



**UNHCR
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La Agencia de la ONU
para los Refugiados



Indigenous leaders from Cacaopera community receive the municipal ordinance printed with UNHCR's support.

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El Salvador
August 2022
External Update #8

Key Figures

COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION



235 individuals assisted through UNHCR's helpline in August, and **3,123** in 2022.



190 people assisted at the Support Spaces in August, and **2,254** in 2022.

7,386 people reached via Support Spaces mobile brigades in August, and **23,776** in 2022.

CASH ASSISTANCE



433 households (**1,345** individuals) at heightened risk received cash assistance in **August**, and **991** households (**3,081** individuals) in **2022**. This support helps cover basic needs such as food, rent, documentation, and transportation.

FUNDING



53% of UNHCR's financial requirements for El Salvador received by 30 August 2022.

Highlights

- 1** UNHCR along the Municipality of Santa Ana, the Minister of Justice and Public Security's Directorate for the Attention to Victims and partner International Rescue Committee (IRC), inaugurated in Santa Ana department the third Support Space. Key local authorities, community leaders and outreach volunteers attended the event. The Support Spaces are part of UNHCR's strategy to provide integral services to displaced persons or persons at risk of displacement, refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees in need of protection.
- 2** UNHCR, SOS Children's Villages, and the Central American University José Simeón Cañas (UCA), inaugurated the diploma on child protection with a focus on forced displacement. Through this three-month training, 68 government officials and NGO staff will strengthen their technical knowledge.
- 3** UNHCR joined Alianza football team, the Directorate of Social Cohesion, youth groups and neighbours in Zacamil to commemorate International Youth Day. Youth committees received 100 **dream balls** from UNHCR in support to their sports activities. In addition, UNHCR and World Vision launched a Community Sports League that promotes respect, teamwork and emotional well-being.

- 3** In commemoration of the International Day of Indigenous Peoples, the Ministry of Culture with the support of UNHCR presented the **Municipal Ordinances on Indigenous Peoples' Rights**. The ordinances, launched in the municipalities of Nahuizalco, Panchimalco, Santo Domingo de Guzmán, Cuisnahuat and Cacaopera aim to promote integral economic, social and cultural development and effective participation of indigenous peoples in the exercise of their rights.

Santa Ana



The Mayor of Santa Ana and UNHCR's Representative in El Salvador shake hands at the inauguration of the Support Space "By your side" in Santa Ana municipality.

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A chorus sings a traditional song at the commemorative event of the International Day of Indigenous Peoples.
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Protect

Twenty members of the Humanitarian Country Team participated in a three-day training on Protection Information Management organized by UNHCR, as sector lead, OCHA and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC).

As part of the Protection Sector's workplan for 2022, UNHCR, SOS Children's Villages, the

Salvadoran Red Cross and Servicio Social Pasionista developed a training methodology to strengthen the awareness of government officials on forced displacement and protection.

UNHCR's team participated in the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) training.



UNHCR's Representative in El Salvador, Laura Almirall, signs the new Letter of Understanding between the Humanitarian Country Team and the Government.

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Assist

UNHCR, as part of the Humanitarian Country Team, signed the new Letter of Understanding with the Government of El Salvador.

The Letter of Understanding lays the foundation for strengthened cooperation between the UN, the Government, international cooperation, and civil society organizations to address humanitarian needs in the country.

Empower

UNHCR held workshops with 77 outreach volunteers, from 57 communities from Santa Ana, San Miguel, and San Salvador departments, on UNHCR's mandate and work in El Salvador, forced displacement, identification of specific needs, protection networks and referral pathways.

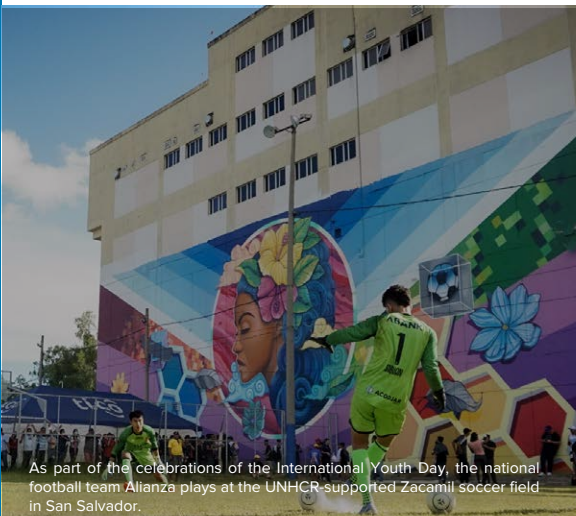
UNHCR, in coordination with the National Youth Institute of El Salvador (INJUVE), held a series of focus group discussions with young people from Sonsonate, San Salvador and San Miguel departments as part of the consultations for the reform of the Youth National Law. Further discussions will be held in San Vicente and Santa Ana.

