





Key Figures

Community-based Protection

-  **167** individuals assisted through UNHCR's helpline in April, and 860 in 2023.
-  **170** people assisted at the Support Spaces in April, and 822 in 2023.
-  **6,784** people reached by the Mobile Units operating from the Support Spaces across the country in April, and 28,024 in 2023.

Cash Assistance

 **453** households (**1,370** individuals) at heightened risk received cash assistance in April, and 863 households (2,350 individuals) in 2023. This support helps cover basic needs such as food, rent, documentation, and transportation, as well as to facilitate livelihoods activities for economic integration and education.

Registration

 **101** people registered with biometrics in April, and 624 in 2023.

Funding

 **15%** of UNHCR's financial requirements for El Salvador received by 27 April 2023.

Highlights

- ▶ **UNHCR supported and accompanied the participation of a community youth representative from Soyapango at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum 2023 in New York, to share the best practices of the local joint work.** The young delegate gave a speech in one of the plenary sessions on how young people contribute to the prevention and mitigation of violence, including through their work in the community centres known as CUBOS. In El Salvador, UNHCR broadcasted the event in the eleven CUBOS in the country, and held a watch party in CUBO San Jose, Soyapango with the participation of 70 people.
- ▶ **UNHCR provided 150 solar lamps to 76 families living around the Laguna Verde in the Apaneca Biosphere**

Reserve who have no electricity in their homes. The support was coordinated with the Youth Network Mundo Vida from Apaneca who work on environmental awareness, mobilizing youth and communities.

- ▶ **UNHCR along with World Vision, the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion, the Municipality of San Salvador, and community leaders participated in the inauguration of the rehabilitated community park of the Santa Marta community in San Salvador.** Around 300 people participated in the event, which included sports, music, and an entrepreneurs' fair. The community park, which used to be under gang control, is now accessible to people from over 20 communities.



The joint work between UNHCR, public institutions, partners and community leaders allows communities to have spaces for coexistence and strengthen integration.
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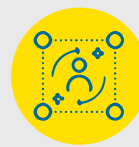


The renovated park in Santa Marta Castillejas, San Jacinto allows children, adolescents and neighbours to enjoy recreational activities in their community.
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Empower

- ▶ **UNHCR and FUNDASAL met with the community El Progreso II, Ciudad Delgado, to address concerns on waste and residual waters management.** As agreed, a community initiative will raise awareness on waste management to reduce the environmental impact.
- ▶ **To strengthen community participation and promote social cohesion, UNHCR and World Vision held meetings in prioritized communities Buena Vista, Lourdes, and Las Palmas, Ciudad Delgado, on collective decision-making processes.**



Solve

- ▶ **To promote formal employment of youth at risk, UNHCR participated in a meeting organized by the Ministry of Labour with over 1,000 business representatives.** The Government informed business representatives about the Government's programmes designed to boost formal employment, including My First Job, UNHCR-Ministry of Labour joint programme.
- ▶ **UNHCR, the Municipality of Santa Ana and the Catholic University of Santa Ana, launched a course on data analysis.** This innovative initiative involves 29 university students who will strengthen their skills to analyze information related to forced displacement in El Salvador.



Protect

- ▶ **UNHCR and SOS Children's Villages held meetings with the Children's Rights Local Committees of the municipalities of Santa Ana and Apopa to share 2023's joint project.** Local Committees are key in the child protection system, serving as the bridge between municipal responses and national protection institutions. The project supports Local Committees in eleven municipalities nationwide.
- ▶ **UNHCR met with CONAPINA to coordinate actions for strengthening their technical capacities on forced displacement, support to local rights committees, articulate a comprehensive referral pathway and disseminate the rights of displaced children.**
- ▶ **UNHCR briefed 34 staff members from the Women's Development Institute (ISDEMU) on UNHCR's mandate and work in the country.** This brief is part of the process to integrate gender-based violence case management and forced displacement into the national protection system.



Respond

- ▶ **As part of the coordinated response to people affected by the Tropical Storm Julia that hit on October 2022, UNHCR and the National Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (CONAIPD) delivered the final set of construction kits to families with disabilities in San Miguel.**



Together with FUNDASAL, UNHCR listens to the concerns and challenges of the El Progreso II Community in Ciudad Delgado.
© Courtesy of FUNDASAL



Guillén and other young people in his community produce videos to invite neighbours to participate in their activities.
© UNHCR/ Franklyn Ruiz

Young people are betting on bicycles to promote coexistence in El Salvador

► One Sunday a month, the streets of the neighbourhood where Guillén resides in Soyapango, San Salvador, turn into a bike path for people of all ages. Only cycling is allowed there, no cars or other vehicles are permitted. It's a time for coexistence.

"The bicycle is something that brings people together. It doesn't matter your age or gender, everyone can enjoy cycling together," says Guillén, a 24-year-old young man from the municipality of Soyapango, in the central area of El Salvador.

Growing up in a community stigmatized by violence has meant facing many challenges, such as the invisible borders imposed by gangs and the fear of experiencing violence, which limited the freedom of movement in the community.

With the support of the Youth Fund of UNHCR, the United Nations Refugee Agency, Guillén and the youth association to which he belongs managed to create a bike path where neighbours of all ages can enjoy and exercise together. Additionally, they invited various entrepreneurs to come and sell their products and encouraged the neighbourhood to participate.

"I'm glad to see young people so active. Seeing so many people participating in the activities has even motivated me to come with my merchandise," says one of the neighbours.

To share his community work experience, in April 2023, Guillén participated in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum held in New York, United States.

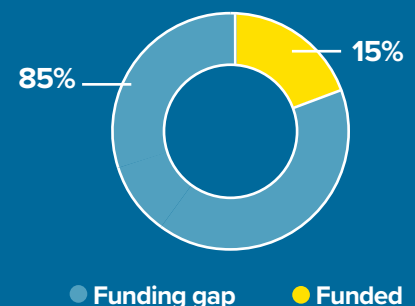
"I had the opportunity to meet young people from different parts of the world who are also working for a better future in their communities. We shared our experiences and learned from each other," says Guillén. "I talked about the capacity we, young people in El Salvador, have to transform our reality and the importance of our participation in finding solutions to issues in our communities," he added.

The work of Guillén's youth committee in Soyapango is an example that sports and peaceful coexistence are possible, even in communities stigmatized by violence.



Funding

In 2023, UNHCR is appealing for USD 26 million to provide protection, response, empowerment and solutions to refugees, asylum-seekers, and forcibly displaced persons in El Salvador. The best way to support UNHCR's appeal is through unearmarked contributions. Such flexible funding at global level is key in allowing a timely response to the evolving needs wherever required.



UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the support in 2023 of:



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For more information, please contact:

Sonia Aguilar | aguilar@unhcr.org
External Relations Officer

Alejandra Romo | romo@unhcr.org
Associate Reporting Officer



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