

# El Salvador | 2023

August 2023

UNHCR works in El Salvador in **coordination** with the Government, the private sector, civil society, and communities in support of **people** who have been **forced to flee their homes**.

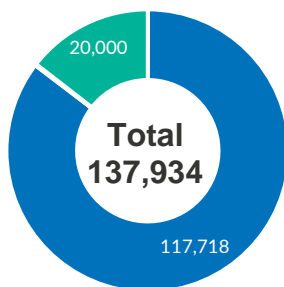
UNHCR accompanies the Government's efforts to achieve the commitments established in the **MIRPS National Plan**. To obtain sustainable results, UNHCR offers technical support for strengthening institutional capacities.

UNHCR contributes to improving the protection of **internally displaced persons, people at risk of displacement, refugees, asylum-seekers, and returnees with protection needs** in El Salvador.

## THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

### Population Types | 2023

Projections estimated based in previous yearly trends.



- Internally displaced people (IDPs)
- Asylum-seekers
- Refugees
- Others of concern

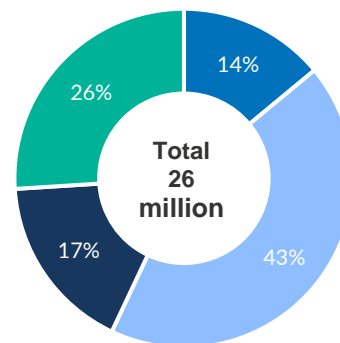
## FUNDING

### USD 26 M

UNHCR financial requirements for El Salvador's operation.

Budget by impact area

- Protect
- Respond
- Empower
- Solve



We work with over **40** communities



**1** Department: **Santa Ana**  
Municipality of **Santa Ana**  
COMMUNITIES  
•Lamatepec  
•Santa Claudia  
•Nazareno  
•Cantón Camones  
Municipality of **Chalchuapa**  
COMMUNITIES  
•Tazumal  
LGBTIQ+ Community Group in Santa Ana

**2** Department: **Sonsonate**  
Municipality of **Nahuizalco**  
COMMUNITIES  
•Nahuizalco  
•El Carrizal  
LGBTIQ+ Community Group in Sonsonate

**3** Department: **San Salvador**  
Municipality of **San Salvador**  
COMMUNITIES  
•Santa Marta  
•Colonia Dina  
•Tinetti  
•Barrio Lourdes  
•Las Palmas  
•IVU  
Municipality of **Mejicanos**  
COMMUNITIES  
•Cháncala Alta  
•Buena Vista  
•Lomas de Mónico  
•Zacamil  
LGBTIQ+ Community Group in San Salvador  
Municipality of **Ciudad Delgado**  
COMMUNITIES  
•San Francisco  
•El Progreso II  
•Quinta Gloria  
•Plan del Pino  
Municipality of **Soyapango**  
COMMUNITIES  
•San José  
•Santa Eduvigis  
•Los Angeles  
•Los Conacastes  
•La Campanera  
LGBTIQ+ Community Group in San Salvador  
Municipality of **Apopa**  
COMMUNITIES  
•Valle Verde  
•Tikales  
Municipality of **Panchimalco**  
COMMUNITIES  
•Azacualpa  
Municipality of **Ilopango**  
COMMUNITIES  
•Bendición de Dios

**4** Department: **San Vicente**  
Municipio de **San Vicente**  
COMMUNITIES  
•Cañaverales  
•Brisas del Jiboa  
•California  
LGBTIQ+ Community Group in San Vicente

**5** Department: **San Miguel**  
Municipio de **San Miguel**  
COMMUNITIES  
•La Presita  
•La Pradera  
•Milagros de la Paz  
•La Pelota  
LGBTIQ+ Community Group in San Miguel

