

El Salvador | 2024

January 2024

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 flee their homes**.

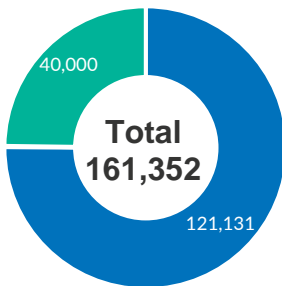
UNHCR accompanies the Government's efforts to achieve the commitments established in the **MIRPS National Plan**. To obtain sustainable results, UNHCR offers technical support for strengthening institutional capacities.

UNHCR contributes to improving the protection of **internally displaced persons, people at risk of displacement, refugees, asylum-seekers, and returnees with protection needs** in El Salvador.

THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

Population Types | 2024

Projections estimated based in previous yearly trends.



- Internally displaced people (IDPs)
- Asylum-seekers
- Refugees
- Others of concern

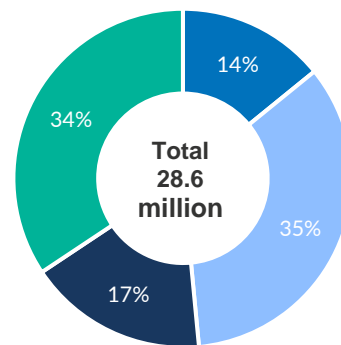
FUNDING

USD 28.6 M

UNHCR financial requirements for El Salvador's operation.

Budget by impact area

- Protect
- Respond
- Empower
- Solve



EL SALVADOR

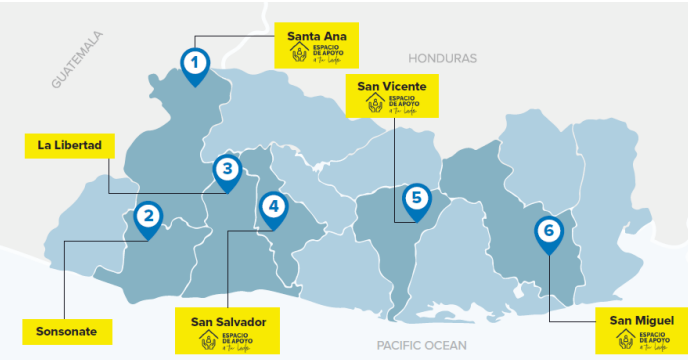
We work with

43

prioritized communities

and 50 other communities of interest to UNHCR

For more information contact us at:
ayudaelsalvador@unhcr.org



1 Department: **Santa Ana**

Municipality of **Chalchuapa**

COMMUNITIES

- Tazumal

Municipality of **Santa Ana**

COMMUNITIES

- Camones
- Emmanuel
- Lamatepec
- Nazareno
- Rio Zarco
- Santa Claudia

•LGBTIQ+ Community Group in Santa Ana

2 Department: **Sonsonate**

Municipality of **Nahuizalco**

COMMUNITIES

- Nahuizalco

•LGBTIQ+ Community Group in Sonsonate

3 Department: **La Libertad**

Municipality of **La Libertad**

COMMUNITIES

- San Juan Opico

4 Department: **San Salvador**

Municipality of **Apopa**

COMMUNITIES

- Tikales
- Valle Verde

Municipality of **Ciudad Delgado**

COMMUNITIES

- El Progreso
- Plan del Pino
- San Francisco

Municipality of **Ilopango**

COMMUNITIES

- Bendición de Dios

Municipality of **Mejicanos**

COMMUNITIES

- Buena Vista y Lomas de Mónico
- Ciancala
- Santa Lucía
- 1 de Mayo (Zacamil)

Municipality of **Panchimalco**

COMMUNITIES

- Azacualpa
- Panchimalco

Municipality of **San Salvador**

COMMUNITIES

- Barrio Lourdes
- IVU
- Santa Marta
- Tinetti
- Tutinichapa

Municipality of **Soyapango**

COMMUNITIES

- La Campanera
- Los Margaritas
- San José
- Santa Eduviges
- 1 de Diciembre
- 22 de Abril

