



**El Salvador
External Update #8
August 2021**

Key Figures

COVID-19
(By 31 August 2021)

96,067 confirmed cases
2,918 accumulated deaths
6,298,361 people vaccinated

REGISTRATION

177 persons of concern to UNHCR were registered and assisted through the call center or the Support Space “A tu lado”.

FUNDING

80% of UNHCR’s financial requirements for El Salvador received by 31 August 2021.

Highlights

- **UNHCR and the Government agreed to jointly carry out an update of the profiling study of IDPs** in order to obtain quantitative and qualitative information on forced displacement for sound, evidence-based decision making, and public policies.
- **UNHCR supported the reception process of 91 unaccompanied children and 81 children with their families**, with food and psychosocial support, alongside the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONNA), the Salvadoran Institute for the Comprehensive Development of Children and Adolescents (ISNA), and the Office of the Prosecutor (PGR) at the ISNA/CONNA central offices.
- **UNHCR provided cash-based assistance to 1,397 internally displaced persons, asylum-seekers, and refugees** to meet their basic needs.
- **UNHCR donated furniture, computer equipment, tablets, educational and recreational tools needed to set up four youth community centers (CUBOs) run by the Direction of the Reconstruction of Social Fabric**, in order to support community-based protection mechanisms being implemented by the Ministry of Justice and Security. Coordination with the CUBOs is a key component of UNHCR’s protection strategy for the prevention of violence and youth empowerment.

Protection

- As part of the efforts to support municipal governments in their implementation of the “Special Law for the Comprehensive Care and Protection of People in a situation of Forced Internal Displacement”, UNHCR held two roundtable discussions with the mayor’s office of Santa Ana. Participating institutions and organizations shared their commitments in providing an integral response to victims of internal displacement. UNHCR’s protection strategy includes fostering these spaces to support the implementation of the IDP law as the most important tool in protecting internally displaced persons.

- **UNHCR trained 102 members of municipal institutions in four municipalities**, including the National Police, the Committees for the Prevention of Violence, and the National Institute for Women's Development (ISDEMU) on the rights and protection mechanisms in place for IDPs as part of UNHCR's strategy to develop referral pathways at a local level for victims of forced displacement.
- **UNHCR, UNICEF, SOS Children Village and the Central American University started an 80-hour course in forced displacement and child protection to strengthen the technical knowledge of key actors in the child protection system in El Salvador.** Participants include 66 government officials, including representatives of the Salvadoran Institute for the Comprehensive Development of Children and Adolescents (ISNA), the Office of the Prosecutor (PGR), the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONNA), the First Lady Office and members of the judiciary.
- **The National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONNA) Departmental headquarters in Chalatenango was inaugurated with the support of UNHCR.** The center will provide psychological and legal assistance to internally displaced children and their families, and deported persons with international protection needs. UNHCR supported the rehabilitation of the recreational space at the center. During the inauguration, UNHCR committed to supporting the two other centers in Cabañas and San Salvador departments.
- **UNHCR held a monitoring visit to Diké, a safe space that has protected 126 LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced persons in 2021,** focusing on transgender healthcare services, HIV positive healthcare services, as well as legal and psychosocial assistance. UNHCR and IRC have supported the space by providing technical training, self-care sessions and staff.

Durable Solutions

- **The 'My First Job' program finished its hiring phase with a total of 349 internally displaced or at-risk youth from 13 departments in El Salvador now undertaking apprenticeships with businesses throughout El Salvador.** Through the program, designed by Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and UNHCR, and implemented with World Vision's support, participants receive financial and psychosocial support for a 6-month on-the-job training period. Depending on their performance and the availability of vacancies, those who successfully complete the apprenticeship period will receive a formal offer of employment from the company.
- **UNHCR and the Salvadoran Institute for Professional training (INSAFORP) provided 295 IDPs and at-risk youth with professional training through the first phase of the program *Creating Opportunities*.** This program is focused on strengthening the professional or self-employment skillsets of youth, in alignment with their personal or family life plan. This program also will support their job placement through the allocation of their profiles in the employment bureaus of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, INSAFORP will also refer profiles to interested enterprises.

Government and Inter-agency Coordination

- **El Salvador's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations launched the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).** The plan seeks to protect and assist 912,200 vulnerable persons through a multisectoral response in high-priority areas prone to the impact of disasters and violence. The projects submitted by UNHCR involve community protection, as well as strengthening access of forcibly displaced persons to emergency temporary shelter and to humanitarian assistance. To support the implementation of the HRP, UNHCR requires US\$33 million for 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, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the support of:



| Private donors Australia | Private donors Germany | Private donors Italy | Private donors Japan | Private donors Republic of Korea | Private donors Spain | Private donors Sweden

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