UNHCR ACNUR
La Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados



Member organizations of the Humanitarian Country Team carrying out inter-agency visits to temporary shelters to identify needs and protection risks among the affected population by Tropical Storm Julia.
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El Salvador
October 2022
External Update #10

Key Figures

COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION

239 individuals assisted through UNHCR's helpline in October, and **3,577** in 2022.

220 people assisted at the Support Spaces in October, and **2,622** in 2022.

5,816 people reached via Support Spaces mobile brigades in October, and **35,919** in 2022.

CASH ASSISTANCE

663 households (**1,459** individuals) at heightened risk received cash assistance in **October, and 1,626 households (4,089 individuals)** in 2022. This support helps cover basic needs such as food, rent, documentation, and transportation.

FUNDING

62% of UNHCR's financial requirements for El Salvador received by 25 October 2022.

Highlights

1 **In response to the effects of the Tropical Storm Julia that hit El Salvador in October, UNHCR supported inter-agency visits to eleven temporary shelters in five departments.** As a result of the coordination by the UNHCR-led Protection Sector and the Camp-Management and Camp Coordination (CCCM) Sector, coordinated by IOM and UNHCR, the Humanitarian Country Team assessed risks and protection needs among the population in Government-run shelters.

Read the Situation Reports produced by the CCCM Sector

2 **The General Directorate of Civil Protection and OCHA activated the Shelter Sector, led by UNHCR, due to the Tropical Storm Julia emergency.** The first meeting with twelve participating organizations agreed to harmonize shelter kits for individual housing and community facilities, and analysed temporary dwelling models.

3 **UNHCR briefed 57 organizations interested in becoming partners in 2023 during a broadcasted and in person session.** The event provided information on UNHCR's strategy in El Salvador, policies on partners, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, project management and the selection criteria of the published call for expression.

4 **UNHCR, in coordination with the Ministry of Labour, the Santa Ana Municipality, and the Salvadoran Chamber of Commerce (CAMARASAL), hosted an event to promote the employment programme for youth "My First Job".** Among over 100 participants, 65% of the companies attending signed an intention letter to offer job opportunities for internally displaced persons in Santa Ana.

5 **A newly opened UNHCR-supported soup kitchen in San Nicolas community (Zaragoza) will improve nutrition among older persons and children.** As a result of the coordination by the Municipality of Zaragoza, the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion and UNHCR, this community-managed service will provide support to those at heightened risk, it will boost livelihoods and it will provide a collective space for awareness-raising activities.



People from San Nicolas community, Zaragoza Municipality, gather at the recently inaugurated UNHCR-supported soup kitchen.
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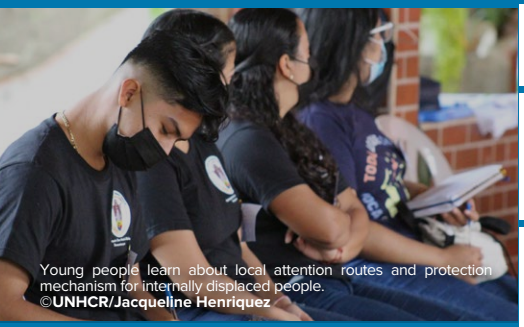
Protect

UNHCR led two extraordinary meetings of the Protection Sector to update members on Julia's Tropical Storm situation and analyze its impact on the population. Among the visits to shelters, and a Rapid Protection Assessment tool implemented in Panchimalco and Comasagua Municipalities, the main the needs identified were mental health and psychosocial support services, gender-based violence prevention, and construction materials for housing.

The Archbishopric of San Salvador, supported by UNHCR, trained 62 pastoral agents and members of vicariates on national care routes for victims, and on protection mechanisms for internally displaced persons and people at risk of displacement.

The Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse was the main topic of three trainings that UNHCR organized to train 77 staff of partner organizations. The workshops are part of UNHCR's efforts to prevent and respond in case of sexual exploitation and abuse against the people we serve.

An ongoing research by the national institution for the protection of women, ISDEMU, and UNHCR is assessing the links between gender-based violence and forced displacement in El Salvador. Several focal group discussions held with 12 civil society and women-led organizations analysed the challenges that displaced survivors face.



