




El Salvador

March 2022

External Update #3

Key Figures

COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION

 **441** individuals assisted through UNHCR's helpline in March, and **1,033** in 2022.

 **261** people assisted at the Support Spaces in March, and **932** in 2022.

1,853 people reached via Support Spaces mobile units in March, and **3,312** in 2022.

CASH ASSISTANCE



386 households (**1204** individuals) at heightened risk received cash assistance in March, and **551** households (**1730** individuals) in 2022. This support helps cover basic needs such as food, rent, documentation, and transportation.

FUNDING



13% of UNHCR's financial requirements for El Salvador received by 12 April 2022.

Highlights

- 1** UNHCR inaugurated two community infrastructures in San Jose and Concastes neighbourhoods in the municipality of Soyapango. The intervention included the renovation of soccer and multipurpose fields, inclusive bathrooms, children's parks, and an outdoor gym. The intervention is part of a participatory process that started in 2021 and will contribute to recover public spaces and prevent forced recruitment in these historically stigmatized areas. Representatives of the Municipality of Soyapango, the National Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion, World Vision, UNHCR and community leaders, including the local Youth Committees participated in the event.
- 2** UNHCR donated electronic and personal protection equipment (PPE) to the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONNA) and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MINEDUCYT) as part of the strengthening of the national child protection system.
- 3** The National Institute for Women's Development (ISDEMU), along with UNHCR, inaugurated a childcare centre in one of its women shelters. UNHCR's continued work with ISDEMU is part of the strategy to support displaced women and children, victims of gender-based violence.

- 4** UNHCR delivered 200 hygiene kits to the Ministry of Local Development of El Salvador (MINDEL) to boost the response for women to boost the response to domestic violence survivors. This cooperation furthers the comprehensive programme "Ciudad Mujer" which provides psychosocial support, legal assistance, health services, livelihoods orientation, among other services to women.
- 5** Along the community, UNHCR, partner World Vision and the Mayor of Santa Ana inaugurated a renovated community centre that serves 11 communities exposed to violence. The intervention in this space known as Centro de Alcance included works in a multipurpose room, inclusive bathrooms, and fencing, that facilitate a safe area to attend learning, cultural and recreational activities.



Protect

UNHCR and the Ombudsperson's Office (known as PDDH) trained 23 public officials from San Miguel, San Vicente and Sonsonate departments on protection monitoring. During the workshops, departmental delegates gave inputs and recommendations and UNHCR provided guidance on forced displacement for the implementation of a strategy in 2022.

The Municipal Council of Soyapango approved unanimously the local referrals protocol for victims of violence presented by UNHCR and the Salvadoran Red Cross. The document coordinates at local level the response by the government and civil society provided to victims of violence, including IDPs.



Assist

The Mayor of Santa Ana and UNHCR's Representative launched the works of the Support Space "By your side" in the department of Santa Ana. The Support Space, to be ready by mid-2022, will provide people at heightened risk with a comprehensive response including orientation, legal counselling, psychosocial support, and cash assistance.

UNHCR donated 5,000 protective masks, 2,000 biosafety suits and 20 bottles of disinfectant to the national reception centre GAMI to prevent the spread of COVID-19 during the reception process of deportees.

Solve

UNHCR submitted to the International Labour Organization eleven small businesses self-started by IDPs, deportees with protection needs and people at risk of displacement, for entry into their advanced development programme jointly implemented with El Salvador's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The urban and rural individual and associative small businesses, self-started between 2018 and 2020, will receive personalized training on professionalizing aspects of their business, legal orientation, and development of managerial skills. The programme seeks to transition participants into the formal economy and support their affiliation with El Salvador's Chamber of Commerce, both of which will increase their long-term sustainability.

The UNHCR-World Vision's Super Pilas livelihoods programme enrolled an additional 65 people, bringing the final number of current participants to 95 (35 men and 60 women, including 3 LGBTIQ+ people). The six-month programme focuses on building soft skills and life skills followed by the orientation of participants to work toward suitable objectives according to their profiles. Those who undertake the programme receive cash assistance from UNHCR and support to access government-certified vocational training courses, apprenticeships, or employment opportunities.

Empower

UNHCR joined COMCAVIS TRANS in workshops on the creation of "early warning systems" for the San Miguel, La Union, and Santa Ana departments. A total of 45 LGBTIQ+ people from different communities, along with four outreach volunteers participated in the workshops that aimed to strengthen the capacities of LGBTIQ+ persons in identifying protection risks and institutions that can respond to cases of harassment, discrimination, and human rights violations.

UNHCR trained 54 community outreach volunteers, including new members of the network, on UNHCR's mandate and work in El Salvador, key concepts of community-based protection, information on key services and code of conduct. The outreach volunteer network currently has 80 community members enrolled in the programme.

UNHCR and World Vision organized three workshops to strengthen community mobilization in San José, Santa Eduviges and Trinidad communities of Soyapango and Nahuizalco municipalities. The sessions, focused on strengthening skills for risk identification in the communities, had 50 attendants.

UNHCR and Save the Children held accountability sessions with four communities of San Miguel to share the results of the work conducted in 2021, receive their feedback and evaluate opportunities to improve community empowerment.



Stories from the field

Sports and recreational activities, a safe haven from violence

UNHCR recently renovated two multipurpose areas in San Jose and Los Conacastes communities in Soyapango municipality. Sports and recreational activities promote peaceful coexistence and contribute to UNHCR's comprehensive community-based protection strategy to prevent violence, empower communities and foster healthier minds.

Grecia*, a community leader in Soyapango municipality, is well aware of the challenges of living in a community stigmatized by violence. She's still convinced that recovering public spaces through sports and recreational activities are key for the future of the community. "These spaces serve to enhance personal skills and benefit the development of each member of the community." In San José community, UNHCR renovated a soccer field, installed lights, benches, and children's games, and built inclusive public bathrooms. In Conacastes neighbourhood a similar intervention included a multipurpose field, an outdoor gym and children's playground. "Negative energies can be channelled here. I feel I can steer fear and stress, instead of resorting to violence" insists Grecia*. Both projects were possible thanks to the support of flexible funds and the involvement of community members in mapping needs, choosing the spaces, and committing to maintain them.



* Name changed for protection reasons

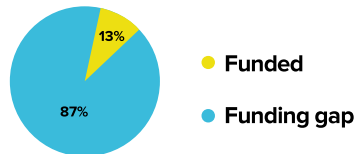


Website: <https://www.acnur.org/el-salvador.html>

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

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.



UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the support of:



| Private donors Spain

For more information, please contact:

Sonia Aguilar, External Relations Officer, aguilars@unhcr.org
Alejandra Romo, Reporting Officer, romo@unhcr.org

Twitter: @ACNUREISalvador