El Salvador
August 2023
Operational Update #8

UNHCR participated in the closing of Youth Month together with UNFPA, INJUVE and the Ministry of Health in San Salvador.
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Key Figures

Community-based Protection

405 individuals assisted through UNHCR's helpline in August, and 2,300 in 2023.

390 people assisted at the Support Spaces in August, and 1,873 in 2023.

7,147 people reached by the Mobile Units operating from the regions where the Support Spaces are located in August, and 56,283 in 2023.

Cash Assistance

530 households (**1,679** individuals) at heightened risk received cash assistance in August, and 1,456 households (4,090 individuals) in 2023. Cash helps cover basic needs such as food, rent, documentation, transportation, activities for economic integration and education.

Registration

287 people registered with biometrics, in August, and 1,555 in 2023.

Funding

42% of UNHCR's financial requirements for El Salvador received by 28 August 2023.

Highlights

- **UNHCR, the Municipality of Santa Ana, the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion and World Vision inaugurated a Community Integration Centre (CIC) in Lamatepec, Santa Ana.** UNHCR built the infrastructure and donated equipment for vocational training and sports activities. UNHCR supports community structures in Lamatepec neighbourhood which used to be under gang control. This is the fourth CIC launched in coordination with local governments and the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion.
- **In commemoration of the International Youth Day, UNHCR donated soccer and basketball kits to 25 youth committees to promote peace through sports at a full-day event organized by the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion in Santa Ana.** At the event, which held sports activities, recreational games, and art performances, four entrepreneurs who recently completed the UNHCR-World Vision Súper Pilas programme showcased their innovative products.
- **Five youth representatives from Soyapango sponsored by UNHCR graduated in the Model United Nations "MUN for everyone" implemented by the Higher School of Economics and Business of El Salvador (ESEN).** This six-module programme included training in negotiation techniques, global economics, leadership skills and analysis of the United Nations system. The programme included in-person and virtual sessions from June to August 2023.
- **The Office of the First Lady and the Ministry of Health joined UNHCR in the inauguration of a lactation room on its premises to provide a welcoming and suitable environment for breastfeeding mothers.**

UNHCR supports the training of young people so that they have tools that allow them to work for their communities.
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At the A Tu Lado Fair in Meanguera, La Unión, UNHCR provided information, guidance, assistance, and services to the community.
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Protect

- **UNHCR participated in the services fair "By your side" (Feria de Servicios A Tu Lado) in Meanguera island, Gulf of Fonseca (La Union, border with Nicaragua and Honduras).** The Ministries of Health, Education, Foreign Affairs, and Culture, the National Commission for Micro and Small Enterprises (CONAMYPE), the National Registration Centre (CNR), the General Direction of Subsidies, the Centre of Agricultural Technology (CENTA), the National Youth Institute (INJUVE), IOM, NRC and Ayuda en Acción, among other actors, shared information and provided medical, legal, and psychosocial services to more than 120 people.
- **UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugee Status Determination (CODER) trained 45 public officers on international protection and the national asylum procedure in Ahuachapán (border crossing with Guatemala) and Sonsonate (Acajutla seaport) departments.** Public entities that provide services at these border points such as the General Directorate for Migration and Foreigners (DGME), the National Civil Police (PNC), the Solidarity Fund for Health (FOSALUD), the General Customs Directorate and the Executive Autonomous Port Commission (CEPA) attended the training.
- **UNHCR trained on international refugee protection and forced displacement ten staff of the National Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (CONAIPD).** This training aims to enhance capacities to assist and refer people with protection needs and improve coordination between institutions.

Respond

- **UNHCR participated in the intersectoral Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) workshop.** Participants discussed the humanitarian context in El Salvador and identified the main risks that could impact the humanitarian situation in the country for 2024. The sectors also presented their preliminary data on people in need (PiN) for the 2024 HNO.

Empower

- **Forty-six staff members from the National Institute for Women's Development (ISDEMU), the specialized Women and Children Civil Attorney's Office (PGR Mujer and PGR Niñez) participated in a two-day training organized by UNHCR.** This is the first comprehensive training for frontline institutions on gender-based violence and internal displacement cases.
- **UNHCR participated in a services fair in the community Regalo de Dios, Soyapango as part of the territorial activation plan (Plan de Activación Territorial) led by the National Council for Childhood and Adolescence (CONAPINA).** National institutions and the Support Space Mobile Unit "By your Side" participated in the event providing information about services. Around 120 people received information about the rights of internally displaced people and support services.
- **Seven youth committees from Soyapango received from UNHCR communication kits to produce audiovisual materials and amplify their voice.** Committees aim to reach more young people in communities, inspiring them to join their activities.
- **UNHCR joined the closing event for the International Youth Month in Parque Cuscatlán with the participation of hundreds of young people from different departments.** UNFPA, the National Institute for Youth (INJUVE) and the Ministry of Health led the event, combining informative, recreational, and artistic activities. It provided a platform for youth to reflect and discuss on their roles as agents of change.

