

Families learn and enjoy with boardgames developed by UNHCR and SOS Children's Villages.
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El Salvador
December 2022
External Update #12

Key Figures

COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION

113 individuals assisted through UNHCR's helpline in December, and **3,890** in 2022.

133 people assisted at the Support Spaces in December, and **3,013** in 2022.

3,355 people reached via Support Spaces mobile brigades in December, and **45,338** in 2022.

CASH ASSISTANCE

592 households (**1,471** individuals) at heightened risk received cash assistance in **December, and 1,958 households (4,772 individuals)** in 2022. This support helps cover basic needs such as food, rent, documentation, and transportation.

FUNDING

74% of UNHCR's financial requirements for El Salvador received by 24 November 2022.

Highlights

1. **UNHCR and IRC inaugurated the fourth Support Space "By your side" in San Vicente department.** Support Spaces are part of UNHCR's strategy to provide comprehensive services to displaced people or at risk of displacement, refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees in need of protection. UNHCR implements the initiative jointly with the Municipality of San Vicente, IRC, and the Directorate for the Attention to Victims. Key authorities, community leaders and outreach volunteers attended the event.

2. **UNHCR along World Vision, the Santa Ana Municipality, and the national authority on small and medium enterprises, CONAMYPE, organized a fair to promote small businesses and disseminate information on UNHCR support programmes.** Twenty-four women-led small enterprises participated in the fair that received over 5,500 visitors.

3. **Over 8,000 people took part in a street soccer tournament organized by the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion and UNHCR with 16 municipalities.** The activity, which included both men and women's teams, promoted peaceful coexistence to mitigate risks of violence in stigmatized communities. The Champions final gathered on 18 December teams from all municipalities in Soyapan-

4. **FUNDASAL and UNHCR launched a radio series that explains internal displacement and existing support programmes.** The series is under dissemination through national community radio stations.

5. **With a learning by playing approach, UNHCR and SOS Children's Villages released a storybook and three interactive board games on forced displacement.** National institutions, community centres CUBOs and local community committees received these educational materials as part of a strategy to strengthen child protection services.

6. **UNHCR and FUNDASAL inaugurated a park in the community of El Carrizal, in Sonsonate.** The park, designed and built with support of the local community, will offer a safe area for children and adolescents, and it will strengthen social cohesion.



Children play in the new park at El Carrizal community, in Nahuizalco, inaugurated by UNHCR and FUNDASAL.
©UNHCR/ Alejandra Romo

Protect

UNHCR, SOS Children's Villages and the Central American University Jose Simeón Cañas held the graduation ceremony for the specialized diploma "Protection Assistance for Internally Displaced Children and Adolescents and Alternative Care Modalities". A total of 68 professionals finished the three-month and 80-hour course, which provided both theory and practical training. Fifty staff from the national child protection institutions and 18 people from child protection NGOs received a diploma certified by the Central American University José Simeón Cañas.

Twenty-six authorities and outreach volunteers attended a session organized by UNHCR and COMCAVIS Trans on the protection of LGBTIQ+ persons and non-discrimination. Delegates from San Salvador's Department for the Prevention of Violence, the National Youth Institute, the Ombudsperson's Office, the Republic Attorney General's Office and outreach volunteers were among the attendants.



The street soccer tournament allowed young people from different communities to interact and coexist peacefully.
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Assist

UNHCR along with the Emotional Intelligence Comprehensive Centre (CIIE) and the Social Circus from the municipality of Soyapango held a workshop on mental health for 31 members of youth committees.

UNHCR supported the Women's Development Institute (ISDEMU) in the inauguration of a Specialized Care Centre in Sonsonate and through 253 hygiene and clothing kits donated in support to displaced women survivors of gender-based violence.



The Mayor of San Vicente, IRC, DAV and UNHCR at the opening event of the new Support Space A Tu Lado in San Vicente.
©**Courtesy IRC**

Empower

Around 400 people, including youth, women, and men, took part in ten workshops on sexual and reproductive health organized by UNHCR and World Vision in communities in Sonsonate, Santa Ana, San Miguel and San Salvador.

UNHCR and the art collective "Entre Colores y Sombras" trained 50 delegates from community centres CUBOs, outreach volunteers, child protection institutions and UNHCR staff on a methodology to use the children storybook "Tintino" to raise awareness on internal displacement.

As a result of the alliance of UNHCR with the Municipality of Soyapango and the Salvadoran Institute for Vocational Training (INSAFORP), 17 members of Youth Committees enrolled in an English as a foreign language course to strengthen their abilities.

In coordination with the National Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (CONAIPD), UNHCR implemented a workshop for 22 UNHCR and partners' staff on the different types of disabilities, the international and national legal frameworks, accessibility, non-discrimination, and inclusion.

Solve

As part of UNHCR's Creating Opportunities programme, 45 people from La Palma municipality, mostly women, graduated from vocational education training in hairdressing, which improves their likelihood to find employment or become self-employed.

Twelve men and women leaders from Apastepeque, San Vicente, finalized the Leadership School modules developed by UNHCR and FUNDASAL. The leaders strengthened their knowledge and capacities in human rights and community organization.

Stories from the field

Outreach Volunteers: how leaders are stepping up for their communities

"We didn't use to coordinate as a community; each person just cared for themselves", says Emilio. Now, it is totally different because efforts are being made together", he adds.

Emilio is a middle-aged man, from Soyapango, a municipality historically affected by violence. As an active community leader, Emilio attended a workshop on alternative conflict resolution conducted by the Judicial Facilitators of the Supreme Court. He along other some 90 people from different parts in El Salvador, is one of UNHCR's outreach volunteers.

UNHCR launched its Outreach Volunteer programme in mid-2021 to understand the needs and dynamics of communities at heightened risk. Through enhanced efforts to build trust and fluid communication with communities, UNHCR identified community members of different ages and backgrounds to work in close cooperation.

"The outreach volunteers' programme is essential for UNHCR to strengthen its presence in the communities and bring information about the services we provide to people at risk of forced displacement", said Paulo Lugoboni, UNHCR's Associate Community-based Protection Officer.

To help them in their outreach efforts, during 2022 UNHCR organized several workshops and activities that strengthened their skills and encouraged dialogue, exchange good practices and generate sustainable solutions.

UNHCR's recent alliance with the Supreme Court's Judicial Facilitators offered an opportunity to creating synergies with the Outreach Volunteer's programme. Through an all-day retreat Judicial Facilitators taught outreach volunteers basic concepts on alternative conflict resolution, active listening, negotiation and solution of disputes, in contribution to peaceful coexistence in a community. The aim is that participants can apply and share what they learned within their communities.

"The skills we improve and the concepts we learn through these workshops guide us to work better with communities. [This helps to] create new support networks, raise awareness on LGBTIQ+ issues and forced displacement. And to know what to do when we identify victims and how to start a process to safeguard their lives and those around them," said Alejandra Flores, an LGBTIQ+ leader from San Salvador that is part of UNHCR's Outreach Volunteer programme.

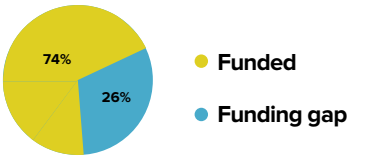
As Emilio, from Soyapango, adds "My dream is to create a better society for my children and the children in the community, and that as leaders we can bring hope to the community".



UNHCR outreach volunteers discuss on conflict resolution approaches to promote peaceful coexistence in their communities.
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Funding

In 2022, UNHCR appealed 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 in 2022 of:

| 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 USA

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