## Context

- Despite a significant decline in violent crime and people feeling increasingly safe, **Salvadoran nationals continue to leave the country for a variety of reasons.** As of 2022, the global number of asylum-seekers with pending decisions from El Salvador reached 148,758 and the total number of Salvadoran refugees was 58,637. Further to that, between 2006 and 2016, 1.1% of families in El Salvador were forcibly displaced raising the estimated number of IDPs to 71,500. According to the profiling exercise published in 2018 by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security **most displaced people are socio-economically vulnerable young families.** In 2023, the National Office for Statistics and Censuses, with UNHCR's support, is implementing a nationwide household survey to **update displacement statistics.**
- El Salvador joined in 2019 the **Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS in Spanish)** to address forced displacement in Central America and Mexico and held its Pro-Tempore Presidency during 2020. In contribution to the MIRPS, the Government outlined a **National Response Plan with 43 commitments** in 2022 in protection, health, education, and livelihoods to assist IDPs, refugees, and asylum-seekers, that continues in 2023.
- El Salvador is committed to identifying and addressing protection and solutions gaps impacting refugees, IDPs, returnees with protection needs and stateless persons. El Salvador is party to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol, and to the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons. UNHCR advocates for the adoption of the 1961 Convention to reduce statelessness. In 2020, El Salvador approved the **Special Law for the Care and Integral Protection of Victims of Violence in Conditions of Forced Displacement.**



A UNHCR staff listens to an internally displaced person to understand her needs. ©UNHCR/Enrique Pocasangre

## Working with Partners

- In 2023, UNHCR works in **partnership with 14 local and international non-governmental organizations** in El Salvador to ensure operational capacity for its interventions: ASPIDH, COMCAVIS TRANS, Diké, Doctors of the World, Fe y Alegria, FUNDASAL, International Rescue Committee, Missionaries of St. Charles Scalabrinians, Norwegian Refugee Council, ORMUSA, Plan International, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages and World Vision.
- UNHCR continues to engage with the **Humanitarian Country Team of El Salvador.** The **Protection Sector is led by UNHCR** and coordinates the response of 33 organizations to the needs of people in vulnerable situations due to forced displacement. **UNHCR also co-leads the Shelter and CCCM Sectors.**

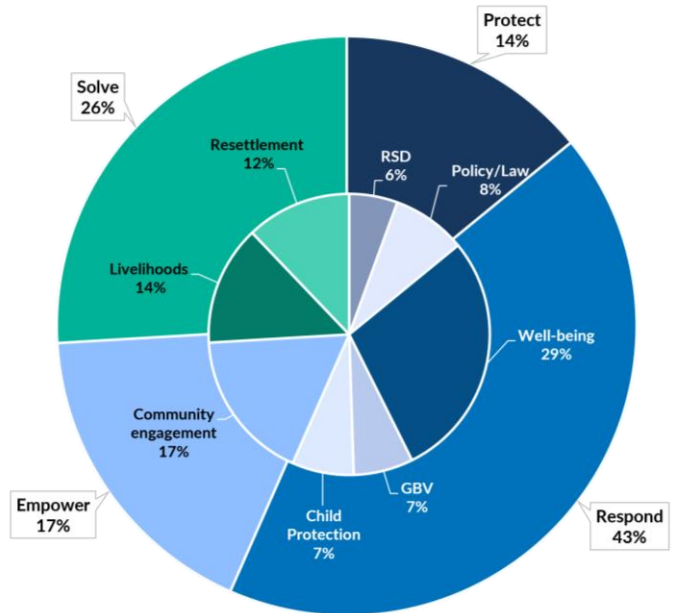


UNHCR supports the Government in emergency response. ©Courtesy General Directorate for Civil Protection

- UNHCR contributes to the success of **El Salvador's MIRPS National Plan** that seeks efficient and adequate protection and durable solution to victims of forced displacement.
- UNHCR collaborates with the **private sector** to generate job opportunities and promote the economic benefits of inclusive workplaces. Through alliances with the National Institute for Vocational Education and Training (INSAFORP) and the Ministry of Labour, UNHCR expands access to apprenticeships and job placements.

