





Key Figures

UNHCR staff shares information about rights and services at a community fair.
© UNHCR/ Alejandra Romo


Community-based Protection

-  **345** individuals assisted through UNHCR's helpline in July, and 1,895 in 2023.
-  **325** people assisted at the Support Spaces in July, and 1,483 in 2023.
-  **6,960** people reached by the Mobile Units operating from the regions where the Support Spaces are located in July, and 49,136 in 2023.

Cash Assistance

 **561** households (**1,788** individuals) at heightened risk received cash assistance in July and 1,313 households (3,549 individuals) in 2023. This support helps cover basic needs such as food, rent, documentation, and transportation, as well as to support livelihoods activities for economic integration and education.

Registration

 **269** people registered with biometrics, in July, and 1,268 in 2023.

Funding

 **40%** of UNHCR's financial requirements for El Salvador received by 20 July 2023.

Highlights

- ▶ **UNHCR and the Directorate for Social Cohesion inaugurated the 2023 street soccer tournament (Fútbol Callejero) in Panchimalco.** This joint initiative aims to promote peaceful coexistence and mitigate risks of violence and forced displacement, promoting integration through sports. The tournament will take place in several communities in San Salvador, Santa Ana, Ahuachapán, Sonsonate, La Libertad, La Paz, San Vicente, and San Miguel.
- ▶ **UNHCR donated computer sets to the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU) to support the work of the staff attending the 126 Call Centre.** The 126 helpline operates with UNHCR's support,

and provides legal and psychosocial care to victims of gender-based violence, and displaced women and girls, wherever they are, 24/7.

- ▶ **UNHCR, along UNDP, ILO, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, El Salvador's Cooperation Agency and the Directorate for Social Cohesion launched the "De Una" joint project funded by the Peacebuilding Fund, which gathered young delegates from 10 targeted communities.** The project aims to benefit young people in neighbourhoods historically affected by violence through mental health services, livelihoods opportunities and promotion of rights.



Scan me





Community members from Panchimalco municipality gather to celebrate the inauguration of the street tournament initiative (fútbol callejero).
© UNHCR/ Franklyn Ruiz

Empower

▶ **UNHCR kicked out its 2023 participatory assessments with people in communities to identify and systematize protection risks, needs, capacities and solutions.** Staff from UNHCR, World Vision, COMCAVIS TRANS, FUNDASAL, Ormusa and SOS Children's Villages jointly reviewed the methodology and tool for data collection, and it was piloted with 26 young people from Soyapango. This exercise will include over 100 focus group discussions and will be conducted throughout July and August.

▶ **UNHCR and SOS Children's Villages delivered to the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion books and games designed to sensitize and disseminate information on the prevention of forced displacement.** Youth committees running the CUBOs (community centres) in the country will use the materials with their peers, children and other community groups attending the centres.

▶ **In support to UNFPA's campaign "Reaching zero pregnancies in girls and adolescents", UNHCR and the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion organized a training of trainers' session on the prevention of pregnancy in girls and adolescents.** Thirty-five coordinators and staff of the CUBOs in the country joined the session and will replicate the information in their communities.

▶ **UNHCR participated in a services fair in the community Las Margaritas, Soyapango as part of the territorial activation plan (Plan de Activación Territorial) led by the National Council for Childhood and Adolescence (CONAPINA).** UNHCR-IRC's Support Space Mobile Unit "By your Side" joined government institutions to provide information and guidance to inhabitants of this area historically impacted by violence. Over 800 people received information on the prevention of internal displacement and support services.

Solve

▶ **UNHCR in coordination with World Vision held commencement events of the "Súper Pilas" programme.** The events involved 103 people from the San Miguel, Chalatenango, and San Salvador departments who acquired skills and abilities related to employment and livelihoods.

▶ **UNHCR accompanied the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in the first national call for employment.** Around 2,250 people residing in San Salvador attended this event to learn about employment programmes, including 82 who were eligible for the joint UNHCR-Ministry of Labour "My First Job" programme.