Young people learn about local attention routes and protection mechanism for internally displaced people.
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Empower

UNHCR along with the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion organized a community cinema in El Tazumal, Santa Ana, to promote peaceful coexistence. The Mobile Unit "By your Side" accompanied the activity to deliver information on how people at risk of displacement can access rights and services.

UNHCR trained 12 young representatives from Soyapango, San Salvador, on communication skills. The training included use of social media and public speaking, and is part of a capacity building process for youth.

Two hundred teachers and public officers from San Miguel department learned on international protection and UNHCR's mandate in a training coordinated with World Vision.

UNHCR in coordination with the National Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, the Municipality of Soyapango, and the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion organized a workshop on the protection of persons with disabilities with seven youth committees of Soyapango. The topics included the different types of disabilities, the international and national legal frameworks, accessibility, non-discrimination, and inclusion.

Assist

The General Directorate for Migration and Foreigners (DGME) and UNHCR renewed the Letter of Understanding to implement protection activities, services, and delivery humanitarian assistance to returnees with protection needs, asylum-seekers and refugees.

UNHCR delivered a second batch of shovels, helmets, carts, and rubber boots, to Panchimalco Municipality, one of the most affected areas in the country, to support the emergency response to the damages caused by the Tropical Storm Julia. UNHCR donated emergency items, food, mattresses, blankets, and hygiene kits, to the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion to support 1,249 people from 41 communities. Also, in coordination with Outreach Volunteers and COMCAVIS Trans, UNHCR donated hygiene kits, clothes, and food for six LGBTIQ+ community groups that were severely affected by the tropical storm in San Miguel.

Solve

UNHCR and the Catholic University of El Salvador (UNICAES) held the academic panel "The role of private and public actors in seeking durable solutions for internally displaced persons." The event gathered 100 students, civil society organizations, academic directors, and municipal authorities. The panel was organized within the framework of the regional Peacebuilding Fund project implemented in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras between UNDP, IOM, and UNHCR.



The Director of the General Directorate for Migration and Foreigners, Ricardo Cucalón, and UNHCR's Representative in El Salvador, Laura Almirall, during the signing of the Letter of Understanding between both institutions.
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Stories from the field

A full belly makes a happy heart

The local community organization (ADESCO) in San Nicolas, Zaragoza Municipality opened its first soup kitchen with the support of the municipality, the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion and UNHCR.

"Serving with love" is the slogan of the newly inaugurated soup kitchen in San Nicolas community, Zaragoza Municipality (La Libertad). A phrase that describes the spirit of solidarity of the community. During the spike of the Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath, the local community association identified people who struggled to face increased food prices with less income. In response, they came up with the idea of opening a soup kitchen. One of the members offered to donate his garage. Some others volunteered to cook and serve. With this in mind, they contacted the municipality, the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion and UNHCR to ask for support to make this project a reality. UNHCR provided stoves, refrigerators, tables, chairs, and all the necessary kitchen utensils and appliances to support their capacity to serve meals to large groups.

"The soup kitchen is a dream come true. Here we will focus on those most in need as older adults and children in vulnerable situations," said Alma, who volunteers in the space along with her sisters. "For us is key to have spaces in which the community can gather and take care for each other in a healthy and peaceful environment."

San Nicolas community is surrounded by zones with a historic presence of criminal groups, which made it difficult for families to move freely or have employment opportunities outside the community for fear that they must travel through the surrounding communities to their jobs. These joint efforts are an opportunity to be closer to the displaced population and to those at risk of displacement, and it allows UNHCR to help strengthen the nation's solutions and response to protect those in need. Ensuring that people have adequate access to food is essential in protecting the safety, health and well-being of people who have been forced to flee.

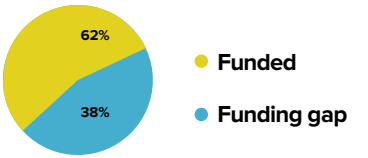
"We hope that the soup kitchen contributes to strengthening the community structure, generating a comprehensive space for development and empowerment. As they say: a full belly makes a happy heart. And so, we feel happy to see the community working together for the well-being of all in a space where they can interact in peace" concluded UNHCR's Deputy Representative for Protection, Monica Tse Candido, at the inaugural event.



Community members volunteer at San Nicolas soup kitchen to ensure that people in vulnerable situations have access to food.
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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.



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

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

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