UNHCR opened a lactation room as a comfortable and welcoming space for the well-being of breastfeeding mothers and their babies.
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Solve

- **Eleven additional participants of the 'My First Job' programme signed contracts with their employers and commenced their 5-month apprenticeship period.** By end of August, 132 participants from San Salvador, Santa Ana, Sonsonate, La Libertad, San Miguel, and Morazán received a three-day training by the Ministry of Labour where they learned to create their resume, prepare for job interviews and understand their labour rights.

My First Job

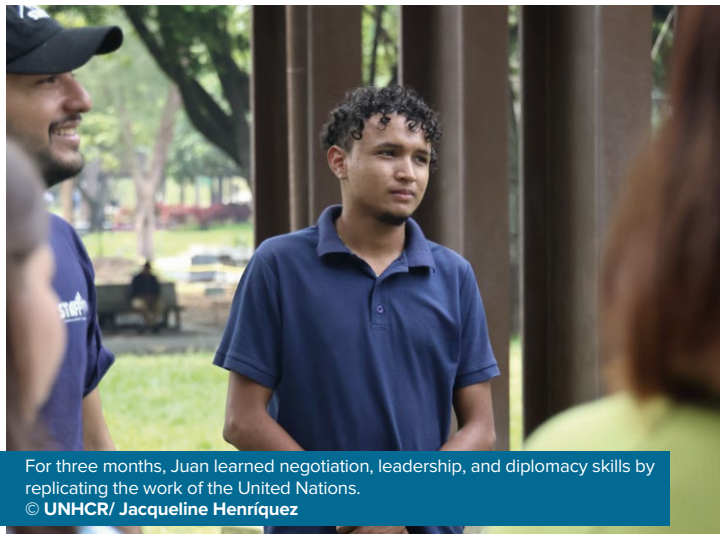
- **Over 800 people registered online in the first two weeks of a social-media campaign launched by UNHCR to promote its labour inclusion programmes.** Applicants reached organically through social media, instant messaging chats and community volunteers, registered on the web platform to be considered for these programmes.

The potential of involving youth in solutions

"I learned that we all have a voice and dialogue is essential for finding solutions. I will put into practice the knowledge I acquired, and share it with others in my community", said Juan, a 21-year-old community leader from Soyapango, San Salvador. With support from UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, he graduated in August from the three-month programme "MUN for Everyone", implemented by the Higher School of Economics and Business of El Salvador, ESEN.

The Model United Nations (MUN) is an activity for individuals interested in understanding how the United Nations works. Each year, thousands of students from around the world and at all educational levels participate in it. Many current leaders in the legal, governmental, business, and artistic fields, including those within the United Nations itself, participated in MUN when they were students.

"MUN for Everyone" is a Model United Nations programme implemented by ESEN, which comprises a series of modules in which students learn about negotiation techniques, global economics, leadership skills, and the analysis of the United Nations system.



For three months, Juan learned negotiation, leadership, and diplomacy skills by replicating the work of the United Nations.
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ESEN hosts this programme annually to promote the participation of students aged 15 to 25 from different communities across the country. This allows young people to access educational opportunities in a university setting. During the sessions, they act as diplomats, draft solutions to global issues, and engage in debates with students from other institutions in the country.

"With this programme, we demonstrate to students that their ideas are important for the UN and have the potential to be put into action. Seeing all the innovative proposals and solutions that Salvadoran youth bring to each model makes us very happy" said Armando Ávila (21 years old), General Coordinator of MUN ESEN.

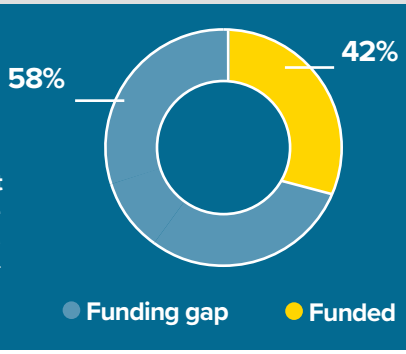
The partnership between UNHCR and ESEN offers an opportunity to create synergies through the MUN for Everyone programme. Through this initiative, young people from communities historically affected by violence are involved in acquiring new knowledge, developing skills, and implementing innovative and inclusive solutions in their communities. The search for partnerships contributes to the fulfillment of the Global Compact on Refugees and its regional application as MIRPS (Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework) so that no one is left behind.

"I am excited to have participated in the Model United Nations (MUN) and to see young people actively engaged in proposing solutions". said Juan. "This inspires me to lead changes in my community and on a global scale," he added.

UNHCR recognizes the transformative potential of youth in seeking solutions to forced displacement and peace consolidation. To achieve this, it works with communities to provide young people with opportunities to strengthen their skills and develop their potential.

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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