UNHCR works in El Salvador in coordination with the Government, the private sector, civil society, and communities in support of people who have been forced to flee their homes.

UNHCR accompanies the Government’s efforts to achieve the commitments established in the MIRPS National Plan. To obtain sustainable results, UNHCR offers technical support for strengthening institutional capacities.

UNHCR contributes to improving the protection of internally displaced persons, people at risk of displacement, refugees, asylum-seekers, and returnees with protection needs in El Salvador.

THE PEOPLE WE SERVE
Population Types | 2023
Projections estimated based in previous yearly trends.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Type</th>
<th>2023 Projections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internally displaced people (IDPs)</td>
<td>117,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asylum-seekers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others of concern</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FUNDING
USD 26 M
UNHCR financial requirements for El Salvador’s operation.

Budget by impact area
- Protect
- Respond
- Empower
- Solve

Total: 26 million

We work with over 40 communities

www.unhcr.org
Context

- Despite a significant decline in violent crime and people feeling increasingly safe, Salvadoran nationals continue to leave the country for a variety of reasons. As of 2022, the global number of asylum-seekers with pending decisions from El Salvador reached 148,758 and the total number of Salvadoran refugees was 58,637. Further to that, between 2006 and 2016, 1.1% of families in El Salvador were forcibly displaced raising the estimated number of IDPs to 71,500. According to the profiling exercise published in 2018 by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, most displaced people are socio-economically vulnerable young families. In 2023, the National Office for Statistic and Censuses, with UNHCR’s support, is implementing a nationwide household survey to update displacement statistics.

- El Salvador joined in 2019 the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS in Spanish) to address forced displacement in Central America and Mexico and held its Pro-Tempore Presidency during 2020. In contribution to the MIRPS, the Government outlined a National Response Plan with 43 commitments in 2022 in protection, health, education, and livelihoods to assist IDPs, refugees, and asylum-seekers, that continues in 2023.

- El Salvador is committed to identifying and addressing protection and solutions gaps impacting refugees, IDPs, returnees with protection needs and stateless persons. El Salvador is party to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol, and to the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons. UNHCR advocates for the adoption of the 1961 Convention to reduce statelessness. In 2020, El Salvador approved the Special Law for the Care and Integral Protection of Victims of Violence in Conditions of Forced Displacement.

Working with Partners


- UNHCR continues to engage with the Humanitarian Country Team of El Salvador. The Protection Sector is led by UNHCR and coordinates the response of 33 organizations to the needs of people in vulnerable situations due to forced displacement. UNHCR also co-leads the Shelter and CCCM Sectors.

- UNHCR contributes to the success of El Salvador’s MIRPS National Plan that seeks efficient and adequate protection and durable solution to victims of forced displacement.

- UNHCR collaborates with the private sector to generate job opportunities and promote the economic benefits of inclusive workplaces. Through alliances with the National Institute for Vocational Education and Training (INSAFORP) and the Ministry of Labour, UNHCR expands access to apprenticeships and job placements.
Planning for Impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome/Enabling area</th>
<th>Budget (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Well-being and basic needs</td>
<td>7.4 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection policy and law</td>
<td>2.2 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee status determination</td>
<td>1.4 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resettlement and complementary pathways</td>
<td>3.1 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-reliance, economic inclusion, and livelihoods</td>
<td>3.8 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community engagement and women’s empowerment</td>
<td>4.5 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
<td>1.8 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender-based violence</td>
<td>1.7 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>26 M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Protect: Attaining favourable protection environments

Forcibly displaced people fully enjoy their rights and equal access to effective protection systems.

- Asylum-seekers have access to a fair and efficient refugee status determination procedure and have their asylum claims determined in a fair and timely manner.
- Rights of internally displaced people are recognized and guaranteed in the national legal framework and public policies.
- Government knowledge and capacity on International Refugee Law and Human Rights Law are increased.
- Refugees and Asylum-seekers have access to legal documentation, legal assistance, and social services.
- The Government include IDPs in law, public policies, and national plans, tailoring approaches and responses to their specific needs.

