a Salvadoran education program established in 2003 by the Sagrera Palomo Foundation to provide underprivileged youth with English, computer training, and life skills, equipping them with the tools to contribute to the development of their country. USAID has supported the expansion of Supérate by supporting three new Supérate centers, benefiting over 1,000 socially and economically disadvantaged students between the ages of 13-18 who have demonstrated high academic performance and a desire for self-improvement. These young students are selected from public schools near the Supérate centers to complete the three-year program, which is conducted in parallel to their public school curriculum. Students attend classes four hours a day, six days a week, either before or after the regular school day. Over the past 13 years, the education model has proven so successful that it is now being replicated outside the country. By the beginning of 2017, the program had more than 1,366 active students in El Salvador, Panama, and Nicaragua.

Alliance for Prosperity Alignment: Human Capital