



Key Figures

COVID-19

69,198 people confirmed cases

2,120 deaths by 28 April 2021

833,959 people vaccinated

PROTECTION

UNHCR supported CONNA and ISNA with the provision of food for children and their families during the reception process for deportees.

FUNDING

35% of UNHCR's funding needs received by 20 April 2021.

Highlights

- UNHCR Representative, Laura Almirall, met on 26 April with the Vice President of El Salvador, Félix Ulloa, and the Presidential Commissioner for Government Cabinet Operations, Carolina Recinos. Almirall highlighted progress made by the Government to address forced displacement, as well the momentum to foster common strategies.
- UNHCR [condemned](#) the murder of Zashy Zuley del Cid, a trans woman, perpetrated on 25 April in San Miguel department. In 2020, UNHCR and partner COMCAVIS TRANS supported del Cid with humanitarian assistance and shelter after she was forced to flee her home due to gang threats. Salvadoran trans activist and Nansen Refugee Award Winner for the Americas in 2019, Bianka Rodríguez, urged the authorities to investigate this and other hate crimes committed against the LGBTIQ+ population.

Protection

- UNHCR held a meeting with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Culture, as well as focal point for public policy for indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, to strengthen the response to protect and to reinforce their access to rights. UNHCR and the Government agreed to conduct joined field missions to indigenous communities, and to provide technical support with the formation and strengthening of indigenous territorial councils and regional consultative coordination structures. These actions are of high importance to better assess, strengthen, and accompany indigenous groups.
- UNHCR held a meeting with the Office of the First Lady to present its mandate and main protection activities with child protection institutions and NGOs related to displaced children. The Office of the First Lady shared information on the activities they support targeting deported children and at risk of forced displacement. The two parties agreed on supporting actions that strengthen case management of the National Child Protection Registration System.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR and partner organization World Vision continued the identification of beneficiaries for entrepreneurship, vocational training and job placement. The project target for this year is 300 persons, with close to 150 potential beneficiaries already identified.

- UNHCR met the Salvadoran Institute for Vocational Education and Training (INSAFORP) to identify potential areas of collaboration. UNHCR presented its mandate and proposal for linking forcefully displaced persons and those at risk with INSAFORP's certified continuing education and vocational training courses for young adults and/or vulnerable populations. UNHCR and INSAFORP will explore opportunities for an agreement in which INSAFORP allocates personnel to train groups identified by UNHCR, while UNHCR and its partner organizations provide stipends, psychosocial support and facilitation of job placement for graduates. UNHCR expressed interest in replicating INSAFORP's model of designing and constructing sector-specific jobs skills training centres (Centres of Excellence) targeted to fulfilling labour market needs, prioritizing access for its people of concern.
- UNHCR met with the President and technical team of the National Council for Micro and Small Businesses (CONAMYPE) to identify potential areas of collaboration. CONAMYPE is part of the operational arm of the Ministry of Economy charged with strengthening, formalizing and optimizing the competitive potential of small businesses in El Salvador. UNHCR highlighted that CONAMYPE's emphasis on prioritizing support for small businesses with clear potential in their respective territories aligns well with the agency's area-based approach to achieving durable solutions for its population of concern.

Government and Inter-agency Coordination

- The MIRPS Support Platform organized on 8-9 April the first roundtable sessions on asylum systems with the MIRPS countries and UNHCR support. The Government of El Salvador participated in the topics related to the identification of international protection needs, case management and biometric registration, as well as the use of differentiated modalities in the treatment of cases. The Government expressed interest to continue strengthening the national legal framework for refugees and the technical capacity of the Refugee Status Determination National Commission of El Salvador (CODER).
- UNHCR and ILO held initial discussions on areas relevant to the mandates of both agencies. ILO expressed strong interest in developing a joint-agency collaboration that will serve to operationalize components of El Salvador's IDP Law focused on access to durable solutions. Both agencies expressed interest in the possibility of a tripartite agreement between UNHCR, ILO and key government counterparts (Ministry of Labour, Salvadoran Institute for Technical and Vocational Training) that will facilitate access to decent employment and advance economic and working conditions for their respective populations of concern.

Communications

- UNHCR published a [press release](#) on the support provided to improve reception spaces for deported persons with protection needs in El Salvador.
- On 29 April, UNHCR, UNICEF and the European Union in El Salvador launched the project "[Best practices for the protection of migrant and displaced children](#)" through a Facebook Live event streamed by UNICEF El Salvador and ACNUR Americas. The project is framed by the new EU Global Promotion of Best Practices for Children in Migration programme to strengthen child protection systems and provide alternatives to immigration detention, implemented in El Salvador, Mexico, South Africa and Zambia. [The event](#) in El Salvador had the participation of Laura Almirall, Representative of UNHCR in El Salvador, Begoña Arellano, Deputy Representative of UNICEF in El Salvador, and Andreu Bassols, Ambassador of the European Union to El Salvador.

Funding

UNHCR is appealing for USD 21.6 million to provide comprehensive solutions to forcibly displaced persons in El Salvador. The best way to support UNHCR's appeal is through unearmarked contributions. Such flexible funding at global level will be key in allowing a timely response to the evolving needs wherever required.

UNHCR is thankful to the donors who provide funds to El Salvador:

| Belgium | Denmark | European Union | Germany | Ireland | Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland
| United States of America | UN Peacebuilding Fund | Private donors Republic of Korea | Private donors Spain