



**El Salvador**  
**January 2022**  
External Update #1

## Key Figures

### COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION



**290** individuals assisted through UNHCR's call centre.



**330** people assisted at the Support Spaces.  
**122** people reached via Support Spaces mobile units.

### CASH ASSISTANCE



**334** households (**1,030** individuals) at heightened risk received cash assistance; this support helps cover basic needs such as food, rent, documentation, and transportation.

### FUNDING



**9%** of UNHCR's financial requirements for El Salvador received by **25 January 2022**.

## Highlights

- 1** UNHCR and the Salvadoran inclusive artistic collective **Entre Colores y Sombras** launched **Tintino**, the children's story version of the play **Tintino** by author **Melissa Córdova**. Through an easy-to-read design, **Tintino's** story highlights the resilience and hope of people who are forced to flee their homes.
- 2** UNHCR and **COMCAVIS TRANS** with support from **Spanish Cooperation** launched a series of **human-interest stories** of trans women who are part of a joint protection initiative that helps them launch small-scale businesses to improve their self-sufficiency.
- 3** Under the cooperation framework with **San Salvador's Municipality**, **UNHCR** and **District 6 Director** joined the **community Plan Piloto** to learn about the needs of communities at risk of displacement. UNHCR donated books and toys to children of the community.

- 4** The Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion, **SOS Children's Villages** and **UNHCR**, handed over to youth community leaders the **football field in Zacamil neighbourhood**, **Mejicanos municipality**, a historically excluded neighborhood highly impacted by violence. The event was marked by a mural painting by youth community leaders and had the participation of over 200 people from the community. This is part of a comprehensive strategy to improve community areas surrounding the Community Centres or **CUBOs**, which in 2022 will host interventions to prevent displacement.



UNHCR and Norwegian Refugee Council launched the newly established **Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (or ICLA) team**, which will provide legal support to asylum-seekers during the refugee status determination process in El Salvador.

Under cooperation with the Directorate for Social Cohesion to strengthen programmes that contribute to violence prevention, UNHCR donated assets and personal protective equipment (PPE) to community centres in Zaragoza, Cuscatancingo, Apopa and La Roma community.



## Assist

UNHCR met the Director for the Salvadoran Institute for the Comprehensive Development of Children and Adolescents (ISNA) to assess the cooperation between both institutions, which in 2021 included the distribution of 375 food kits to internally displaced families, renovations of facilities for the provision of psychological assistance, and works in a shelter for children and adolescents. As agreed, UNHCR will focus in 2022 on the strengthening of a robust referral system and protection programs for displaced children and their families.

UNHCR furthered cooperation with the Department of Human Mobility and Attention to Migrants with the delivery of 13 protection desk screens that ensure compliance with health protocols.

## Engage

UNHCR and World Vision conducted a participatory assessment with 17 community leaders with a focus on access to education in Soyapango (San Salvador metropolitan area). The community reported challenges such as the protection against violence, forced recruitment, lack of activities targeting girls, and limited access to technology to connect to online schooling. The session allowed the community to propose ways to improve access to education for children at risk.

UNHCR and the Directorate for Social Cohesion participated in a community meeting hosted by the youth committee of Los Conascastes, Soyapango. The meeting brought together key actors to find ways to collaborate on activities benefiting the community in line with UNHCR's community-based protection activities.

## Solve

UNHCR partnered with the International Labour Organization to train partner World Vision in two proven methodologies for creating, expanding, and sustaining small-scale businesses. The courses on "Start and Improve your Business" and "Get Ahead" are designed to improve access for people with low literacy levels to emerging markets. Upon completion of the course World Vision will implement the methodology with over 150 refugees, internally displaced persons and people at risk of displacement residing in UNHCR's prioritized communities.



# Stories from the field

**Youth leaders take the lead in transforming their communities**  
Residents of neighbourhoods throughout El Salvador face the constant risk of extortion and other kinds of violence that often force them to abandon their homes to find safety. New community centres shade some light into historically marginalized communities.

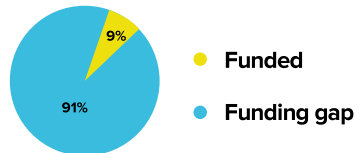
Nineteen-year-old Ricardo\* heads to his job at a library and play space that recently opened in his neighbourhood. Known as a CUBO, the space is part of an initiative by the Salvadoran government to give young people alternatives that prevent violence. Forced recruitment by gangs is a major driver of internal displacement within El Salvador, as young people who refuse to join the ranks of criminal organizations have no option but to leave their homes and communities to escape violence. "I would have loved to have somewhere like this to go when I was little, and I'm so excited to see the kids who come and make better use of their free time," said Ricardo\*, who works part-time in the CUBO as he pursues a university degree. UNHCR equipped several of these spaces and supports activities targeting children and youth.

\* Name changed for protection reasons



## Funding

In 2022, UNHCR is appealing for USD 23.6 million to provide protection, assistance 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 will be 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 of:**



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