





### Key Figures

Indigenous women of Nahuizalco expressed their challenges and needs in a community forum.  
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#### Community-based Protection

-  **374** individuals assisted through UNHCR's helpline in February, and 522 in 2023.
-  **212** people assisted at the Support Spaces February, and 347 in 2023.
-  **7,024** people reached by the Mobile Units operating from the Support Spaces across the country in February, and 11,761 in 2023.

#### Cash Assistance

 **306** households (**980** individuals) at heightened risk received cash assistance in February, and 581 households (1,523 individuals) in 2023. This support helps cover basic needs such as food, rent, documentation, and transportation, as well as to facilitate livelihoods activities for economic integration and education.

#### Registration

 **171** people registered with biometrics, and 340 in 2023.

#### Funding

 **8%** of UNHCR's financial requirements for El Salvador received by 28 February 2023.

### Highlights

- ▶ **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNHCR reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen CODER, the institution in charge of examining refugee claims and determining refugee status in El Salvador.** This alliance, collaboration, will contribute to the technical strengthening of the procedure for refugee status determination.
- ▶ **UNHCR, the Ministry of Culture and the Organization of Salvadoran Women for Peace (ORMUSA) held a community forum with 41 indigenous women from Nahuizalco.** The forum "Towards a Digitally Inclusive World: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality", explored the effects of the digital gender gap in terms of social and economic inequalities.
- ▶ **UNHCR held two sessions with 33 representatives of government institutions and municipalities, 13 UN**

**agencies and 13 partner organizations, to jointly reflect on achievements in 2022 and opportunities for action in 2023.**

- ▶ **To encourage new membership, the Protection Sector, held a virtual public informative session with 14 attendees on the objective and work of the Protection Sector and the Areas of Responsibility for Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection in El Salvador.**
- ▶ **Children's Villages SOS and UNHCR organised a workshop with delegates from CUBOS community centres and the Support Spaces for the use of board games and the book "Te cuento mi cuento".** This educational material, developed as part of an alliance with UNICEF, seeks to raise awareness about forced displacement.



Children's Villages SOS and UNHCR carried out a practical workshop for the use of education material about forced displacement.  
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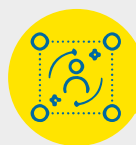


UNHCR carried out strategic reflection sessions with representatives of Government institutions, UN agencies and partner organizations  
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## Empower

- ▶ Some 100 women, men, older persons and youth representatives from eleven communities in San Salvador, San Vicente and San Miguel, took part in sessions organized by UNHCR, FUNDASAL and World Vision on the interventions planned in 2023.
- ▶ UNHCR with World Vision and FUNDASAL held six workshops on community organization and leadership in San Salvador, Sonsonate and Santa Ana as part of the interventions to empower communities and consolidate local leaderships. UNHCR and FUNDASAL conducted a community mapping exercise in Brisas de Jiboa, San Vicente. This exercise helped to understand the local context, identify risks, and needs, as well as the community's resources and capacities.
- ▶ UNHCR joined the Supreme Court in an information session with community facilitators in Usulután department. UNHCR shared information of its work and programmes to improve the capacities of the communities to identify and refer people at heightened risk.



## Solve

- ▶ UNHCR and Fe y Alegría signed a new partnership agreement which will allow the implementation of two initiatives fostering opportunities: **Creating Opportunities and Bridging the Gap**. These programmes offer educational and professional training for youth and trans people, and intend to strengthen abilities for employment and self-employment.
- ▶ Field teams of the My First Job initiative started working with the Ministry of Labour, municipalities in Santa Ana, San Salvador, San Vicente, and San Miguel departments, World Vision and UNHCR's Support Spaces By Your side, to identify profiles and to keep a fluid communication with participants.



