



**El Salvador**  
**February 2022**  
External Update #2

## Key Figures

### COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION



**302** individuals assisted through UNHCR's helpline in February, and **592** in 2022.



**341** people assisted at the Support Spaces in February, and **671** in 2022.

**1,337** people reached via Support Spaces mobile units in February, and **1,459** in 2022.

### CASH ASSISTANCE



**338** households (**1,406** individuals) at heightened risk received cash assistance in February, and **445** households (**1,380** individuals) in 2022. This support helps cover basic needs such as food, rent, documentation, and transportation.

### FUNDING



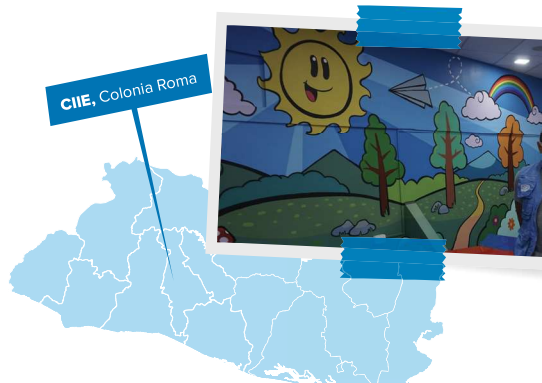
**11%** of UNHCR's financial requirements for El Salvador received by **15 March 2022**.

## Highlights

- 1 COMCAVIS Trans and UNHCR released a report on the current situation of the LGBTIQ+ population in El Salvador.** Among main findings, 48% of the LGBTIQ+ population is unemployed, and 32.7% earn less than \$100 per month. Of the surveyed population, 56% said to have been affected by internal forced displacement.
- 2 UNHCR donated two minibuses to the Salvadoran reception centre known as "GAMI" to facilitate operations in support to people in need of protection identified among those deported.**
- 3 UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugee Status Determination (or CODER) agreed on a workplan for 2022 that includes continued collaboration to increase the capacity and efficiency of the asylum system and the establishment of fair procedures for refugee status determination.** The workplan also includes: i) coordination to ensure access to protection and assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees; ii) support in the revision of the draft International Protection Law; and iii) promoting the

accession of El Salvador to the 1961 Convention to eradicate statelessness, before the Executive Branch and the Legislative Assembly.

- 4 El Salvador's Vice-president and the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion, jointly with UNHCR and World Vision, inaugurated the first Comprehensive Centre for Emotional Intelligence (CIE).** This public centre offers psycho-social support for individuals and communities affected or at risk of forced displacement.



# Protect

The UNHCR-led Protection Working Group analyzed during its monthly meeting the prioritized actions for 2022. In line with the objectives set in the Humanitarian Response Plan, the joint work plan will focus on boosting technical capacities on protection, the provision of humanitarian

assistance, the promotion of access to rights, and the engagement with communities.

In contribution to national emergency preparedness, UNHCR delivered 100 self-standing family tents to El Salvador's National Civil Protection.



# Assist

In line with El Salvador's MIRPS commitments, the Ministry of Health and UNHCR developed a joint work plan to strengthen psychosocial support for internally displaced persons, access to health at communities, and the response to survivors of gender-based violence.

UNHCR at the Municipality of San Miguel agreed to strengthen local technical capacities to provide technical support to strengthen local capacities in the response to internal displacement. UNHCR has been supporting the Municipality in the establishment of referral pathways to respond to internally displaced people through the Municipal Committee for the Prevention of Violence (CMPV) since 2020.

UNHCR Representative and the Mayor of Soyapango met to strengthen cooperation and identify innovative synergies in support to groups at heightened risk in this municipality impacted by violence and internal displacement.

# Empower

UNHCR in coordination with the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion delivered equipment for the youth houses of the municipalities of Zaragoza (La Libertad), Apopa and Cuscatancingo (San Salvador). The supplies will boost programmes to prevent violence and advance opportunities targeting children and youth in municipalities highly impacted by displacement.

UNHCR along COMCAVIS Trans held two workshops for local leaders working with the LGBTIQ+ community, addressing key aspects regarding rights, terminology, and respect to diversity. A total of 20 leaders from San Miguel and Sonsonate participated in the workshop.

The Mayor's Office of Nahuizalco, a municipality hosting a large indigenous population, expressed their commitment to support the community work plan for 2022 presented by UNHCR, World Vision and FUNDASAL, and coordinated with the Ministry of Culture. The work plan responds to the needs identified by the community, mostly related to lack of adequate housing, livelihoods, and safety.

# Solve

UNHCR donated equipment to the Zacamil branch of Fe y Alegria vocational centre to modernize its courses in Professional Bakery and Automotive Repairs as part of the livelihoods strategy to improve opportunities in areas severely affected by violence. Graduates of the courses will receive a certification by the Salvadoran Institute for Technical Education (INSAFORP), which improves their employment prospects.

The Ministry of Labor confirmed that 21 apprentices previously enrolled in the 'My First Job' program, implemented with UNHCR's support, received a job offer by businesses prior the expiry of the six-month apprenticeship phase. Graduates of the courses get a certification by (INSAFORP), which improves their employment prospects.



# Stories from the field

## Education offers a brighter future to a single mother

Regina\* fled with her baby in search of safety after a gang member wanted her to be his girlfriend. Now she is enrolled in one of UNHCR's livelihoods programmes. Vocational training paired with cash assistance offer a new opportunity to internally displaced people in El Salvador.

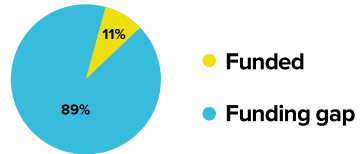
Regina\* (18) saw her life changed as she began studying a technical career in business administration. "I never thought that a single mother like me could be capable of studying a career. I feel my self-esteem improved as now I believe in myself and a better future for me and my baby." UNHCR supports vocational training centres as part of its livelihoods strategy to improve the skills, qualifications, and employability of internally displaced people and at-risk youth. Besides donating up-to-date equipment, UNHCR assists with cash to cover basic needs such as food and transportation for youth enrolled in the courses. Graduates of the courses obtain a certification by the Salvadoran Institute for Technical Education (INSAFORP), which enhances their long-term employment prospects. Thanks to UNHCR's support, Regina\* covers daily transportation to attend the course and helps her family to meet basic needs while they take care of her baby.

\* Name changed for protection reasons



## Funding

In 2022, UNHCR is appealing for USD 23.6 million to provide protection, assistance, 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.



Website: <https://www.acnur.org/el-salvador.html>

Global Focus: <https://reporting.unhcr.org/elsalvador>

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



| Private donors Spain

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