Livelihoods and Durable Solutions
El Salvador
October 2022

UNHCR promotes vocational education and entrepreneurship initiatives in favour of employment opportunities for refugees, displaced people, and people at risk of displacement. In alliance with state institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, UNHCR promotes self-sufficiency and access to job placement services in communities at heightened risk. UNHCR aims at boosting decent and sustainable livelihoods for youth to prevent forced recruitment by gangs and/or displacement.

UNHCR’s Priorities

**Impact:** Community participation in the field and communication channels strengthened ensuring that the people we serve have knowledge of their rights and participate in the decision-making of measures that affect them.

**Outcome:** The people we serve have access to formal employment or income-generating activities in their communities.

**Output:** Integration model with a multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder approach established.

- Support for school completion and certified professional training to increase people’s employability.
- Promotion of business initiatives through the delivery of seed capital, advice on market opportunities, product placement or service delivery and marketing.
- Market-based skills training to facilitate the job placement process.
- Optimize conditions for the rapid and sustainable (re)integration of asylum-seekers, refugees and returnees with protection needs.
- Raise awareness and conduct advocacy with the private sector to generate or facilitate access to job opportunities for refugees, displaced persons, and populations at risk of displacement.
- Support economic autonomy for women and gender-based violence survivors with opportunities that respond to their needs and circumstances.

**Key figures 2021-2022**

- 483 people accessed apprenticeships through the My First Job programme
- 573 young people enrolled in Creating Opportunities programme
- 850 people trained with Súper Pilas methodology

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Main activities

- The alliance with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and UNHCR centred in 2021 on the "My first job" programme, which allows young people between 18 and 29 years old without previous work experience to undertake apprenticeships in private companies, while receiving a monthly allowance equivalent to the minimum salary. Between 2021-2022, 483 people, including internally displaced persons and youth at risk of displacement, accessed apprenticeships in companies throughout the country thanks to the programme. Depending on their performance and the availability of vacancies, those who successfully complete the apprenticeship period receive a formal offer of employment from the company.

- The Salvadoran Institute for Vocational Training (INSAFORP) together with UNHCR promotes the Creating Opportunities programme, which strengthens the professional or entrepreneurial skills of young people, in alignment with their personal or family life plan. At the end of the programme people can access vacancies via the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare’s job boards, alternatively INSAFORP and its allied vocational training centres may refer them to companies looking for staff. Since the start of the programme in mid-2021, 573 young people graduated from the programme.

- UNHCR improved the quality of vocational training provided to displaced and at-risk youth by the local organizations Fe y Alegría and CAPUCOM, which deliver INSAFORP’s courses, via the purchase of upgraded IT equipment, industrial training materials and other learning supplies.

- UNHCR and World Vision jointly implement Súper Pilas, a programme which builds participants’ interpersonal skills and guides them, depending on their preferences and profiles, towards professional training, entrepreneurship and/or formal employment. Some 850 people have participated in the programme since 2021.

- In collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNHCR implements two proven methodologies for creating, expanding, and ensuring the sustainability of small-scale businesses, which has already benefited over 350 refugees, IDPs and people at risk of displacement.

- UNHCR supports 11 small businesses self-started by IDPs, and people at risk of displacement, enrolled in an advanced development programme jointly implemented with El Salvador’s Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The programme allows participants to increase their trading-networking potential and long-term sustainability.

- UNHCR and World Vision support entrepreneurship for 48 internally displaced women and gender-based violence survivors via skills training workshops held at the Ciudad Mujer centres, which provide crisis support and access to legal and medical services.

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