## Protect

- ▶ UNHCR trained technical staff of the National Office for Statistics and Censuses (ONEC), on international standards on forced displacement to strengthen data collection during the implementation of the Multipurpose Household Survey in 2023.
- ▶ UNHCR and ORMUSA signed a partnership agreement that will strengthen the identification and referral of survivors of gender based violence.
- ▶ At the UN Prevention against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Working Group, UNHCR committed to lead the elaboration of a minimum standard induction checklist for new staff.
- ▶ In Sesori, department of San Miguel, UNHCR and the Unit of Judicial Facilitators from the Supreme Court facilitated a session with over 50 local representatives of institutions and community members on the rights of children and adolescents and protection mechanisms.



## Respond

- ▶ The National Shelter Commission, Save the Children and UNHCR as Protection Sector lead visited eight families affected by the seismic activity in Ahuachapán to assess the protection needs. Main needs identified include mental health services, food, and home reconstruction.
- ▶ UNHCR and UNICEF led the second meeting of the Border Working Group to discuss current context, trends and population profiles identified at the borders and develop strategic objectives for 2023. The meeting was also attended by IOM, World Vision, Doctors of the World, Save the Children, Norwegian Refugee Council, Ayuda en Acción, OXFAM and the Salvadoran Institute for Migrants (INSAMI). Partners agreed to work on a mapping of services, develop an information systematization tool and a capacity building plan at the local and institutional levels.
- ▶ UNHCR, UNICEF and national institutions met with the General Directorate of Shelters and decided to establish a joint plan for protection mainstreaming into disaster emergency response, in particular for the response in temporary collective shelters.



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNHCR reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen the national refugee institution CODER.  
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## Stories from the field

### Softball with values to transform the community

► Katherine is passionate about softball. She transmits joy as she places on a table the gloves, balls and bats that will be used by the women who participate in the softball games organized by the youth committee of her neighbourhood, La Campanera.

"I am glad to see that in each match more neighbours are joining. This is how they get to know each other and create friendships", says Katherine. "Before the game, we have a talk about values and we participate in integration dynamics," explains the young woman.

With the support of UNHCR, a series of youth committees from the municipality of Soyapango, in the central zone of El Salvador, organize themselves to develop integration activities in their neighbourhoods. Neighbourhoods like La Campanera, where Katherine lives, maintain the stigma of having suffered the impact of violence for decades.

Thanks to UNHCR's Youth Fund, the Soyapango youth committees have improved their knowledge of community organization and their ability to manage community initiatives. As a result, the youth committee of La Campanera, where Katherine participates, has launched this softball tournament. Through sport, they promote coexistence, put self-care into practice and foster community integration.

"I like that we have these activities and especially that women use these spaces in the community," said Luz, a neighbour who is enthusiastically applauded and cheered by the others every time she bats in the game due to her skill.

UNHCR in El Salvador always puts communities at the centre through participatory processes that incorporate girls, boys, adolescents, youth, and adults to identify needs, potential responses to risks, and coordination with authorities at various levels to build more inclusive, peaceful and sustainable communities.

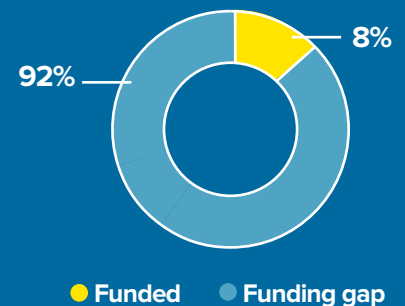
"I am happy because more and more neighbours are participating in the activities. I dream that in the future we will have more spaces to coexist and opportunities to achieve our goals", added Katherine.

Katherine participates in the softball games organized by the youth committee of her neighbourhood, La Campanera.  
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## Funding

► In 2023, UNHCR is appealing for USD 26 million to provide protection, response, empowerment and solutions to refugees, asylum-seekers, and forcibly displaced persons in El Salvador. The best way to support UNHCR's appeal is through unearmarked contributions. Such flexible funding at global level is key in allowing a timely response to the evolving needs wherever required.



### UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the support in 2023 of:



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