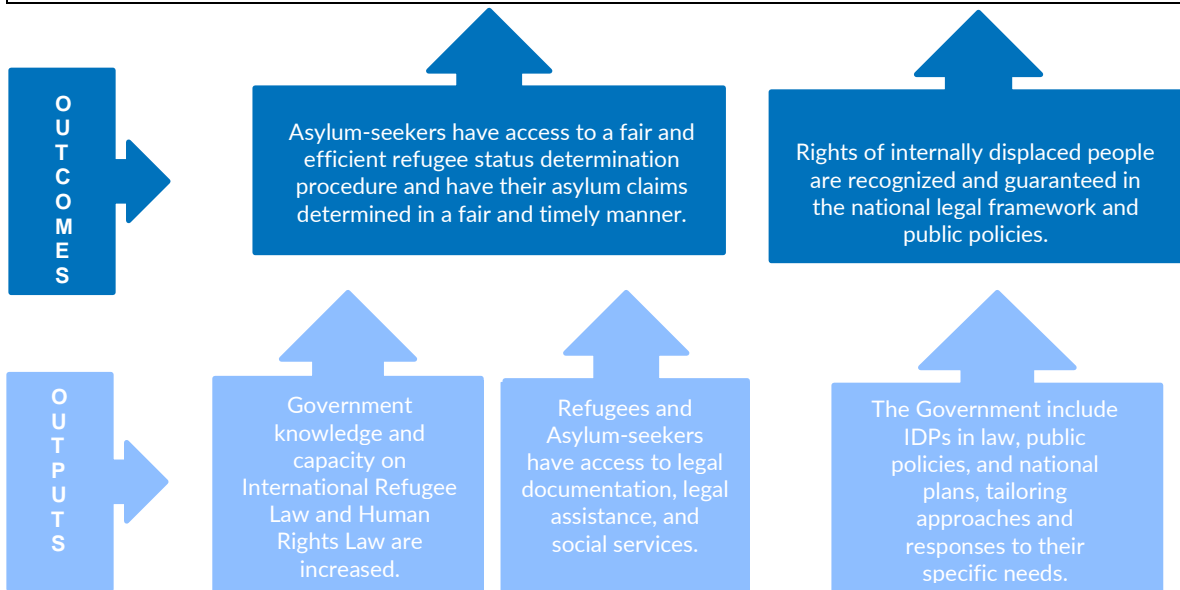
## Planning for Impact

| Outcome/Enabling area                              | Budget (USD) |
|--|--------------|
| Well-being and basic needs                         | 7.4 M        |
| Protection policy and law                          | 2.2 M        |
| Refugee status determination                       | 1.4 M        |
| Resettlement and complementary pathways            | 3.1 M        |
| Self-reliance, economic inclusion, and livelihoods | 3.8 M        |
| Community engagement and women's empowerment       | 4.5 M        |
| Child protection                                   | 1.8 M        |
| Gender-based violence                              | 1.7 M        |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>26 M</b>  |



