



El Salvador June 2023

Operational Update #6

A refugee celebrates when receiving his id as a Salvadoran citizen. © UNHCR/ Jacqueline Henríquez

Key Figures

Community-based Protection

- 473** individuals assisted through UNHCR's helpline in June, and 2,023 in 2023.
- 402** people assisted at the Support Spaces in June, and 1,560 in 2023.
- 6,891** people reached by the Mobile Units operating from the regions where the Support Spaces are located in June, and 42,176 in 2023.

Cash Assistance

447 households (**1,337** individuals) at heightened risk received cash assistance in June and 1,077 households (2,964 individuals) in 2023. This support helps cover basic needs such as food, rent, documentation, and transportation, as well as to support livelihoods activities for economic integration and education.

Registration

204 people registered with biometrics, in June, and 999 in 2023.

Funding

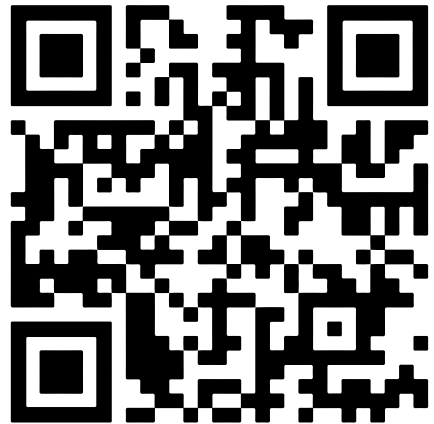
39% of UNHCR's financial requirements for El Salvador received by 27 June 2023.

Highlights

- ▶ **On 20 June, during the World Refugee Day celebration, seven refugees from Honduras and Nicaragua received their nationality as Salvadorans thanks to the joint support by the Vice Ministry of Human Mobility, the Asylum Commission CODER, the Migration General Directorate, the National Civil Registry and UNHCR.** MIRPS Support platform countries attended the event, that also gathered delegates from the MIRPS National Team.
- ▶ **UNHCR and the Ministry of Labour hosted a private sector event to promote 'My First Job' programme.** Forty companies and five chambers signed an intention letter to commit 143 job opportunities for young forcibly displaced people or at risk of displacement, refugees, and asylum-seekers.
- ▶ **UNHCR and the Directorate for Social Cohesion coordinated a series of awareness activities held at community Centres CUBOs, which included crafts, children storytelling, film screenings and dissemination of information on refugee population worldwide.**
- ▶ **UNHCR held an informative breakfast with 20 journalists and partners on the 2023 UNHCR Global Trends Report, UNHCR's response in El Salvador, and displacement data tools.**
- ▶ **La Prensa Grafica's children section showcased the story of Tintino in its Sunday edition and released video by a "child reporter".** Tintino's story highlights the resilience and hope of people who are forced to flee their homes.



UNHCR receives child reporter for a special coverage on World Refugee Day. © Courtesy La Prensa Gráfica





Women at a community centre paint messages inspired on World Refugee Day's theme – Hope Away from Home. © UNHCR/ Manuel Vides

Empower

- ▶ **COMCAVIS Trans with UNHCR's support organized a forum for the promotion of human rights for LGBTIQ+ people, in commemoration of the Pride Day.** The panel discussed the challenges that LGTBIQ+ people experience in exercising their rights and accessing services, and shared good practices at national and global level.
- ▶ **UNHCR and the National Council for the Inclusion of People with Disabilities (CONAIPD) signed a letter of understanding to strengthen the protection and response of displaced people or at risk of displacement, refugees, asylum-seekers, and returnees in need of protection.** A joint workplan will enhance capacity of staff and key actors on accessibility of infrastructures, inclusion through sports and in emergency responses. Additionally, UNHCR donated 100 thermal blankets, 100 female hygiene kits and 50 diapers to support people with disabilities in vulnerable situations.
- ▶ **UNHCR in coordination with the Supreme Court of Justice implemented the third convention for community judicial facilitators in San Miguel department.** This was the last of series of conventions attended by over 500 community judicial facilitators from all zones in El Salvador. This alliance with the Supreme Court of Justice expands UNHCR's outreach network to prevent conflict and promote a culture of peace in remote locations.

Protect

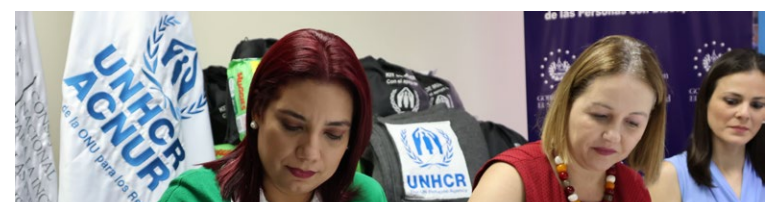
- ▶ **The Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and UNHCR's Representative launched a joint training programme on Refugee Status Determination for border authorities.** Some 240 authorities at seven border points and the airport will receive this training in 2023.
- ▶ **Under the trinational Peacebuilding Fund on Human Mobility, UNHCR donated information materials to the Directorate of Human Mobility and Attention to Migrants of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,** in support of efforts to disseminate knowledge on available services for people on the move.
- ▶ **Thirty-seven staff of UNHCR and partners attended the final of three sessions of the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) training of trainers.** Participants will now replicate the training inside their organizations.

