




El Salvador April 2022 External Update #4

Key Figures

COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION

 **787** individuals assisted through UNHCR's helpline in April, and **1,820** in 2022.

 **208** people assisted at the Support Spaces in April, and **1,140** in 2022.

1,929 people reached via Support Spaces mobile units in April, and **5,241** in 2022.

CASH ASSISTANCE



379 households (**1,195** individuals) at heightened risk received cash assistance in April, and **621** households (**1,943** individuals) in 2022. This support helps cover basic needs such as food, rent, documentation, and transportation.

FUNDING



16% of UNHCR's financial requirements for El Salvador received by 10 May 2022.

Highlights

- 1** The General Directorate for Migration and Foreign Affairs and UNHCR piloted the use of UNHCR's protection module by the Directorate for Attention to Migrants (GAMI- reception centre). The module is an important protection tool, allowing the identification of deportees with protection needs to be referred in a timely and confidential matter to the Local Office for Attention to Victims. This will strengthen the sustainability of protection sensitive reception mechanisms.
- 2** UNHCR and partner FUNDASAL visited small-scale rural entrepreneurship supported in Usulután and Chalatenango departments as part of the exit stage of the project.
- 3** In San Vicente, the Mayor's office, UNHCR and the institutions part of the local violence prevention committee agreed to launch referral mechanisms for internally displaced persons and people at risk of forced displacement.
- 4** UNHCR organized a training with key staff and partners to build capacity and discuss the implementation of participatory assessments in 2022. The assessments will take place in 32 communities through 90 groups of men, women, youth, older persons, LGBTIQ+ community, asylum-seekers and

refugees following a people centred approach and aiming to build a protection response.

- 5** To commemorate Earth Day, UNHCR along with the National Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion, the municipality of San Luis Talpa and eight youth committees from El Salvador, participated in a waste disposal and clean-up campaign at El Pimental Beach, in San Luis Talpa. A total of 240 young people participated in this activity.

Playa El Pimental,
San Luis Talpa



Protect

UNHCR accompanied the Secretariat of the National Commission for Refugee Status Determination (CODER) in the third interinstitutional meeting for the creation of a protocol on attention to asylum-seekers and refugees. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Institute for Women's Development (ISDEMU), the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONNA), the Office of the Prosecutor (PGR), the General Directorate for Migration and Foreigners (DGME) and Ombudsperson's Office (PDDH) participated in the meeting.

UNHCR participated in the Municipal Violence Prevention Committee of the Mayor's office of San Miguel, where members agreed to: conduct inter-institutional review of referral pathways for female survivors of gender-based violence; carry out psychological first aid workshops in the municipality with the support of the Salvadoran Red Cross; and hold workshops to strengthen local capacities.



Assist

UNHCR accompanied awareness sessions and recreational activities in the Urban Centers of Well-being and Opportunities (CUBO) in the IVU and Zacamil communities alongside the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion. More than 40 older people participated in awareness sessions and brain games that help improve mental health and memory. Other activities helped youth and children to reduce stress and improve their emotional wellbeing.

Empower

UNHCR and FUNDASAL held the first of nine workshops with 30 community leaders, representatives from youth groups on sexual and reproductive rights and local institutions from La Paz and San Vicente, which kickstarted the 2022 School on Human Rights and Community Organization.

UNHCR along FUNDASAL met the youth committee Asociación Cultural Juvenil Camaleón to share experiences and coordinate activities in Ciudad Delgado municipality. The young leaders will join the School on Human Rights and Community Organization led by FUNDASAL.

The Office activated a communication tree to share messages on the family reunification programme and livelihood opportunities for youth, which reached some 7,620 people through instant messaging and social media groups.

Solve

The Economic Transformation sub-group of the UN Country Team for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) analyzed in its second ordinary session rising food costs and increasing food insecurity. The group drafted priority areas for the next two years, focusing on: sustainable food systems, resilience against climate change, support for rural and urban microenterprises and small businesses, more effective expenditure of remittances, and reducing the digital divide.

UNHCR delivered biosecurity items to over 200 students from the municipalities of Zacatecoluca and La Palma, including IDPs and people at risk of displacement, during their two-month vocational training courses certified by the Salvadoran Institute for Professional Formation (INSAFORP).

As part of the livelihoods strategy to build the capacity and technical expertise of partners, over 20 members of partner organizations graduated from a three-month training course in methodologies designed by the International Labor Organization, ILO, for creating, expanding, and sustaining small-scale microenterprises.



Stories from the field

Start-ups that promote community engagement and peaceful coexistence

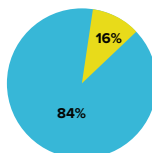
UNHCR recently finalized support to several rural entrepreneurs in Zacatecoluca, La Libertad, Usulután and Chalatenango departments that started between 2018 and 2020. These initiatives strengthened livelihoods, and boosted access to food, peaceful coexistence and local integration.

Letty* remembers how she used to sell cashews without keeping track of costs and earnings. As often occurs to people in rural areas in El Salvador, Letty* struggled with lack of employment and training opportunities. To address this situation, since 2018 UNHCR and FUNDASAL supported small-scale businesses initiatives through targeted skills training, linked to cash grants. In some cases, UNHCR also facilitated access to land to help internally displaced people and host communities to achieve self-sufficiency. These small-scale businesses ranged from organic by-products of local fruits and seeds, such as wine, jams, preserves and vinegar, to organic farms for eggs, pork meat and vegetables. Skills training helped people break down costs to determine margins of profits and losses, as well as book-keeping and brand creation in the more advance initiatives. As Letty* explains, thanks to trainings, she's now mindful of costs, and she considers transportation and wrapping when determining the selling price. Training sessions informed participants about human rights and access to institutional pathways in case of internal displacement. The entrepreneurs in most cases offered employment to other community members in the area, including those newly arrived. "Thank you infinitely for supporting us in the moment we needed it the most," said Letty* referring to difficulties faced amidst the pandemic. "And thank you for the training and the patience, and all the time dedicated to teach us stuff we didn't know, like the rights we have as women that we did not know," concluded Letty*. Now equipped with an entrepreneurial mindset, access to markets and a newfound resilience as a result of the process, Letty* and other beneficiaries of this initiatives feel they have a strong foundation to continue to work in their territories.



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.



- Funded
- Funding gap

* Name changed for protection reasons

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 Japan | Private donors Spain

For more information, please contact:

Sonia Aguilar, External Relations Officer, aguilars@unhcr.org
Alejandra Romo, Reporting Officer, romo@unhcr.org

Twitter: @ACNUREISalvador