### Protect: Attaining favourable protection environments

**Forcibly displaced people fully enjoy their rights and equal access to effective protection systems.**

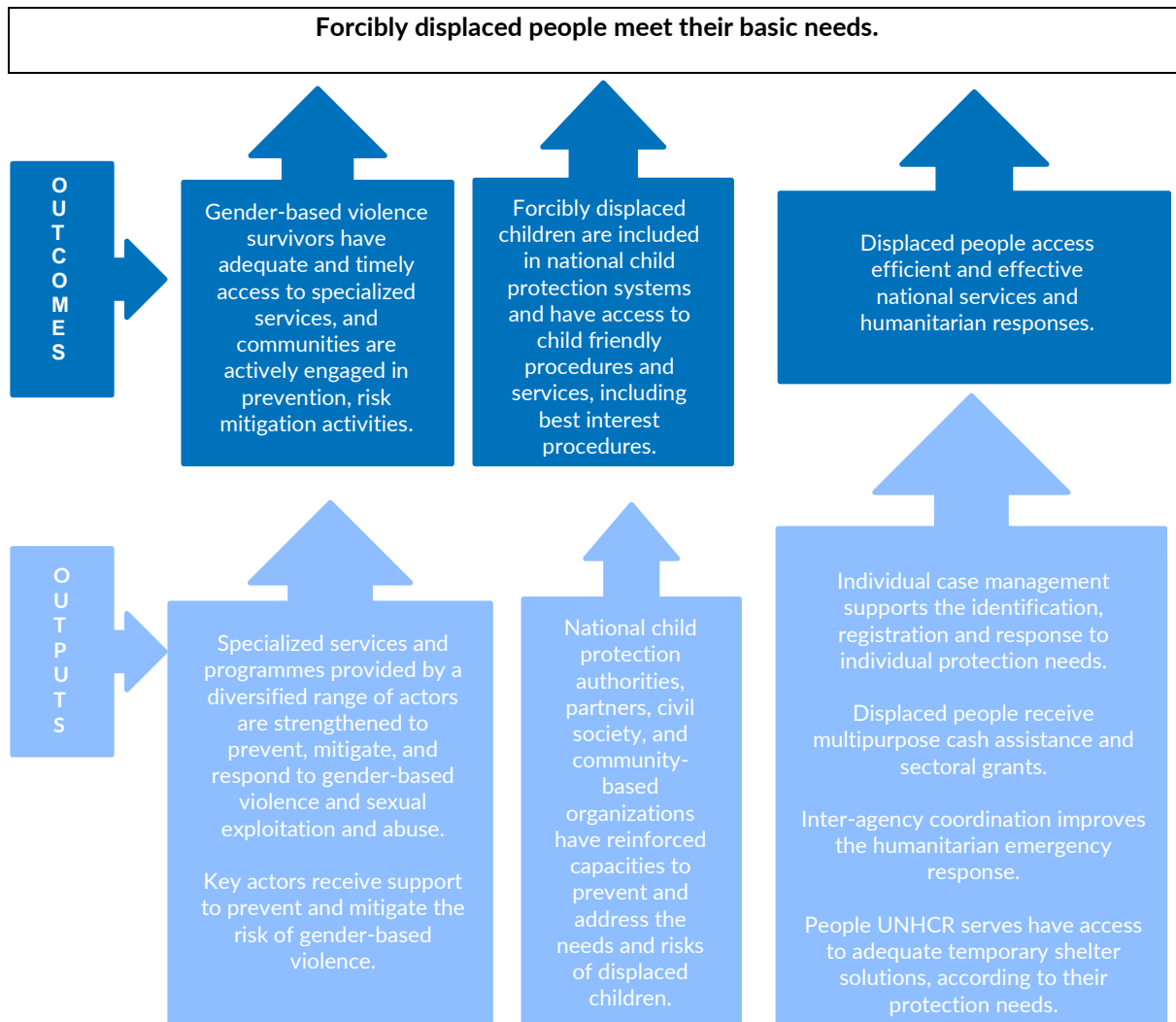


- UNHCR supports the Refugee Status Determination Commission (CODER) to ensure asylum-seekers have access to fair and efficient determination procedures in El Salvador. Through a direct agreement with the CODER under the Foreign Affairs Ministry, UNHCR and CODER implement a capacity development strategy to increase the skills and knowledge of the members of the CODER and strengthen the legal framework and internal protocols of the institution.
- UNHCR works towards the enjoyment of rights of internally displaced persons through the strengthening of the national legal framework and public policies. UNHCR provides guidance and technical support to institutions and key stakeholders for the inclusion of internally displaced persons in government programmes and initiatives.
- Throughout 2023, UNHCR supports a household survey implemented by the National Statistics Office and in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, which collects data on

profiles of internally displaced persons, on the dynamics of forced displacement and their immediate and long-term needs, in line with EGRIS recommendations.



## Respond: Realizing rights in safe environments



- UNHCR strengthens response to gender-based violence survivors through specialized services in coordination with the Women’s Development Institute (ISDEMU) and the Women’s Attorney General’s Office (PGR), as well as with grassroots women’s organizations.
- UNHCR boosts the inclusion of forcibly displaced children in the national child protection system through the strengthening of technical capacities of institutional staff and through community-based protection activities.
- UNHCR’s four Support Spaces “By your side”, in coordination with partners and national institutions such as the Attorney General’s Office (PGR), the Ombudsperson’s Office (PDDH), the Directorate for Attention to Victims (DAV), ISDEMU, the Ministry of Labour and the National Council for Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence (CONAPINA), among others, offer services and assistance to forcibly displaced persons and people at heightened risk.
- Humanitarian assistance is provided to people with specific needs, including cash assistance, non-food items, relocation, and safe accommodation, among others. Mental health services, including