•Committee of victims

•Committee of refugees and asylum-seekers

•LGBTIQ+ Community Group in San Salvador

•Youth Network Sin Fronteras

5 Department: **San Vicente**

Municipality of **San Vicente**

COMMUNITIES

- Brisas del Jiboa
- California

•LGBTIQ+ Community Group in San Vicente


6 Department: **San Miguel**

Municipality of **San Miguel**

COMMUNITIES

- La Presita
- Milagro de la Paz

•LGBTIQ+ Community Group in San Miguel



UNHCR
ACNUR
La Agencia de la ONU
para los Refugiados

Context

- Despite a significant decline in violent crime and people feeling increasingly safe, **Salvadoran nationals continue to leave the country for a variety of reasons.** By mid-2023, the global number of asylum-seekers with pending decisions from El Salvador reached 142,469 and the total number of Salvadoran refugees was 62,248. Further to that, between 2006 and 2016, 1.1% of families in El Salvador were forcibly displaced estimating the number of IDPs to 71,500. According to the profiling exercise published in 2018 by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security **most displaced people are socio-economically vulnerable young families.** In 2023, the National Office for Statistic and Censuses, with UNHCR's support, implemented a nationwide household survey to **update displacement statistics to be published in 2024.**
- 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 the MIRPS, the Government outlined a **National Response Plan with 43 commitments** in 2022 in protection, health, education, and livelihoods to assist IDPs, refugees, and asylum-seekers, that continues in 2024.
- El Salvador is committed to identifying and addressing protection and solutions gaps impacting refugees, IDPs, returnees with protection needs and stateless persons. El Salvador is party to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol, and to the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons. UNHCR advocates for the adoption of the 1961 Convention to reduce statelessness. In 2020, El Salvador approved the **Special Law for the Care and Integral Protection of Victims of Violence in Conditions of Forced Displacement.**



A UNHCR staff listens to an internally displaced person to understand her needs. ©UNHCR/Enrique Pocasangre

Working with Partners

- In 2024, UNHCR works in **partnership with 10 local and international non-governmental organizations** in El Salvador to ensure operational capacity for its interventions: ASPIDH, COMCAVIS TRANS, Diké, Doctors of the World, Fe y Alegria, FUNDASAL, International Rescue Committee, Missionaries of St. Charles Scalabrinians, ORMUSA, and World Vision. UNHCR also has a partnership agreement with the Government through the Technical Secretariat for External Financing (SETEFE).
- UNHCR is part of the **Humanitarian Country Team of El Salvador.** The **Protection Sector is led by UNHCR** and coordinates the response of 33 organizations to the needs of people in vulnerable situations due to forced displacement. **UNHCR also co-leads the Shelter and CCCM Sectors.**



UNHCR supports the Government in emergency response. ©Courtesy General Directorate for Civil

- UNHCR contributes to the success of **El Salvador's MIRPS National Plan** that seeks efficient and adequate protection and durable solutions to victims of forced displacement.

- UNHCR collaborates with the **private sector** to generate job opportunities and promote the economic benefits of inclusive workplaces. Through alliances, UNHCR expands access to apprenticeships and job placements.

Planning for Impact

Outcome/Enabling area	Budget (USD)
Well-being and basic needs	5.9 M
Protection policy and law	2.5 M
Refugee status determination	1.5 M
Resettlement and complementary pathways	3.6 M
Self-reliance, economic inclusion, and livelihoods	3.2 M
Community engagement and women's empowerment	4.8 M
Child protection	1.9 M
Gender-based violence	1.8 M
Local integration and other local solutions	2.8 M
Total	28.6 M



UNHCR, together with partner organizations, conduct participatory assessments with forcibly displaced people every year. ©UNHCR



Protect: Attaining favourable protection environments

Forcibly displaced people fully enjoy their rights and equal access to effective protection systems.

