



El Salvador External Update #7 July 2021

Key Figures

COVID-19 (By 31 July 2021)

86,620 confirmed cases
2,651 accumulated deaths
4,309,189 people vaccinated

CBP

74 community outreach volunteers were identified and trained to further strengthen community-based protection mechanisms.

FUNDING

78% of UNHCR's financial requirements for El Salvador received by 27 July 2021.

Highlights

- **UNHCR's first Support Space in El Salvador (Espacio de apoyo "a tu lado") opened to the public.** Implemented in coordination with partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the National Directorate of Attention to Victims and Forced Migration (DNAVMF), the initiative seeks to ensure access to protection and assistance of internally displaced persons and persons at risk of displacement through the establishment of a physical space. The services provided in the Support Space are the following:
 - a) Direct attention provided by UNHCR for identification of protection needs and case management.
 - b) Referral to psychosocial support, mental and physical health services, and legal counselling.
 - c) Inclusion in projects for livelihoods generation and self-sufficiency promotion.
- **UNHCR and Fundasal launched the Human Rights and Community Organization Training School** to strengthen the organizational and leadership capacities of community structures in areas affected by forced displacement. Fifteen community leaders participated in the first module of the program which consists of eight full days of training, one day a month.
- On 13 July, **Bianka Rodriguez, Director of COMCAVIS TRANS and UNHCR High Profile Supporter** participated as a speaker in [2021 Girl Up Global Leadership Summit](#) to talk about LGBTQI+ rights in Latin America.

Protection

- **UNHCR and the Santa Ana Mayor's Office assessed the condition of the Community Outreach Centers** in areas affected by forced displacement in Santa Ana. The Centers aim to prevent child and youth violence through recreational activities. UNHCR will support the Mayor's Office by improving the infrastructure and providing sport and educational materials to guarantee their continuous operation as key community-based protection mechanisms.
- **UNHCR and the Archbishop of San Salvador began a weekly training program with the first internally displaced persons committee created in El Salvador,** currently made up of 15 victims of internal displacement. UNHCR is providing technical training in protection principles, as well as providing the tools for protection monitoring so that

the committee can collect, verify, and analyze information on human rights violations, profiles, and protection risks of those at heightened risk of violence and displacement.

- Two capacity building workshops were held in Soyapango and Usulután, municipalities most affected by gang violence to further **empower community leaders** in their work as human right defenders and contribute to the prevention of violence in their communities. Fifty-six community leaders were trained by UNHCR and partners in a continued effort to strengthen community structures.
- UNHCR and IRC, in collaboration with Salvadorean Red Cross Society, jointly delivered a capacity building session on Psychological First Aid to 35 participants to **strengthen the technical capacity of reception center** staff at the Management of Attention to Migrants (GAMI) and to improve the case management of deportees with protection needs.
- UNHCR and World Vision held four **virtual workshops on gender equality** with 37 community leaders from the municipality of Soyapango, San Salvador department.

Durable Solutions

- As part of durable solutions efforts to **promote access to the labor market** for internally displaced persons, refugees and deportees with protection needs, UNHCR held an introductory meeting with representatives of the National Business Association (ANEP) of El Salvador, to identify economic sectors most in need of qualified manual labor. The association, comprised of over 50 business unions representing all of El Salvador's economic sectors, emphasized the important contribution international cooperation can provide via support for vocational training to increase the workforce for the industrial/manufacturing sector.
- UNHCR and partner organizations COMCAVIS Trans and Plan International held the **first of a series of events with the private sector to promote and highlight the economic benefits of inclusive and diverse workplaces**. Over 20 businesses, ranging from local law firms to large department stores, attended the event. This initiative is framed by the MIRPS commitment to foster the economic inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer persons of concern.

Government and Inter-agency Coordination

- During the **MIRPS Working Group meeting on Access to Labor Market and Professional Training**, El Salvador's Technical Team highlighted "My first job", the employability program jointly implemented with UNHCR that seeks to benefit over 300 forcibly displaced persons and at-risk youth. The discussion focused on discussing support to refugees and displaced persons while contributing to local development.
- Following **MIRPS commitment of Ministry of Health to provide comprehensive healthcare to vulnerable population**, a needs assessment was carried out jointly with UNHCR in Panchimalco town, where there was a mass displacement of 34 families in May due to gang threats. Basic equipment needs were identified to improve medical and psychosocial care. UNHCR provided multipurpose grants to the displaced families to cover their priority needs and has been working in collaboration with the DNAVMF to provide follow up.
- **As part of the Trilateral Peace Building Fund (PBF) Project, UNHCR, IOM and UNDP met with the mayor's offices of Santa Ana and Ahuachapán**. The project aims to create favorable conditions to develop a comprehensive approach to human mobility. Through these meetings the involved agencies reinforced the importance of public policies and coordination spaces for the protection of internally displaced persons, asylum seekers and deportees.

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



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