The Supreme Court of Justice and UNHCR organized the second convention for community judicial facilitators. UNHCR facilitated a session on its work in the country, international protection, and internal displacement for 221 community judicial facilitators from Santa Ana, Ahuachapán, and Sonsonate. Though this alliance with the Supreme Court of Justice, UNHCR is expanding its network in the field to address conflict and promote a culture of peace in remote locations.

UNHCR, the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion and World Vision participated in the graduation ceremony of 170 young people and children who joined the Psico-Apoyarte psychosocial programme at the Comprehensive Centre for Emotional Intelligence (CIIE) in 2022-2023. UNHCR-supported CIIE, located at the headquarters of the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion in San Salvador, provides psychological support to children, adolescents, youth, and their families. Through individualized attention, the centre promotes the care of mental health and facilitates the development of skills for social integration for individuals who have been affected by violence. Through community workshops focusing on soft skills and artistic activities, the CIIE promotes the emotional well-being of internally displaced people or those at risk of displacement.

UNHCR, as member of the Humanitarian Country Team and co-lead of the Shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Sectors, delivered 500 mattresses to the Ministry of Interior and Territorial Development. This is in line with UNHCR’s commitment to strengthen the National Civil Protection System emergency preparedness and response.
UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugee Status Determination (CODER) trained 30 government officials and NGO personnel at the San Cristobal border point with Guatemala, including members of the National Police, Army, Customs, Migration authorities and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Topics included access to territory, refugee status determination, and international protection principles. This is the first of a series of eight trainings at border crossings and the airport, designed to strengthen the identification of asylum-seekers and access to the refugee status determination process.

UNHCR and the National Council for Childhood and Adolescence (CONAPINA) met to coordinate joint work in the reception of returnee children and response to internally displaced children and adolescents. In 2023, UNHCR is funding four CONAPINA staff who provide specialized support during the reception of returnee flights, provide psychosocial services and coordinate with local child protection boards in the response for internally displaced children.

UNHCR participated in the closing ceremony of workshops conducted at the Community Integration Centre (CIC) in Zaragoza. Thanks to the support of the municipality of Zaragoza, the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion and UNHCR, 80 women and men graduated from cooking, local craft “tusa”, barbering, computer, communication skills and photography workshops.

UNHCR and FUNDASAL delivered a training of trainers’ workshop for 90 participants of the School of Human Rights, Leadership and Community Organization from Santa Ana, San Salvador and San Miguel. Participants will replicate the training in their communities to strengthen communities’ knowledge on human rights. UNHCR shared information on its mandate, internal displacement and on the services provided at the Support Spaces “By your Side”.

UNHCR participated in three evaluation panels of Súper Pilas seed capital programme in San Salvador, San Miguel, and Chalatenango. After three months of entrepreneurial training, forty-eight people presented their business ideas, applying ILO’s methodology IMESUN.

UNHCR donated 22 laptops, backpacks, and other essential equipment to partner Fe y Alegría. This initiative aims to bolster the implementation of Bridging the Gap and Creating Opportunities programmes, empowering participants with digital access to enhance their preparation for employment, self-employment, and education.

Nine participants of My First Job programme signed contracts with their employers starting their 5-month apprenticeship, including enrolment in the Salvadoran Social Security Institute (ISSS). In 2023, 42 IDP and at-risk youth from San Salvador, Santa Ana; Sonsonate, La Libertad, San Miguel, and Morazán enrolled in My First Job programme have attended a three-day workshop facilitated by job specialists on soft skills and preparation for formal employment.

UNHCR delivered solar lamps to 50 families living in Monte Sagrado in Apaneca municipality who have no access to electricity. The activity is part of the coordinated work with the Youth Network Mundo Vida that works on mobilizing youth and communities for environmental awareness.

To improve reception of returnees, UNHCR delivered 400 hygiene kits, 50 packages of diapers, 12,000 masks, and 1,400 gowns to the Salvadoran reception centre for returnees, known as GAMI.
A ray of hope: Light to illuminate steps

Doña Filomena is an elderly person with difficulties walking, living alone in the rural municipality of Apaneca in Ahuachapán. Her house, like many of her neighbours, lacks electricity. Moving in the dark was very challenging for Filomena, and she frequently bumped into things. Thanks to the joint efforts of UNHCR and the community work of the Youth Network Mundo Vida, Filomena, and 125 other families in the area can now brighten their paths with the aid of solar lamps.

Funding

In 2023, UNHCR is appealing for USD 26 million to provide protection, response, 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.

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