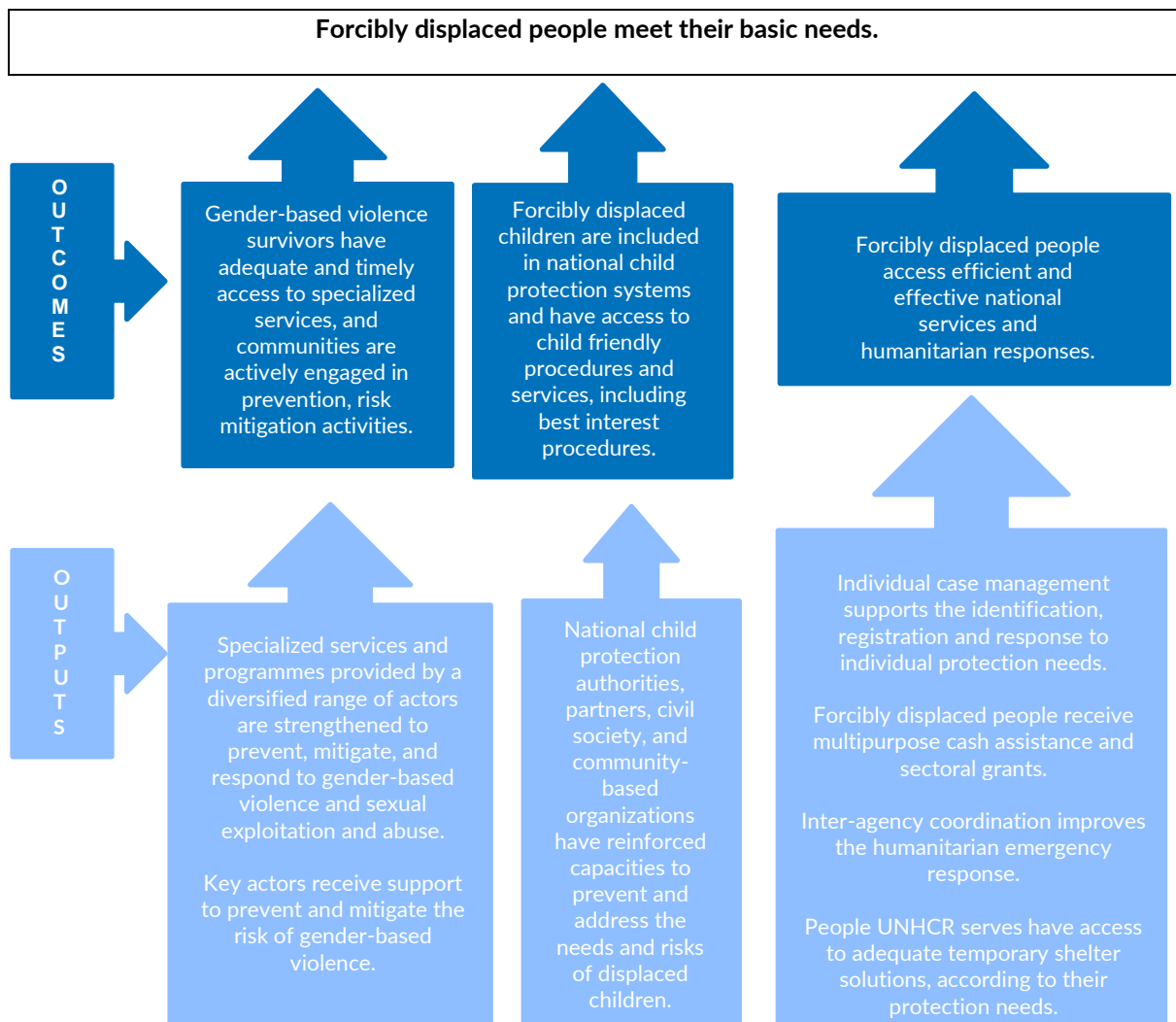


- UNHCR supports the National Commission for Refugee Status Determination (CODER) to ensure asylum-seekers have access to fair and efficient determination procedures in El Salvador. UNHCR and CODER implement a capacity development strategy to increase the skills and knowledge of the members of the CODER and strengthen the legal framework and internal protocols of the institution.
- UNHCR works towards the enjoyment of rights of internally displaced persons through the strengthening of the national legal framework and public policies. UNHCR provides guidance and technical support to institutions and key stakeholders for the inclusion of internally displaced persons in government programmes and initiatives.
- Throughout 2023, UNHCR supported a household survey implemented by the National Statistics Office and in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, which collected data on

profiles of internally displaced persons, on the dynamics of forced displacement and their immediate and long-term needs, in line with EGRIS recommendations.



