El Salvador | 2022
April 2022

UNHCR works in El Salvador in coordination with the government, the private sector, civil society, and communities in support of people who have been forced to leave their homes due to violence. In 2021, UNHCR strengthened its operation in the country, in collaboration with communities, local entities, and State institutions in a joint effort to favour durable solutions.

Despite the prolonged effects of the pandemic in El Salvador, joint efforts in 2021 have put forward innovative responses to benefit internally displaced persons and those at risk of displacement.

**THE PEOPLE WE SERVE**
Population Types | 2022
Projections estimated based in previous yearly trends.

- Internally displaced people (IDPs)
- Asylum-seekers
- Refugees
- Deportees with protection needs

Source: UNHCR Refugee Data Finder for years until 2021, UNHCR planning figures (COMPASS) otherwise.

**FUNDING**
USD 23.6 M
UNHCR financial requirements for El Salvador’s operation.

**PRIORITIZATION 2022**
40 Communities

Source: www.unhcr.org
Context

- Violence have forced tens of thousands to flee internally in El Salvador. The Supreme Court of El Salvador officially recognized internal forced displacement in 2018. According to the profiling exercise led by the Government, published in 2018, there are 71,500 IDPs. In 2022, UNHCR and the Government are updating the study to obtain quantitative and qualitative information for evidence-based decision making, and public policies.

- El Salvador joined in 2019 the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS in Spanish) to address forced displacement in Central America and Mexico and held its Pro Tempore Presidency during 2020. In contribution to MIRPS, the Government outlined a National Response Plan with 49 commitments in protection, health, education, and livelihoods to assist IDPs, refugees, and asylum-seekers.

- In 2020, the Legislative Assembly approved the "Special Law for the Comprehensive Care and Protection of People in a situation of Forced Internal Displacement", a fundamental instrument to provide care, protection, and lasting solutions to people internally displaced or at risk of displacement due to violence. In this framework, UNHCR provides technical guidance and works with municipalities in the development of local referral pathways for IDPs.

Working with Partners

- In 2022, UNHCR works in partnership with 9 local and international non-governmental organizations in El Salvador to ensure operational capacity for its interventions: COMCAVIS Trans, FUNDASAL, International Rescue Committee, Missionaries of St. Charles Scalabrinians, Norwegian Refugee Council, Plan International, Save the Children, SOS Children’s Villages and World Vision.

- The Protection Working Group is led by UNHCR and coordinates the response of 33 organizations to the needs of people in vulnerable situations due to forced displacement.

- UNHCR contributes to the success of El Salvador’s MIRPS National Plan that seeks to generate the needed conditions so victims of forced displacement can access efficient and adequate protection and durable solutions.

- UNHCR collaborates with the private sector to generate job opportunities and promote the economic benefits of inclusive workplaces. Through alliances with the National Institute for Vocational Education and Training (INSAFORP) and the Ministry of Labor, UNHCR expands access to apprenticeships and job placements.

Planning for Impact
**Protect: Attaining favourable protection environments**

Internally displaced persons, refugees and asylum-seekers receive an effective response to their protection needs, in compliance with international standards.

- **Strengthening the asylum system and the IDP legal and institutional frameworks are a priority.** UNHCR supports advances in regulatory frameworks including the implementation of the IDP law and advocacy for the approval of by-laws.

- **UNHCR works with public institutions to strengthen referral pathways for victims of displacement, while supporting the strengthening of registration systems to produce reliable data.** UNHCR will further support for the National Directorate of Attention to Victims and its Local Offices for Attention to Victims as the governing body responsible for the protection and assistance to IDPs and persons at risk of displacement.

**Assist: Realizing rights in safe environments**

The people we serve have equal access to basic rights and their needs are covered through efficient and effective national services.

- **The people we serve can meet their basic needs during emergency and post-emergency phases.**

- **Clear and effective referral pathways are implemented.**

- **People at heightened risk have access to emergency response.**

- **Cash and in-kind support and services are provided to the people we serve.**
UNHCR supports the inclusion of refugees, asylum-seekers, deportees with protection needs and internally displaced people in national systems.

