




## El Salvador November 2022 External Update #11

Persons with disabilities whose houses were affected by heavy rains receive materials to reinforce and reconstruct their homes.  
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## Key Figures

### COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION

 **200** individuals assisted through UNHCR's helpline in November, and **3,777** in 2022.

 **256** people assisted at the Support Spaces in November, and **2,878** in 2022.

**6,064** people reached via Support Spaces mobile brigades in November, and **41,983** in 2022.

### CASH ASSISTANCE



**568** households (**1,367** individuals) at heightened risk received cash assistance in **November**, and **1,771** households (**4,424** individuals) in 2022. This support helps cover basic needs such as food, rent, documentation, and transportation.

### FUNDING



**68%** of UNHCR's financial requirements for El Salvador received by 24 November 2022.

## Highlights

- 1** UNHCR, World Vision, the Municipality of Santa Ana, and the National Commission for Micro and Small Business (CONAMYPE), hosted an entrepreneurship networking event to promote UNHCR's livelihoods programme "Súper Pilas." The meeting gathered more than 100 participants from public and private institutions, including 32 ventures by Súper Pilas' participants.
- 2** UNHCR and the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion inaugurated the Community Integration Centres of Apopa, Zaragoza and Cuscatancingo Municipalities. This is part of a joint strategy to prevent violence, mitigate risks and recover community spaces. UNHCR donated equipment and materials aimed at providing capacity building opportunities and safe areas for different population groups.
- 3** Seven youth committees from Soyapango took part in a "theatre-forum" session organized by UNHCR along with the Azoro Theatre and The Cachada Association in the framework of the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence. Through a theatre play showing different types of violence faced by women in El Salvador, 24 young

people from Soyapango identified possible solutions to stop the cycle of violence.

Watch video QR



- 5** The National Institute for Women ISDEMU, UNHCR and the UN-European Union Spotlight Initiative inaugurated the new Specialized Care Centre for Women and Girls in Sonsonate.

Sonsonate, El Salvador



ISDEMU, UNHCR and the Spotlight Initiative inaugurated the new Care Center for survivors of gender-based violence.  
© UNHCR/ Sonia Aguilar

# Protect

Under the UNHCR-led Protection Sector, the border monitoring working group held its first meeting with seven organizations including UNICEF, IOM, World Vision, Ayuda en Acción, OXFAM, ICRC, and Doctors of the World. Organizations agreed to meet regularly to exchange information on needs, services and good practices. Beginning in 2023, the working group will issue a sectorial report on trends and population profiles identified through interventions at the borders.

Forty members of local Children's Rights Committees from eight municipalities completed a six-month training process organized by UNHCR with SOS Children's Villages from Santa Ana, San Vicente, Apopa, Cuscatancingo, Mejicanos, Soyapango, Zaragoza and Chalchuapa. The training focused on internal displacement, children and adolescents' rights, community leadership, masculinity and positive parenting.



A woman that benefited from UNHCR's guidance shows the products of her entrepreneurship.  
© UNHCR/ Alejandra Romo

# Empower

Closure events of a UNHCR and World Vision community sports programme gathered over 250 people in Los Conacastes, San Jose and Zacamil communities. A total of 30 teams, members of the sports league, with 180 children and youth between 7 and 14 years old joined the events, along with 60 parents and 15 community referees and coaches. Children, parents, community leaders and members provided positive feedback and requested the continuation of this type of interventions. Families suggested the inclusion of youth from 15 to 17 years as a prevention mechanism to forced recruitment.

Three hundred people from Soyapango and San Salvador communities attended eight workshops on sexual and reproductive health organized by UNHCR and World Vision.

UNHCR participated in the socialization of the municipal ordinance of the indigenous peoples of Santo Domingo de Guzman held by the Ministry of Culture. Over 30 indigenous leaders participated in the event. UNHCR provided information about its mandate, services and communication channels.

# Assist

Fifteen families with persons with disabilities, who lost their houses and belongings due to the heavy rains of Tropical Storm Julia, benefited from house kits and construction materials donated by UNHCR to the National Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities.

Over 6,600 core relief items, such as tents, blankets, solar lamps, mosquito nets, jerry cans and kitchen sets, arrived at UNHCR El Salvador's first physical warehouse to respond to emergencies.

UNHCR joined the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Culture in a health brigade to provide comprehensive care for older indigenous and people of African descent from Yucuaiquin Municipality. The Government provided general and specialized medical care, and UNHCR supported with wheelchairs, canes and walkers for persons with disabilities and older persons with reduced mobility.

# Solve

Sixty-two participants of the "Súper Pilas" livelihoods programme presented to three evaluation panels their business ideas. In follow up to a four-month entrepreneurial training by UNHCR and World Vision, best qualified start-ups will receive seed capital.



A participant of the Súper Pilas programme writing about her most valuable learning.  
© UNHCR/ Franklyn Ruiz

# Stories from the field

## Connecting with your community to cope with disasters

The Protection Sector carried out two mental health fairs in the municipalities of Panchimalco and Comasagua for 100 families affected by Tropical Storm Julia.

"Stress is like a stretched elastic that is about to burst", said one of the facilitators in a focus group with women in the Panchimalco community. Participants nod and one of them shares her feelings after the heavy rains caused by Tropical Storm Julia in October. "I had to get out in a rush, and I recovered only what I could. I now have a hard time sleeping. It scares me when it rains, and I feel nauseous. I'm staying at my aunts on a mat, and I miss my space", a 40-year old woman explains.

"As women we have been taught to take care of everyone", adds an older woman. "First, we assist our husband, children, plants, animals. And we forget about ourselves. Our bodies and minds reflect what we underwent. I don't feel safe in my home anymore. What am I going to do now?"

Panchimalco is a community in San Salvador that, as Comasagua, in La Libertad, was severely affected by Tropical Storm Julia. A survey-based Rapid Protection Assessment coordinated by the UNHCR-led Protection Sector after the heavy rains identified that mental health and psychosocial support were urgent needs.

Thanks to the coordination with the national Civil Protection and both Panchimalco and Comasagua local governments, the Protection Sector organized two on-site fairs to bring mental health services, psychosocial support and recreational activities for adults, children and adolescents.

"Natural disasters can be overwhelming, traumatic experiences, marked by displacement, and a strong need to restore order. Connection to others in the aftermath of disaster can help build resilience" said Rita Crowley, UNHCR's Protection Officer.

"Today I was able to talk about my feelings and the trauma I experienced because of the heavy rains that put my home and family at risk. I interacted with my neighbours and learned relaxation techniques I can use daily to channel my emotions," said Juana in Comasagua.

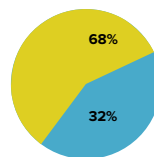
Some hundred people from Comasagua and Panchimalco participated in the two fair days thanks to the coordinated effort by members of the Protection Sector, such as SOS Children's Villages, Doctors of the World, Save the Children, International Rescue Committee (IRC), the Association for Mental Health Training and Research (ACISAM), the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), the Passionist Social Service (SSPAS) and UNHCR.



A group of women from Panchimalco Municipality share their emotions after Tropical Storm Julia during a services fair organized by the Protection Sector.  
© UNHCR/ Alejandra Romo

## Funding

In 2022, UNHCR is appealing for USD 23.6 million to provide protection, assistance, 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.



- Funded
- Funding gap

Website: <https://www.acnur.org/el-salvador.html>

Global Focus: <https://reporting.unhcr.org/elsalvador>

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