Respond: Realizing rights in safe environments



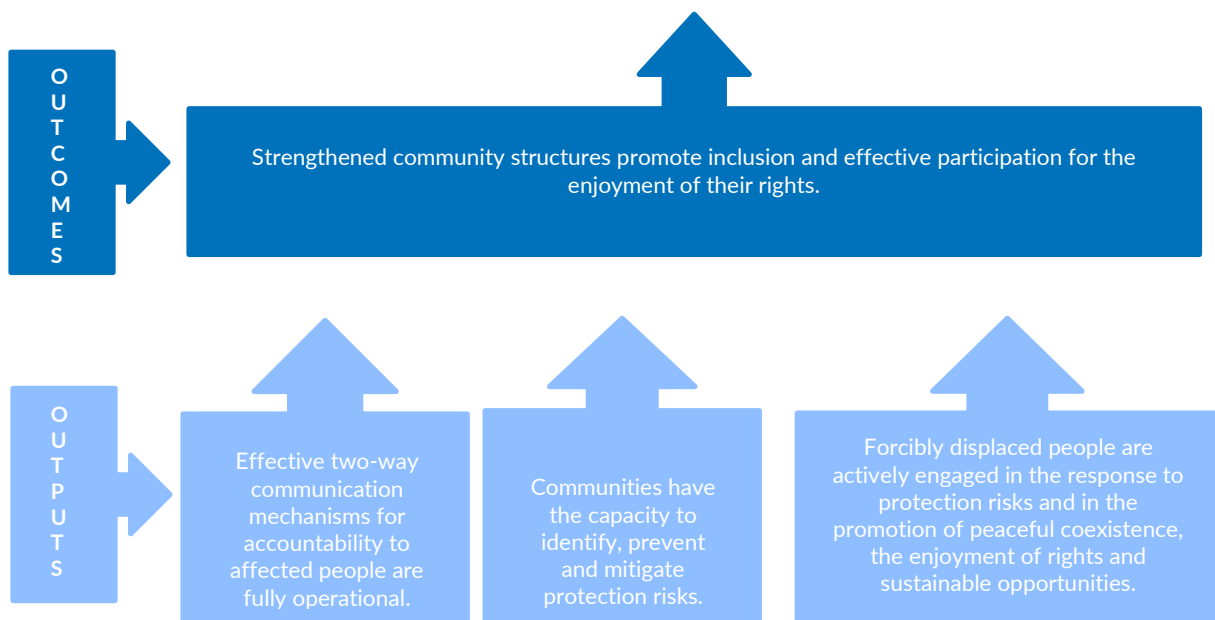
- UNHCR strengthens response to gender-based violence survivors through specialized services in coordination with the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU), the Women's Attorney General's Office (PGR- Mujer), and with grassroots women's organizations.
- UNHCR boosts the inclusion of forcibly displaced children in the national child protection system through the strengthening of technical capacities of institutional staff and community-based protection activities.
- UNHCR's four Support Spaces "By your side", in coordination with partners and national institutions such as the Attorney General's Office (PGR), the Ombudsperson's Office (PDDH), the Directorate for Attention to Victims (DAV), ISDEMU, the Ministry of Labour and the National Council for Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence (CONAPINA), among others, offer services and assistance to forcibly displaced persons and people at heightened risk.
- UNHCR provides humanitarian assistance to people with specific needs, including cash assistance, non-food items, relocation, and safe accommodation, among others. Mental health services, including individual and community psychosocial support and psychological assistance, are provided in coordination with the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion and through specialized UNHCR partners.

- UNHCR assists households with multipurpose cash assistance and sectoral grants to guarantee that people at heightened risk can cover their basic needs. Eligibility is determined using protection assessment tools and criteria.
- Through the lead of the Protection Sector, UNHCR guides the joint analysis on the situation of the population at heightened risk, including forcibly displaced people, to ensure a coordinated overall protection response.
- UNHCR co-leads both the Shelter and the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Sectors. In co-leadership with the General Directorate for Civil Protection for Shelter, and IOM for CCCM, UNHCR ensures a protection approach into both sectors' responses.



Empower: Empowering communities and achieving gender equality

Forcibly displaced people are empowered, informed and are meaningful actors of their own protection and solutions.