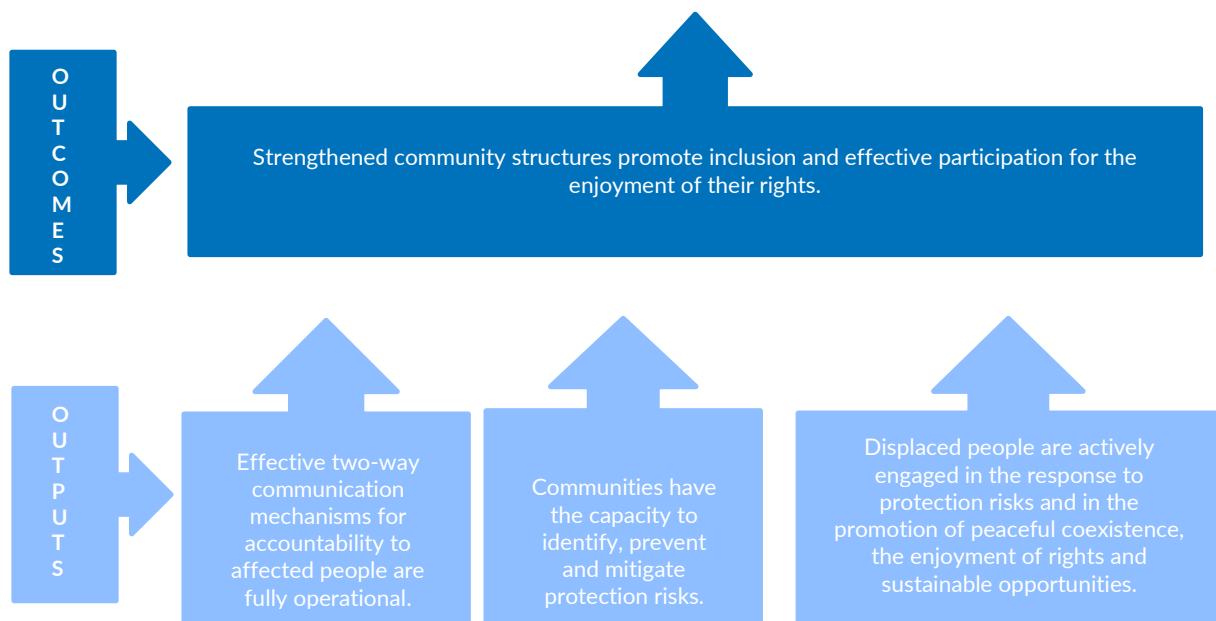
individual and community psychosocial support and psychological assistance, are provided in coordination with the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion and through specialized UNHCR partners.

- UNHCR assists households with multipurpose cash assistance and sectoral grants to guarantee that people at heightened risk can cover their basic needs. Eligibility is determined using protection assessment tools and criteria.
- UNHCR leads the Protection Sector to conduct joint analysis on the situation of the population at heightened risk, including the internally displaced, as well as to ensure a coordinated overall protection response.
- UNHCR co-leads both the Shelter and the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Sectors. In co-leadership with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) for Shelter, and IOM for CCCM, UNHCR ensures a protection approach into both sectors' responses.



