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La Agencia de la ONU
para los Refugiados



A UNHCR staff interviews an individual from San Antonio del Mosco, San Miguel department, as part of the regional study on climate change and forced displacement.

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El Salvador September 2022 External Update #9

Key Figures

COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION



215 individuals assisted through UNHCR's helpline in September, and **3,338** in 2022.



148 people assisted at the Support Spaces in September, and **2,402** in 2022.

6,327 people reached via Support Spaces mobile brigades in September, and **30,103** in 2022.

CASH ASSISTANCE



739 households (**1,563** individuals) at heightened risk received cash assistance in **September**, and **1,448** households (**3,697** individuals) in 2022. This support helps cover basic needs such as food, rent, documentation, and transportation.

FUNDING



61% of UNHCR's financial requirements for El Salvador received by 29 September 2022.

Highlights

- 1** The Ministry of Labour joined the Support Space "By your Side" in San Salvador to provide on-site services once a week. Delegates of the Ministry provide information and assistance about labour rights, job offers and how to prepare for job interviews in the Support Space located in San Salvador. UNHCR expects this collaboration will expand soon to other Support Spaces.
- 2** UNHCR and the University for Peace from Costa Rica conducted 93 interviews in Soyapango, San Antonio del Mosco and Panchimalco municipalities, as part of a regional joint study on the impact of climate change and disasters on forced displacement in the north of Central America. The study will inform UNHCR's response to displacement linked with climate change and natural hazards under its global Strategic Framework for Climate Action.
- 3** The alliance of LGBTIQ+ rights organizations COMCAVIS Trans, ASPIDH, Diké and UNHCR resulted in the launch of the "Bridging the Gap" education initiative which helps trans persons complete their studies and seek better employment opportunities. Twenty-five trans people are expected to complete their studies in 2022.

- 4** UNHCR delivered shovels, helmets, raincoats, wheelbarrows, chainsaws, and rubber boots in support to Panchimalco municipality's response to the consequences of heavy storms.



Panchimalco



Panchimalco's Mayor and UNHCR's Representative discuss emergency preparedness and response while going through the donated items.

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Protect

The Salvadoran National Refugee Commission (CODER) attended in Mexico the first meeting of a UNHCR-supported regional network aiming at sharing country-of-origin information.

The municipality of Soyapango, the Salvadoran Red Cross and UNHCR agreed to work together to widespread knowledge and monitor the functioning of the local IDP referral pathway.

FUNDASAL and UNHCR delivered the second training on forced displacement to strengthen capacities of the local authorities of Nahuizalco.

Empower

World Vision and UNHCR supported Santa Claudia community, Santa Ana municipality, in a cultural, sports and arts day that gathered 200 people. Attendants participated in games, soccer matches, Zumba, cultural and artistic performances and a local entrepreneurs fair organized by community groups to foster social cohesion. The municipal services on sports and children, IOM and UNHCR's mobile unit informed on rights and services.

UNHCR trained 42 Outreach Volunteers working in 36 different communities in the central and paracentral zones of El Salvador on the prevention of gender-based violence, sexual exploitation, and abuse. The activity reinforced key concepts on gender equality, identification of risks, prevention mechanisms and how to activate protection pathways.

A donation of books, furniture, and IT equipment will improve the services planned to provide at five new community centres, known as CUBOs, that plan to open during October and November. The community facilities in El Tamarindo, San Jose, Panchimalco, Santa Lucia and Apopa communities will contribute to the recuperation of public spaces and the prevention of forced recruitment of children and youth.



Trans women attend an informative session on the "Bridging the Gap" initiative, that allows trans persons to complete their primary or secondary education, while they receive psychosocial and academic support through individual and group tutorships.
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Assist

The Humanitarian Country Team, including UNHCR, approved unanimously the need to develop a Humanitarian Response Plan in El Salvador for 2023.

Thanks to a new partnership by UNHCR and Doctors of the World, internally displaced persons, people at risk of displacement, refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees with protection needs will receive primary health services, psychological first aid, psychosocial support, and sexual and reproductive health care.

Solve

Forty-four businesses participated in an event organized by UNHCR and World Vision to encourage private sector engagement in the 'Súper Pilas' programme. Former participants, local partners, and companies linked to the programme highlighted the value to facilitate formal employment for people affected by forced displacement or living in stigmatized areas.

UNHCR and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare enrolled additional 13 displaced persons from San Salvador, Santa Ana, Sonsonate, and Ahuachapán in "My First Job" programme. By the end of September, the programme matched 204 people with jobs in the formal sector and ensured access to social security.



UNHCR's staff and young community leaders from stigmatized areas discuss about the importance of having learning and job opportunities.
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Stories from the field

Now I feel as a butterfly, I feel I can fly

Marcela* and her children endured abuse and hardship for many years. Thanks to the joint work of the Human Rights Protection Offices of the Archbishopric of San Salvador and UNHCR, she feels safe now.

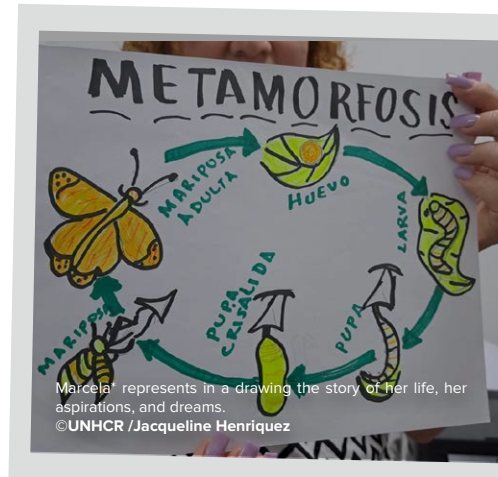
Marcela* and her three children fled their home after years of abuse, death threats and mistreatment by a man that held them captive. She thought that violence was the only possibility in her life. The support she received after escaping gave her strength to help other displaced people in her community. As a leader now, Marcela* feels her life has taken a new direction.

"I started having insecurities and fears because of the physical, verbal and sexual violence that I experienced," says Marcela*. "I underwent a metamorphosis as a butterfly. Getting out of that situation was difficult. Now I can fly and achieve my dreams."

Marcela* decided to seek help when the physical and sexual violence began to spread to her children. She found support in the Human Rights Protection Offices of the Archbishopric of San Salvador, an institution that works jointly with UNHCR. They received temporary shelter, psychological care and support to set a new life plan. Marcela* also joined the Committee of Victims of Internal Forced Displacement, the first of its kind in the country. The Archbishopric of San Salvador and UNHCR work in alliance to strengthen the leadership skills, the community participation and knowledge about rights of the members of the Committee. As a result, the Committee contributes to raise awareness on rights and how to access protection mechanisms for victims or people at risk of forced displacement.

Since 2021, UNHCR and the Archbishopric of San Salvador work hand in hand to timely identify, refer, and assist people affected by internal forced displacement in El Salvador. To that end, six vicarial commissions, also receive training and guidance to identify, refer an assist people affected by forced displacement, which allows them to assist in cases such as Marcela's*.

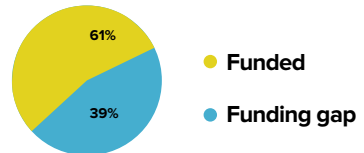
*Name changed for protection reasons



Marcela* represents in a drawing the story of her life, her aspirations, and dreams.
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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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