



Key Figures

COVID-19

64,875 people confirmed cases

2,006 deaths by 31 March 2021

PROTECTION

In March, UNHCR assisted **17** families with protection needs.

FUNDING

34% of UNHCR's funding needs received by 30 March 2021.

Protection

- In March, UNHCR assisted 17 Salvadorean families with protection needs. The Office provided information and orientation and assistance. Some of the solutions offered involve multipurpose cash grants and internal relocation in coordination with partners and government institutions.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR held a training for the Salvadoran Institute for the Comprehensive Development of Children and Adolescents (ISNA) and the Office of the Prosecutor (PGR) on how to identify persons of concern to UNHCR and make referral for humanitarian assistance. Twenty-four public servants were trained who in turn are expected to make 40 referrals per month.
- In coordination with the General Directorate for Migration and Foreigners (DGME) and the Refugee Status Determination National Commission (CODER), UNHCR and partners Cáritas and IRC carried out a visit to El Amatillo border with Honduras. UNHCR and CODER held an informative session with 11 migration officials, border police, and a representative of the Ministry of Health to introduce concepts of international protection, protection principles for refugees along with explanations of the asylum application procedures in El Salvador. This was the last of a total of four visits to the main border points in the country. Printed materials were also part of an information campaign on access to asylum and rights of asylum-seekers.
- In coordination with the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Health, UNHCR organized a meeting with indigenous leaders. During this meeting, the community shared their views about their needs, concerns and ways UNHCR can strengthen community-based interventions.
- UNHCR and partner COMCAVIS Trans carried out two participatory assessments with LGBTIQ+ leadership groups in the San Francisco Gotera municipality, Morazán department, and Sacacoyo municipality, La Libertad department. The assessments will contribute to a better understanding of the situation of this group and their proposals for solutions to better define interventions.

- UNHCR in coordination with DGME, the CODER, and partners C ritas and IRC carried out a visit on 22 March to the international airport. UNHCR and CODER held an informative session with 10 migration officials to introduce concepts of international protection, protection principles for refugees along with explanations of the asylum application procedures in El Salvador. Printed materials were also distributed as part of an information campaign on access to asylum and rights of asylum-seekers. The printed materials in different formats contain information about the right to asylum, asylum procedures in El Salvador, as well as contact information of CODER, C ritas and UNHCR.



Durable Solutions

- UNHCR met with technical teams from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and the Ministry for Development to follow up on the MIRPS working plan to identify collaborative opportunities for expanding access to livelihoods and vocational training for people of concern. Both ministries requested UNHCR’s support to strengthen their understanding of the needs of IDPs along with their capacities to identify and provide specialized support for cases. UNHCR offered to conduct capacity-building sessions on its mandate and legal and durable solutions frameworks for IDPs and returnees/deportees.

Government and Inter-agency Coordination

- On 18 March, UNHCR met with the Minister of Foreign affairs. The Minister reiterated the Government’s commitment to address forced displacement, the relevance of the MIRPS, and her appreciation for UNHCR’s work. The Minister expressed her wish to continue working with UNHCR to identify new and innovative solutions for displaced populations.
- UNHCR held a meeting with the Ministry of Local Development (MINDEL) to review and validate the 2021 work plan. The work plan focuses on the technical strengthening of MINDEL (Ciudad Mujer) and its capacities to identify and refer cases of forced displacement and gender-based violence, as well as the creation of two self-help groups for the displaced population, at risk of displacement and deported with protection needs.

Communications

- The Mexican offices of UN Women, IOM, UNHCR and OHCHR [condemned](#) the murder of Salvadoran Victoria Salazar in Tulum, Quintana Roo, by local police agents. The signing Agencies called on the authorities to carry out an impartial investigation in line with human rights standards on the matter. Salazar had been in Mexico since 2018, when she was granted refugee status for humanitarian reasons.
- UNHCR Americas published a [press-release](#) on UNHCR promoting institutional strengthening process for the Refugee Status Determination National Commission (CODER) in El Salvador, through the support of experts in international protection, the distribution of information on the rights of forcibly displaced people, and the renewal of the equipment used to receive, analyze and respond to asylum applications in the country.

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
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