

Livelihoods and Durable Solutions

El Salvador

October 2022

UNHCR promotes **vocational education and entrepreneurship initiatives** in favour of **employment** opportunities for refugees, displaced people, and people at risk of displacement.

In alliance with **state institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector**, UNHCR promotes self-sufficiency and access to job placement services in communities at heightened risk.

UNHCR aims at boosting **decent and sustainable livelihoods** for youth to **prevent** forced recruitment by gangs and/or displacement.

UNHCR's Priorities

Impact: 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.

Outcome: The people we serve have access to formal employment or income-generating activities in their communities.

Output: Integration model with a multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder approach established.

- **Support for school completion and certified professional training** to increase people's employability.
- **Promotion of business initiatives** through the delivery of **seed capital**, advice on market opportunities, product placement or service delivery and marketing.
- **Market-based skills training** to facilitate the job placement process.
- Optimize conditions for the **rapid and sustainable (re)integration** of asylum-seekers, refugees and returnees with protection needs.
- **Raise awareness and conduct advocacy with the private sector** to generate or facilitate access to job opportunities for refugees, displaced persons, and populations at risk of displacement.
- Support **economic autonomy for women and gender-based violence survivors** with opportunities that respond to their needs and circumstances.

Key figures 2021-2022



483 people accessed apprenticeships through the My First Job programme



573 young people enrolled in Creating Opportunities programme



850 people trained with *Súper Pilas* methodology



Main activities

- The alliance with the **Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare** and UNHCR centred in 2021 on the “**My first job**” programme, which allows young people between 18 and 29 years old without previous work experience to undertake apprenticeships in private companies, while receiving a monthly allowance equivalent to the minimum salary. Between 2021-2022, **483 people, including internally displaced persons and youth at risk of displacement, accessed apprenticeships** in companies throughout the country thanks to the programme. Depending on their performance and the availability of vacancies, those who successfully complete the apprenticeship period receive a formal offer of employment from the company.



- The **Salvadoran Institute for Vocational Training (INSAFORP)** together with UNHCR promotes the **Creating Opportunities** programme, which strengthens the professional or entrepreneurial skills of young people, in alignment with their personal or family life plan. At the end of the programme people can access vacancies via the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare’s job boards, alternatively INSAFORP and its allied vocational training centres may refer them to companies looking for staff. Since the start of the programme in mid-2021, **573 young people graduated from the programme.**

- UNHCR improved the quality of vocational training provided to displaced and at-risk youth by the local organizations **Fe y Alegría** and **CAPUCOM**, which deliver INSAFORP’s courses, via the purchase of upgraded IT equipment, industrial training materials and other learning supplies.
- UNHCR and **World Vision** jointly implement **Súper Pilas**, a programme which builds participants’ interpersonal skills and guides them, depending on their preferences and profiles, towards professional training, entrepreneurship and/or formal employment. **Some 850 people have participated in the programme since 2021.**
- In collaboration with the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**, UNHCR implements two proven methodologies for creating, expanding, and ensuring the sustainability of small-scale businesses, which has already benefited over **350 refugees, IDPs and people at risk of displacement.**
- UNHCR supports **11 small businesses self-started by IDPs, and people at risk of displacement**, enrolled in an advanced development programme jointly implemented with **El Salvador’s Chamber of Commerce and Industry.** The programme allows participants to increase their **trading-networking potential and long-term sustainability.**
- UNHCR and World Vision support **entrepreneurships** for 48 internally displaced **women and gender-based violence survivors** via **skills training workshops** held at the **Ciudad Mujer** centres, which provide crisis support and access to legal and medical services.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the support in 2022 of:

Australia | Austria | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Luxembourg | Netherlands | Norway | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States | Peacebuilding Fund | Private Donors Australia | Private donors Canada | Private donors Germany | Private donors Italy | Private donors Japan | Private donors Republic of Korea | Private Donors Spain | Private donors Sweden | Private donors United Kingdom | Private donors United States |

CONTACT: Sonia Aguilar, External Relations Officer, aguilars@unhcr.org | Alejandra Romo, Associate Reporting Officer, romo@unhcr.org