

El Salvador | 2024

June 2024

UNHCR works in El Salvador to protect and strengthen responses for people internally displaced or at-risk of displacement, refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees with protection needs.

Together with communities, organizations, the UN, the Government, development actors and the private sector, UNHCR works to find solutions to the displacement caused by decades of gang violence in communities.

UNHCR accompanies the Government's national efforts towards its commitments in the Global Refugee Forum and the National Plan of the Regional Protection and Solutions Framework MIRPS and the Global Compact on Refugees.

TARGET POPULATION 2024

128,967 people

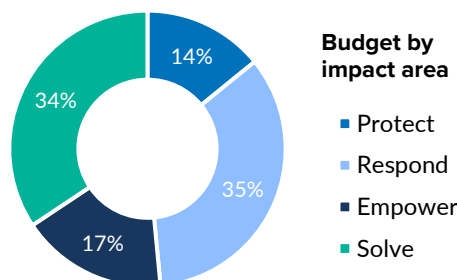
Estimated population projections

Internally displaced people and from prioritized communities		88,746
Asylum-seekers	106	
Refugees	115	
Others of concern		40,000

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS 2024

USD 28.6 M

Budget for UNHCR's operation in El Salvador based on the needs of the population



TERRITORIAL PRIORITIZATION



Departments with prioritized and reached communities



ESPACIO DE APOYO
a tu lado

- San Salvador
- Santa Ana
- San Vicente
- San Miguel

44
prioritized communities

55
other communities reached

Lorena, 53, visits UNHCR's Support Space "By Your Side" in Santa Ana. After being forcibly displaced by extortion and having to close her business, with UNHCR's support, she received psychological assistance and livelihood opportunities to rebuild her life. ©UNHCR / Markel Redondo.

*The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

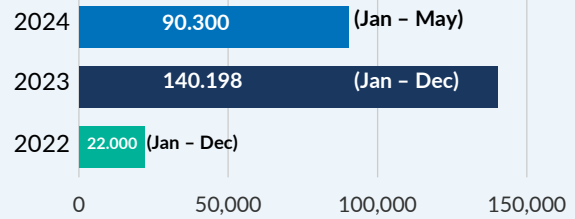
Partnerships

- Coordinated work with 40 partners including Government, partner organizations, UN, and private sector partners for joint actions to strengthen national responses.
- As part of the Humanitarian Country Team, leader of the Protection Sector and co-leader of the Emergency Shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Sectors.
- Accompaniment to the Government in the implementation of the MIRPS National Plan and commitments of the Global Refugee Forum, to consolidate national responses and solutions for people forced to flee and their communities.
- Promotion with the private sector of formal employment opportunities for displaced people through apprenticeship.

Context

- The historical background of violence in El Salvador is at the root causes of internal and cross-border displacement.
- Threats, extortion, violent crime, and forced recruitment caused over decades by gangs profoundly impacted people in El Salvador, undermining their well-being and mental health, weakening social cohesion, and reducing access to opportunities.
- The overall improvement of the current security environment offers opportunities to promote solutions to forced displacement.
- Various reasons, aggravated by the impacts of disasters, climate change and poverty, still drive the departure of people from the country.
- El Salvador is committed to addressing the protection gaps affecting refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees with protection needs, and stateless people.
- The country is signatory to the 1951 Convention, the 1967 Protocol, and the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.
- In 2020, El Salvador approved the **Special Law for the Comprehensive Care and Protection of Persons in Condition of Internal Forced Displacement**.
- El Salvador participates in the **Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS)** to address forced displacement in Central America and Mexico. The **MIRPS National Response Plan maintains 43 commitments** in protection, health, education and livelihoods to assist internally displaced people, refugees and asylum seekers.
- In 2023, El Salvador committed at the II Global Refugee Forum to update data on internal displacement, reform the asylum law, expand employment opportunities and livelihoods for displaced people, work to prevent and find solutions to forced displacement through the promotion of cultural, artistic and sports activities, and accede to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- In 2024, with the support of UNHCR, El Salvador actively participates in the Cartagena +40 process to strengthen a regional collective approach that favours solutions for forcibly displaced persons.

PEOPLE IN TRANSIT IN EL SALVADOR



500%

increase in the number of people in transit in 2023 compared to 2022.

-General Directorate for Migration and Foreigners.

Main nationalities:
Ecuador, Brazil, India, Dominican Republic, among others.

ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN EL SALVADOR



Main nationalities:
Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua, Honduras, Colombia and Ecuador.

-Refugee Data Finder, UNHCR

ASYLUM-SEEKERS AND REFUGEES FROM EL SALVADOR IN THE WORLD

148.758
asylum-seekers in 2022

133.042
asylum-seekers in 2023

58.637
refugees in 2022

68.633
refugees in 2023

-Refugee Data Finder, UNHCR











INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE IN EL SALVADOR

71,500
between 2006 y 2016.

-2018, Characterization Study of Internal Mobility due to Violence in El Salvador, Ministry of Justice and Public Security.

Response

UNHCR's Strategy 2023-2026 in El Salvador is based on ongoing needs assessments and existing progress to protect, assist, empower and find solutions for people forced to flee and their communities. UNHCR seeks to actively engage, empower, inform and include people's views in decisions that affect their lives, acting as catalysts for greater equality and social cohesion.

IMPACT AREAS	OUTCOME AREAS
 <p>PROTECT</p> <p>Attaining favourable protection environments</p> <p>Forcibly displaced people fully enjoy their rights and equal Access to effective protection systems.</p>	<p>Status determination</p>  <p>Asylum-seekers have access to a fair and efficient refugee status determination procedure and have their asylum claims determined in a fair and timely manner.</p> <p>Protection policy and law</p>  <p>Rights of internally displaced people are recognized and guaranteed in the national legal framework and public policies.</p>
 <p>RESPOND</p> <p>Realizing rights in safe environments</p> <p>Forcibly displaced people meet their basic needs.</p>	<p>Gender-based violence</p>  <p>Gender-based violence survivors have adequate and timely access to specialized services, and communities are actively engaged in prevention, risk mitigation activities.</p> <p>Child protection</p>  <p>Forcibly displaced children are included in national child protection systems and have access to child friendly procedures and services, including best interest procedures.</p> <p>Well-being and basic needs</p>  <p>Displaced people access efficient and effective national services and humanitarian responses.</p>
 <p>EMPOWER</p> <p>Empowering communities and achieving gender equality</p> <p>Forcibly displaced people are empowered, informed and are meaningful actors of their own protection and solutions.</p>	<p>Community engagement and women's empowerment</p>  <p>Strengthened community structures promote inclusion and effective participation for the enjoyment of their rights.</p>
 <p>SOLVE</p> <p>Securing solutions</p> <p>Forcibly displaced people find solutions to their situation and become self-reliant, while also contributing to the development and resilience of their communities.</p>	<p>Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods</p>  <p>Displaced people have access to decent/formal employment or self-employment and livelihood opportunities.</p> <p>Integration and other local solutions</p>  <p>Internally displaced people and refugees access programmes advancing solutions to displacement.</p> <p>Resettlement and complementary pathways</p>  <p>People at heightened risk are identified, referred, submitted, and processed for third country solutions through strengthened and efficient mechanisms.</p>