UNHCR implements a robust referral system to identify internally displaced people and deliver integral assistance according to reported needs, such as: legal counselling, psychosocial support, mental and physical health services, cash grants, in-kind support, and inclusion in livelihoods programmes.

UNHCR strengthens reception conditions by supporting the government at the reception centre GAMI both through UNHCR’s direct presence as well as providing support to child protection institutions. This support will aid in the identification and timely response to deportees with protection needs, with a focus on child protection.

UNHCR develops interventions with partners to ensure access to shelters for individuals in need of protection. Moreover, through inter-agency coordination the network of shelters and safe spaces throughout the country is reinforced.

Empower: Empowering communities and achieving gender equality

Community participation in the field and communication channels strengthened ensuring that the people we serve have knowledge of their rights and participate in the decision-making of measures that affect them.

Outcomes

- Partners/ Governmental institutions have increased knowledge and capacity to provide prevention and response services for persons with specific needs.
- Leadership and community structures strengthened through age, gender, and diversity and community-based approaches.
- Quality of response provided from institutions to gender-based violence survivors is enhanced.
- The people we serve has access to formal employment or income-generating activities in their communities.

Outputs

- Targeted programs for adolescents and youth implemented to mitigate the risk of forced recruitment.
- Access to rights protection & risks are regularly assessed on a community level & effective communication with communities established.
- Participation of community leadership in institutional coordination spaces enhanced.
- Community accountability mechanisms established.
- Community structures are trained on access to rights & services.
- Existing institutional programs to survivors of gender-based violence supported and strengthened.
- Procedures and referral pathways are aligned to guiding principles and reducing risk of gender-based violence.
- Awareness-raising campaigns are conducted by community groups.
- Integration model with a multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder approaches established.
UNHCR engages directly with communities through consultative processes and outreach volunteer networks. This informs our approach by the views of affected communities and is sensitive to the needs of all groups in the identification of risks, planning of the response, and delivering of assistance.

UNHCR guides key government institutions and partners on gender-based violence prevention, risk mitigation and response.

UNHCR works on strengthening the capacities of the Ministry of Health ensuring that the people we serve can access primary health care services. Additionally, UNHCR improves the response capacity of the specialized units for attention to gender-based violence, and the expansion of mental health and psychosocial support services.

Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) protocols compliance is promoted, and accessible complaint mechanisms are available in all areas where UNHCR and its partners have direct contact with persons of concern.

UNHCR supports small scale community initiatives that promote community engagement and peaceful coexistence.

UNHCR promotes educational, cultural and sports activities, providing alternatives to create safe environments for youth in their communities.

UNHCR supports alternative livelihoods initiatives and access to employment, including training on soft skills and job certification, seed capital and entrepreneurship. Through engagements with the private sector, the National Commission of Micro and Small Businesses (CONAMYPE), and the National Institute for Vocational Education and Training (INSAFORP), UNHCR links people with employment and other income generating opportunities.

![Solve: Securing solutions](image)

The people we serve find durable solutions to their displacement in a manner that they contribute as active members to the development of the communities where they live.

- UNHCR provides local integration support for refugees and asylum-seekers including job placement, access to vocational training and financial and legal aid for attaining permanent residence and naturalization. Furthermore, deportees with protection needs who wish to remain in El Salvador are provided with reintegration support via access to a range of livelihoods programs.

- UNHCR identifies and refers individuals and households at high risk in need of resettlement.
Performance Target Indicators for 2022

2,450 Households assisted with multi-purpose grants for basic needs through direct implementation.

59 Community groups supported actively participated in consultations, designed action plans and community activities for the prevention and response to displacement.

702 Internally displaced people provided with temporary collective shelter solutions.

440 Individuals supported with access to technical or vocational skills certification.

365 Individuals received legal and psychosocial assistance.

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