### Empower: Empowering communities and achieving gender equality

**Forcibly displaced people are empowered, informed and are meaningful actors of their own protection and solutions.**

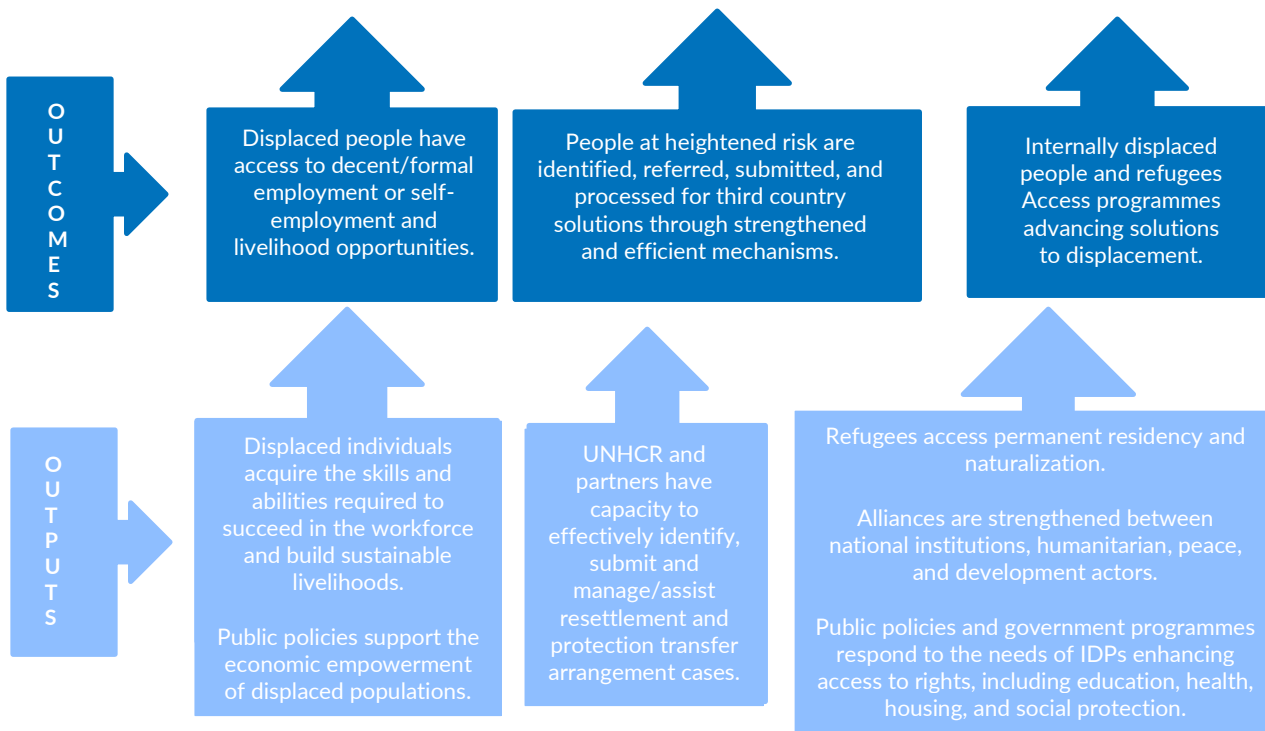


- UNHCR conducts participatory assessments and regular consultations with all population groups to ensure the voices, priorities and decisions of forcibly displaced people are included and that they inform UNHCR's programmes. Systems for effective two-way communication are enhanced in-house and with partners, furthering accessibility to all groups, operational effectiveness, and accountability.
- UNHCR supports community-led initiatives and peaceful coexistence projects to respond to the protection needs of children, women, LGBTIQ+ people, youth, persons with disabilities, older people, survivors of gender-based violence, and indigenous peoples, among other groups.
- UNHCR promotes compliance with Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) protocols, and complaint mechanisms across all areas where UNHCR and its partners have direct contact with forcibly displaced people and people at risk of displacement.
- UNHCR promotes educational, cultural and sports activities, providing alternatives to create safe environments for young people in their communities.



## Solve: Securing solutions

**Forcibly displaced people find solutions to their situation, while also contributing to the development and resilience of their communities.**



- UNHCR promotes vocational education and entrepreneurship initiatives to create employment opportunities for forcibly displaced people and people at risk of displacement.
- UNHCR identifies and refers individuals and households at high risk in need of resettlement.
- UNHCR recognizes that addressing the root causes of displacement is essential to promoting the long-term stability and well-being of communities affected by displacement. To help address these root causes, UNHCR supports the Government, the Humanitarian Country Team and other stakeholders with initiatives that can improve the living conditions in historically marginalized communities. This involves supporting the Government to develop policies and programmes that address poverty, inequality, and social exclusion, as well as supporting access to services, such as water and sanitation, healthcare, and education.

### UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the support of:

| Belgium | Canada | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States | Peacebuilding Fund | Private Donors Australia | Private Donors Italy | Private Donors Japan | Private Donors Republic of Korea | Private Donors Spain | Private Donors United Kingdom | Private Donors United States |

### CONTACTS

**Sonia Aguilar**, External Relations Officer  
[aguilar@unhcr.org](mailto:aguilar@unhcr.org)

**Alejandra Romo**, Associate Reporting Officer  
[romo@unhcr.org](mailto:romo@unhcr.org)



**800-7096** Toll-free helpline

 **A Tu Lado en Línea: +503 2113-0281**

 [ayudaelsalvador@unhcr.org](mailto:ayudaelsalvador@unhcr.org)