


El Salvador


July 2024


Operational Update #7

Our 2024 response in figures


3,055 | individuals assisted through UNHCR's helpline. 


2,455 | people assisted at the Support Spaces "By Your Side". 

46,541 | people reached via Support Spaces' mobile units. 

2,434 | individuals assisted with mental health services and psychosocial support. 

268 | people engaged in participatory assessments 

4,258 | people benefited through programmes for the prevention of violence against women. 

422 | people trained in skills for employment and self-employment. 

21 | people linked with a decent job opportunity.

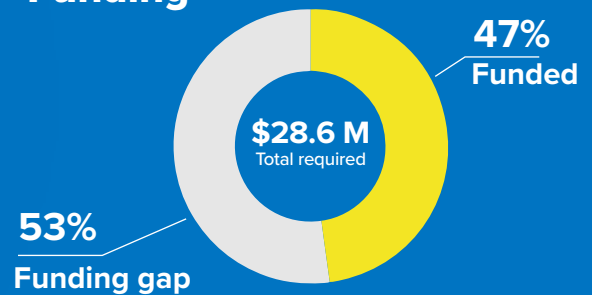
85 | individuals completed vocational training **45** | adults supported to return to formal education.

 **1,789** | people registered with biometrics.

 **3,918** | individuals at heightened risk received cash.

Gilberto, 25, sharing his experience in the "My First Job" programme of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare with UNHCR's support. After receiving skills for employment training, he got a job at Galaxia Deportes as a graphic designer.
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Funding



47% of UNHCR's financial requirements for El Salvador received by 31 July 2024.

This support helps to cover basic needs such as food, rent, documentation, as well as to facilitate activities for economic integration, education, and naturalization.

HIGHLIGHTS



- Communities in Cabañas now have access to vocational training opportunities and recreational activities at the Community Integration Centre (CIC) inaugurated in Ilobasco. UNHCR supported the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion and the municipality to revamp this space and donated computers, musical instruments, books, and office equipment. This is the fifth CIC inaugurated with UNHCR's support, with the aim to expand youth opportunities in communities historically affected by violence and forced displacement.



- In San Salvador, 26 private companies participated in a business meeting organized by UNHCR to promote the “My First Job” programme. The event included a panel discussion with beneficiaries and experts from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, World Vision, and UNHCR. Participants learned about the programme's impact on the lives of young people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, and from communities historically stigmatized due to violence.



- Twenty-three front-line staff at the El Poy border with Honduras participated in a workshop on international protection held by UNHCR in coordination with the Refugee Status Determination Commission (CODER). Participants from the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME), the National Civil Police, Customs, and the Solidarity Fund for Health (FOSALUD) enhanced their knowledge on the identification of people with specific needs and refugee law.

Protect

- UNHCR along UNICEF and WFP jointly visited Las Chinamas border with Guatemala, as part of the regional mixed movements monitoring. This initiative aims to provide a better understanding of profiles, and humanitarian and protection needs of people on the move across the Americas.
- In Soyapango, 24 municipal staff enhanced their knowledge about forced displacement and referral pathways for individuals with specific needs through a workshop facilitated by UNHCR. This activity furthers coordination among local actors in areas historically affected by violence and forced displacement.

Respond

- In Santa Ana, UNHCR held a workshop for 26 staff from the municipality, the Supreme Court of Justice, the Attorney General's Office (PGR), the Ministry of Education, the Local Office for the Attention of Victims (OLAV), and partners IRC and Plan International. Participants increased their knowledge on forced displacement and on the prevention and response to gender violence.

- In coordination with the National Council for the Inclusion of People with Disabilities (CONAIPD) and the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion, UNHCR donated hygiene kits to women, men, children, and older people affected by heavy rains. UNHCR supports national and local institutions to boost adaptability and resilience in communities impacted by displacement and climate change.



Representatives from the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion receiving hygiene kits from UNHCR for people affected by heavy rains.

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Empower

- Under the “De Una” PBF-funded project, 10 youth from communities historically affected by violence concluded a seven-module communications programme facilitated by the University José Matías Delgado. This experience enhanced participants skills for storytelling and communication with communities to consolidate peace.



Youth from communities prioritized by the “De Una” PBF-funded project during the final sessions of the “Comunicadores Comunitarios” programme.
© ACNUR / Franklyn Ruiz

- Fifteen people in the Santa Lucía community (Mejicanos district) concluded a ten-session artistic process under the Graffitour, an initiative by the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion and UNHCR. The reflection process, facilitated by the Modern Art Museum (MARTE), allowed participants providing insights for six murals that will revamp streets previously controlled by gangs.



People in the Santa Lucía community in Mejicanos during artistic sessions held at the community centre CUBO.
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Solve

- The “My First Job” programme, an initiative by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MTPS) and UNHCR, engaged 83 displaced and at risk of displacement youth from several departments in its third employment route. Attendants improved their soft skills, an initial step before the Ministry and UNHCR link them to decent jobs.



Youth from several departments during trainings to enhance their soft skills and skills for employment as part of the “My First Job” programme.
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- Through the “Súper Pilas” programme, 177 participants from Santa Ana, San Salvador, La Paz, and San Miguel completed entrepreneurship training using the ILO’s methodology. A panel of experts identified proposals that will receive seed capital to help displaced and at risk of displacement beneficiaries bring their business idea into reality.



Women from the “Ciudad Mujer” programme in San Martín presenting their business idea developed under the “Súper Pilas” programme with UNHCR’s support.
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Stories from the field

UNHCR, Government, and Private Sector: Promoting youth inclusion in the formal labour market

Representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, private companies, and UNHCR pose with participant (white shirt) of the “My First Job” programme during a business meeting in San Salvador.
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Twenty-six private companies participated in the VIII Business Meeting organized in July by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MTPS), UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and World Vision, as part of the “Mi Primer Trabajo” programme. This initiative facilitates access to a first formal work experience for displaced youth, those at risk of displacement, or from communities historically affected by violence.

During the event, attendees learned about the benefits of the programme, which has connected more than 180 companies with young talent through training, interview practices facilitated by job experts from MTPS, and a skills-based job placement process.

This effort, initiated in 2021, has already allowed 708 young people to enter the formal labour market through apprenticeship contracts in areas such as sales, customer service, gastronomy, among others.

Experts from MTPS, World Vision, and UNHCR presented programme achievements and discussed the challenges that displaced people and those from stigmatized communities face in accessing decent employment opportunities.

Patricia Padilla, a Human Resources Manager shared the company’s experience: “At Galaxia Deportes, we recognize the potential of young people, regardless of where they come from. We have learned a lot about the challenges youth face when seeking employment. That’s why we want to continue opening doors for them.”

Gilberto, a young man from Santa Ana who is now a graphic designer at Galaxia Deportes, highlighted the positive impact of My First Job on his life: “When us young people access opportunities, we get the possibility to help our families. I encourage other companies to join the programme and believe in our talent,” he said.

As Monica Tse-Candido, UNHCR Representative, explained: “Mi Primer Trabajo is a win-win for everyone. The participants gain valuable experience and broaden their horizons and opportunities. Companies get motivated employees who contribute to the growth of their businesses, and the country strengthens its productivity driving economic growth.”

The programme contributes to El Salvador’s commitments Global Refugee Forum and to the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), a practical application of the Global Compact on Refugees.

In 2024, UNHCR is appealing for USD 28.6 million to provide protection, responses, empowerment and solutions to refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced persons in El Salvador. The best way to support UNHCR’s appeal is through unearmarked contributions. Such flexible funding at the global level is key in allowing a timely response to evolving needs wherever required.

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



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