Solve

- ▶ **In partnership with Fe y Alegría, UNHCR launched the 2023 "Creating Opportunities" programme to provide 70 young people with technical vocational training in Santa Ana, Soyapango, and Zacamil.** Individuals commenced their professional training in automotive mechanics and in hospitality. They will also undergo ILO's IMESUN training to complement their skills through a step-by-step guide for initiating a business venture.
- ▶ **UNHCR identified 55 forcibly displaced or at risk of displacement people to access seed capital in "Super Pilas" programme in 27 municipalities located in 11 departments of the country.** After three months of business training, people will get the resources to put their business ideas into practice. This is the first seed capital dispersion to be directly implemented by UNHCR in El Salvador.

Respond

- ▶ **El Salvador's General Directorate for Civil Protection along UNHCR held a five-day training of trainers' workshop on communal plans for disaster prevention and mitigation.** The workshop counted with the participation of 24 representatives from governmental institutions, outreach volunteers, UNHCR partner organizations and UNHCR staff. UNHCR plans to organize with Civil Protection and municipalities follow up workshops on contingency plans in case of environmental risks and disasters at community level.
- ▶ **UNHCR and the Ministry of Justice and the Executive Technical Unit (UTE) coordinated a workshop on UNHCR services and operations to boost alliances and joint work in favour of victims of violence.** Attendees included staff from EDUCO, Save the Children, Norwegian Refugee Council, Salvadoran Red Cross, Scalabrini Missionaries and ORMUSA.



UNHCR and the National Council for the Inclusion of People with Disabilities (CONAIPD) signed a letter of understanding to strengthen protection response to forcibly displaced people with disabilities. © UNHCR / Jacqueline Henríquez

The journey to belonging: a Honduran Refugee family's resilience and their path to citizenship

► "Now that I receive my Salvadoran citizenship, I am thrilled. It's a dream come true after years of struggle and perseverance. Having the nationality opens new opportunities for me, such as establishing a credit history and being able to apply for a house. There are so many things ahead for us."



Eneyda and her family share their journey from refugees to Salvadoran citizens.
© UNHCR/ Franklyn Ruiz

On 20 June, World's Refugee Day, the long-awaited day of Eneyda and her family's Salvadoran citizenship arrived. Thanks to the support of the Vice Ministry of Human Mobility, the Asylum Commission CODER and UNHCR, Eneyda, her children and two other refugees were granted nationality.

Eneyda and her family were forced to leave her country 14 years ago due to persecution. In Honduras, Eneyda had a stable job and cherished her normal life, where she would visit her parents and enjoy the company of her extended family.

Their departure from Honduras was sudden and hasty. They grabbed a change of clothes, leaving behind everything they owned. And they took the first available transportation to El Salvador.

Despite being in the same region, with a shared language and customs, living in El Salvador posed its own set of difficulties. Without widespread recognition of her refugee documentation, finding stable employment was arduous, and securing their children's education was a constant struggle.

It was through the support of NGOs that they managed to find jobs and enrol their children in school.

Initially, as refugees, they faced limitations in obtaining even a simple phone line due to their status. Nonetheless, they encountered kind-hearted individuals who understood their plight.

There was a time when Eneyda had lost all hope in herself, thinking she would never escape her circumstances. However, her Salvadoran friends rallied behind her, assisting her in creating her resume. Slowly but surely, she regained her confidence, and the support of her Salvadoran peers proved invaluable.

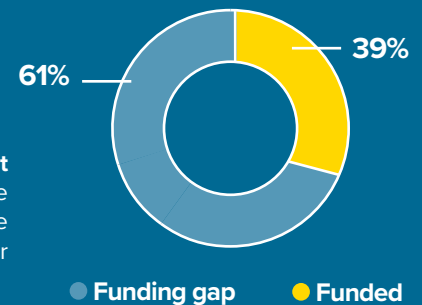
One organization opened the doors for her to showcase her skills and assist fellow refugees who arrived in the country. She started as a receptionist in her job but gradually worked her way up to becoming a procurement manager. Helping others became her source of motivation, propelling her forward and reinforcing her sense of belonging in the country.

After a long and arduous path in the country, Eneyda's children are now studying subjects they love. Her youngest daughter pursued dance and theatre, dreaming of becoming a professional contemporary dancer. The oldest son, aside from his job, pursued his passion for art. He enrolled in an art school and created beautiful paintings. Eneyda, too, found solace in painting, reading, and singing. They refused to lose their joy and love for life.

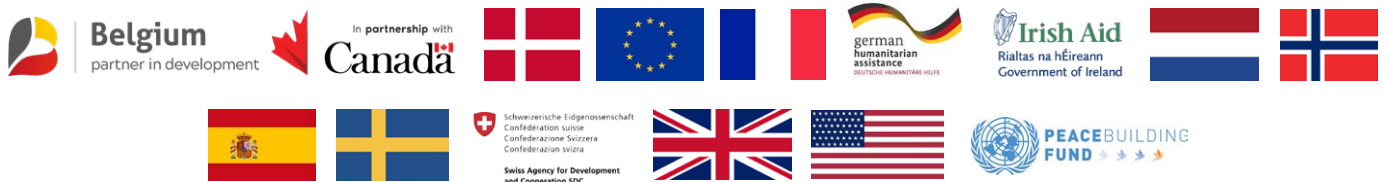
"The citizenship paves the way for a brighter future for my children. This is their country, where they have grown up since they were young," shares Eneyda with a smile in her face and adds "we are as Salvadoran as the pupusas themselves."

Funding

In 2023, UNHCR is appealing for USD 26 million to provide protection, response, empowerment and solutions to refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally 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.



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