- UNHCR supports the Refugee Status Determination Commission (CODER) to ensure asylum-seekers have access to fair and efficient determination procedures in El Salvador. Through a direct agreement with the CODER under the Foreign Affairs Ministry, UNHCR and CODER implement a capacity development strategy to increase the skills and knowledge of the members of the CODER and strengthen the legal framework and internal protocols of the institution.

- UNHCR works towards the enjoyment of rights of internally displaced persons through the strengthening of the national legal framework and public policies. UNHCR provides guidance and technical support to institutions and key stakeholders for the inclusion of internally displaced persons in government programmes and initiatives.

- Throughout 2023, UNHCR supports a household survey implemented by the National Statistics Office and in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, which collects data on
UNHCR strengthens response to gender-based violence survivors through specialized services in coordination with the Women’s Development Institute (ISDEMU) and the Women’s Attorney General’s Office (PGR), as well as with grassroots women’s organizations.

UNHCR boosts the inclusion of forcibly displaced children in the national child protection system through the strengthening of technical capacities of institutional staff and through community-based protection activities.

UNHCR’s four Support Spaces “By your side”, in coordination with partners and national institutions such as the Attorney General’s Office (PGR), the Ombudsperson’s Office (PDDH), the Directorate for Attention to Victims (DAV), ISDEMU, the Ministry of Labour and the National Council for Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence (CONAPINA), among others, offer services and assistance to forcibly displaced persons and people at heightened risk.

Humanitarian assistance is provided to people with specific needs, including cash assistance, non-food items, relocation, and safe accommodation, among others. Mental health services, including...
individual and community psychosocial support and psychological assistance, are provided in coordination with the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion and through specialized UNHCR partners.

- UNHCR assists households with multipurpose cash assistance and sectoral grants to guarantee that people at heightened risk can cover their basic needs. Eligibility is determined using protection assessment tools and criteria.
- UNHCR leads the Protection Sector to conduct joint analysis on the situation of the population at heightened risk, including the internally displaced, as well as to ensure a coordinated overall protection response.
- UNHCR co-leads both the Shelter and the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Sectors. In co-leadership with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) for Shelter, and IOM for CCCM, UNHCR ensures a protection approach into both sectors’ responses.

Empower: Empowering communities and achieving gender equality

Forcibly displaced people are empowered, informed and are meaningful actors of their own protection and solutions.

- UNHCR conducts participatory assessments and regular consultations with all population groups to ensure the voices, priorities and decisions of forcibly displaced people are included and that they inform UNHCR's programmes. Systems for effective two-way communication are enhanced in-house and with partners, furthering accessibility to all groups, operational effectiveness, and accountability.
- UNHCR supports community-led initiatives and peaceful coexistence projects to respond to the protection needs of children, women, LGBTIQ+ people, youth, persons with disabilities, older people, survivors of gender-based violence, and indigenous peoples, among other groups.
- UNHCR promotes compliance with Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) protocols, and complaint mechanisms across all areas where UNHCR and its partners have direct contact with forcibly displaced people and people at risk of displacement.
- UNHCR promotes educational, cultural and sports activities, providing alternatives to create safe environments for young people in their communities.
UNHCR promotes vocational education and entrepreneurship initiatives to create employment opportunities for forcibly displaced people and people at risk of displacement.

UNHCR identifies and refers individuals and households at high risk in need of resettlement.

UNHCR recognizes that addressing the root causes of displacement is essential to promoting the long-term stability and well-being of communities affected by displacement. To help address these root causes, UNHCR supports the Government, the Humanitarian Country Team and other stakeholders with initiatives that can improve the living conditions in historically marginalized communities. This involves supporting the Government to develop policies and programmes that address poverty, inequality, and social exclusion, as well as supporting access to services, such as water and sanitation, healthcare, and education.

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

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