Solve

As part of UNHCR's livelihoods strategy focused on optimizing job prospects and access to formal employment for IDP and at-risk youth, 80 younger adults commenced vocational training courses with UNHCR's financial assistance. Graduates will receive formal certification by the Salvadoran Institute for Technical Education (INSAFORP) and UNHCR-partners will help them find job vacancies and prepare for interviews, or to develop small business proposals. So far 2022, 131 young people attended courses on sectors with high employment demand such as client service in hospitality, administration and auto repairs.

UNHCR and the Ministry of Labour jointly monitored companies enrolled in "My First Job" livelihoods programme.

Visits covered 28 companies in diverse sectors that have employed 182 displaced youth in San Salvador and Santa Ana. The visits verified the work environment in these companies and monitored the engagement of participants.



As part of the celebrations of the International Youth Day, the national football team Alianza plays at the UNHCR-supported Zacamil soccer field in San Salvador.

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Stories from the field

The women that guard the culture

Nana Doris is an indigenous Cacahuira woman who lives in the municipality of Cacaopera, in the Salvadoran department of Morazán. Proud to be indigenous, she advocates for the preservation of their roots and culture.

"I used to feel bad when people called me indigenous. There is no reason to feel bad. We should be proud of our culture. We should be proud to be called indigenous", said Nana Doris to about a hundred people representing different indigenous peoples from the eastern part of El Salvador, during a commemorative event.

UNHCR works to ensure that the rights of refugees and other displaced populations who are members of minority and indigenous groups are met without discrimination.

As in many societies, indigenous peoples in El Salvador are sometimes excluded from participation in socio-economic life, have limited access to decision-making and often encounter obstacles to express their identity. These factors are aggravated by the risk and impact of forced displacement. A situation that Nana Doris along other indigenous peoples and national institutions try now to change.

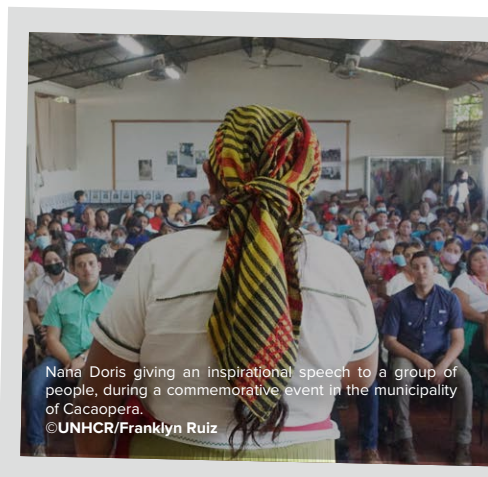
To contribute to these efforts, UNHCR joined forces with the Ministry of Culture and five municipalities in El Salvador in the production and dissemination of Municipal Ordinances on Indigenous People's Rights. These local regulations aim to promote the respect of economic, social, and cultural development rights within the territories of indigenous peoples.

For Nana Doris, the ordinances are a tool for them to ensure access to services, the exercise of rights, and the preservation of their culture. "We must work together to ensure the exercise of our rights and for these municipal ordinances to be enforced", said Nana Doris.

Aware of the challenges to access timely healthcare for indigenous peoples in isolated communities and access to specialized services for persons with disabilities, including older persons, the Ministry of Health supported by UNHCR also organizes periodical health care brigades and distribution of assistive devices in the territories across the country.

Nana Doris recognizes that preserving their roots requires the engagement of the youth. "I work with the communities to ensure that our culture is passed on to new generations", she said.

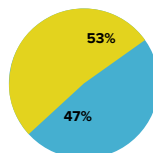
Thanks to the efforts of Nana Doris and other women leaders, young people continue to learn on the skills, traditions, native languages, and culture of the Cacahuira and other indigenous peoples in El Salvador.



Nana Doris giving an inspirational speech to a group of people, during a commemorative event in the municipality of Cacaopera.
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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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