





Key Figures

Community-based Protection

-  **148** individuals assisted through UNHCR's helpline in January.
-  **135** people assisted at the Support Spaces in January.
-  **4,737** people reached via Support Spaces mobile units in January.


Cash Assistance

 **475** households (**1,165** individuals) at heightened risk received cash assistance in January. This support helps cover basic needs such as food, rent, documentation, and transportation, as well as to facilitate livelihoods activities for economic integration and education.

Registration

 **169** people registered with biometrics.

Funding

 **8%** of UNHCR's financial requirements for El Salvador received by 31 January 2023.

Highlights

- ▶ **The Government inaugurated six community centres CUBOS supported by UNHCR in 2022.** President Nayib Bukele, along UNHCR's Representative and the European Union's Ambassador, presided the events in neighbourhoods historically affected by violence. UNHCR's work at the CUBOs is part of a comprehensive strategy to boost opportunities for young people and to boost safe areas for community participation and engagement.
- ▶ **UNHCR donated three pickups to Civil Protection to strengthen the national response to emergencies.** UNHCR reassured in a public event its commitment to further cooperation in emergencies as member of the Humanitarian Country Team, and lead of the Protection Sector and co-lead of the Shelter and the Camp Management and Camp Coordination Sectors.

- ▶ **UNHCR and the National Council for the Inclusion of People with Disabilities (CONAIPD) distributed house items and construction kits to ten households with family members with people with disabilities in San Miguel and La Union.** This is part of the response to people affected by 2022 tropical storms. Additionally, UNHCR along World Vision and CONAIPD conducted four technical evaluation visits to affected families across the country.
- ▶ **UNHCR delivered relief items to Civil Protection for some 500 families affected by seismic activity in Ahuachapán municipality close to the border with Guatemala.** Supplies included 391 jerrycans, 433 buckets, 355 kitchen sets, 556 plastic tarpaulins, 874 solar lamps, 148 hygiene kits, 750 mosquito nets and 12 family self-standing tents. The visit also included a rapid assessment of protection needs, highlighting mainly the lack of access to food, health services and mental health issues.



500 families affected by earthquakes in Ahuachapán department received emergency supplies. ©UNHCR/ Alejandra Romo



UNHCR listens to the people in the communities to know their needs. ©UNHCR/ Franklyn Ruiz



Empower

- ▶ Along the Youth Committee of San José II, Soyapango, UNHCR with the artistic collective “Entre Colores y Sombras” organized a story-telling session on the inclusive book “Tintino” in the community centre CUBO. Attended by 35 children, the activity furthered actions launched in 2022 to widen the use of this children-story to raise awareness on forced displacement and inclusion.
- ▶ Some 525 women, men, older persons and youth representatives from 21 communities participated in sessions organized by UNHCR and World Vision in Soyapango, Santa Ana, Sonsonate, San Miguel and San Salvador to present 2023 interventions.



Solve

- ▶ The MIRPS working group on employment and livelihoods held the first of three sessions aimed at the design of a skills certification route for displaced people. El Salvador is represented by members of the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Education, and the Salvadoran Institute for Professional Training (INSAFORP).
- ▶ The Migration and Forced Displacement local board in Santa Ana presented its 2022 results, which includes UNHCR contributions as the livelihoods support for 123 people.



Protect

- ▶ Throughout January, UNHCR trained 26 IRC staff in the use of PRIMES software to register forcibly displaced people. Following on site trainings in San Salvador, Santa Ana and San Vicente, IRC will conduct individual and biometric registration of the people we serve at the A tu Lado Support Spaces and the Mobile Units starting March 2023.
- ▶ UNHCR installed 14 digital information points to enhance the access to information and accountability to affected populations. Located at UNHCR’s office, seven shelters, two community centres and the four Support Spaces “By your Side”, tablets with internet help people learn more about UNHCR’s help site, programmes and how to provide feedback through the digital mailbox.



Respond

- ▶ In response to the emergency situation in Ahuachapán caused by seismic activity, the UNHCR-led Protection Sector published a situation report. Following an extraordinary meeting of the Protection Sector and the two Areas of Responsibility under the lead of UNFPA and UNICEF, UNHCR met with the Directorate General of Civil Protection (DGPC) to offer the services of eight organizations available to provide support, planned for delivery during February.
- ▶ Also, UNHCR led an ad hoc Shelter Sector meeting. The sector uploaded its terms of reference to the global Shelter Cluster website, and finalized its 5W matrix.
- ▶ UNHCR conducted a pilot Training of Trainers with Civil Protection and UNHCR staff on how to set up a temporary shelter. UNHCR conducted this exercise in support to a family of six whose house was destroyed during the recent earthquakes. UNHCR and the Government expect this initiative will allow to scale up support to families affected by the disaster, some still sleeping in the open.
- ▶ In commemoration of the first anniversary of the community centre CUBO at La IVU, San Salvador, UNHCR accompanied the activities organized by the Youth Committee and distributed hygiene kits, blankets, solar lamps, and food kits. Special games to commemorate the month of the older person, gathered over 50 older people.

UNHCR participated in the commemoration of the month of the elderly and delivered supplies to 50 older persons. ©UNHCR/ Jacqueline Henriquez



See video



Stories from the field

Temporary shelter: A post-emergency relief

► "I'm going to bring my scissors to help you," said Rafael when he saw the emergency shelter that UNHCR and Civil Protection were building on his land.

As many other families in Ahuachapán, at the western border of El Salvador with Guatemala, a succession of multiple earthquakes, or a swarm, destroyed the house he built for his family 16 years before. This temporary solution for his family is a first relief.

When the tremors began on 15 January, only Rafael's youngest daughter (14) was at home. Frightened, she managed to get out of the house just before it collapsed.

"I built this house with my brother," said 53-year-old Rafael. "It collapsed with the first tremor," he says with sadness, pointing to the rubble where his house used to be.

According to the General Directorate of Civil Protection, **734** houses were declared uninhabitable and **64** collapsed, including Rafael's.

Rafael is a well-known tailor in the town. After the tremors collapsed his house, he had to place his main work tool, the sewing machine, under a makeshift shelter he and his family set up on their land to protect themselves from the sun and rain. "I'm afraid that it will rain one of these days and everything will get wet," he expressed with concern.

As a member of the Humanitarian Country Team, UNHCR joined Civil Protection in the response to the damages caused by the earthquakes in Ahuachapán. The rapid delivery of kitchen sets, solar lamps, mosquito nets, hygiene kits, tarpaulins, jerrycans and tents ease the loss of some 500 families affected, several of which remained sleeping outdoors in their own land.

The cooperation between UNHCR and Civil Protection contribute to the efforts of all actors to care for people forcibly displaced for various reasons, including natural disasters.

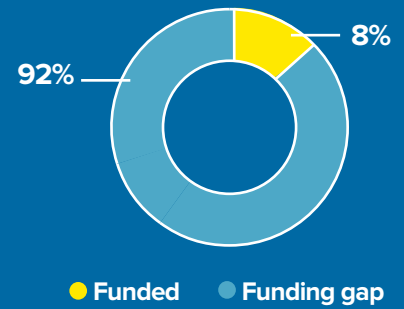
As a skilled tailor, Rafael approached the newly built family tent, took his scissors, and made two cuts in the tarp, one for a door and the other for a window. For now, as he added, "we are not going to get wet".

UNHCR and Civil Protection built temporary emergency shelters for families affected by earthquakes in Ahuachapán. ©UNHCR/ Franklyn Ruiz



Funding

► In 2023, UNHCR is appealing for USD 26 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.



UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the support in 2023 of:



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