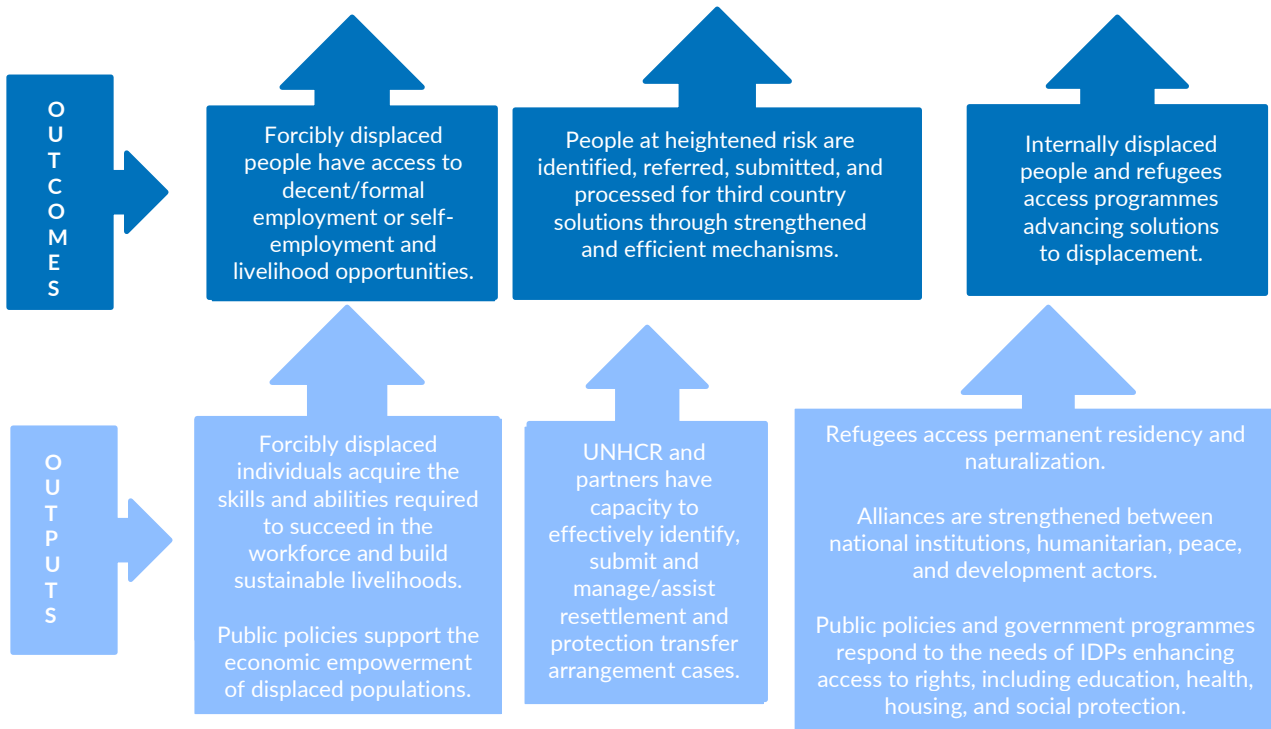


- UNHCR conducts participatory assessments and regular consultations with all population groups to ensure the voices, priorities and decisions of forcibly displaced people are included and that they inform UNHCR's programmes. Through an innovation project, UNHCR's team in El Salvador developed a cutting-edge AI tool designed to boost information analysis from community engagements, particularly participatory assessments. Through advanced language processing, the tool efficiently analyses extensive text, focusing on the needs and opinions of the communities UNHCR serves in a confidential manner.
- UNHCR supports community-led initiatives and peaceful coexistence projects to respond to the protection needs of children, women, LGBTIQ+ people, young people, persons with disabilities, older people, survivors of gender-based violence, and Indigenous peoples, among other groups.
- UNHCR promotes compliance with Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) protocols, and complaint mechanisms across all areas where UNHCR and its partners have direct contact with forcibly displaced people and people at risk of displacement. Systems for effective two-way communication are enhanced in-house and with partners, furthering accessibility to all groups, operational effectiveness, and accountability.
- UNHCR promotes educational, cultural and sports activities, providing alternatives to create safe environments for young people in their communities.



Solve: Securing solutions

Forcibly displaced people find solutions to their situation, while also contributing to the development and resilience of their communities.



- UNHCR promotes vocational education and entrepreneurship initiatives to create employment opportunities for forcibly displaced people and people at risk of displacement.
- UNHCR identifies and refers individuals and households at high-risk in need of resettlement.
- UNHCR recognizes that addressing the root causes of displacement is essential to promoting the long-term stability and well-being of communities affected by displacement. To help address these root causes, UNHCR supports the Government, the Humanitarian Country Team and other stakeholders with initiatives that can improve the living conditions in historically marginalized communities. This involves supporting the Government to develop policies and programmes that address poverty, inequality and social exclusion, and supporting access to services, such as water and sanitation, healthcare and education.

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

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