Protect

▶ **UNHCR shared recommendations on the reform of the Special Law for the Inclusion of People with Disabilities with the Commission for Family, Childhood, Adolescence, Older people and People with Disabilities of the Legislative Assembly.** UNHCR highlighted the relevance of introducing regulations that consider the specific needs of people with disabilities who are refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, returnees with protection needs and stateless people, in the spirit of "leave no one behind".



Scan me

▶ **UNHCR, SOS Children's Villages and the Diplomatic Institute Doctor Jose Gustavo Guerrero launched the specialized training on Protection Assistance to Internally Displaced Children and Adolescents.** This three-month training will strengthen the knowledge on protection and forced displacement of 70 government officials from the children and youth protection system.

Respond

▶ **El Salvador's Shelter Sector co-led by UNHCR launched its 4W Dashboard for the humanitarian response in the country, including data disaggregated by women, men, boys, and girls.**



Scan me

Stories from the field

From hardship to empowerment: the importance of seed capital to rebuild lives

▶ As the day of Marco**'s Súper Pilas graduation approached, his daughter beamed with pride. She stood in the audience, cheering for her father, who walked up on stage to receive his well-deserved diploma. He had come a long way, and this graduation symbolized his determination and resilience.

“We heard about UNHCR thanks to the Mobile Unit that came close to where we live” “We’ve had to start over more than once in search for safety, we couldn’t afford to keep on paying rent”, shared Marco* referring to the extorsions his family faced. “We didn’t know there were organizations that could help us, I’m very thankful for all the support received” he said.

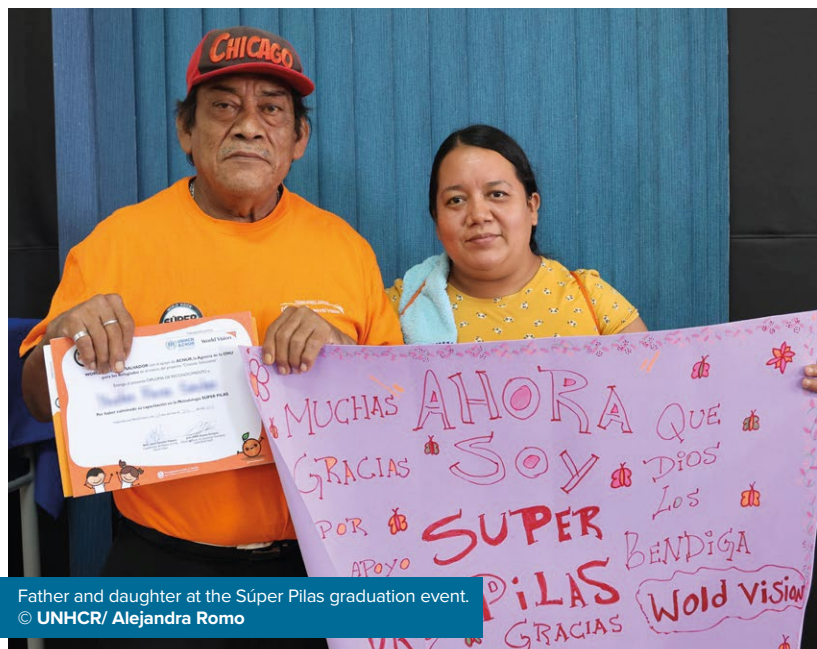
Marco* graduated from UNHCR-World Vision Súper Pilas programme, which helps participants to develop a life plan, build interpersonal skills, and provides them with methodological tools to start a business.

Marco**'s hard work earned him seed capital support for his minuta’s (snowcones) entrepreneurship. With the support of Súper Pilas and the seed capital he received, he innovated and expanded his minutas’ (snowcones) business by offering a variety of new flavors, attracting more customers. Through the programme, he gained valuable knowledge about entrepreneurship, allowing him to create a more sustainable and thriving business.

Excited about the possibilities that Súper Pilas brought to their lives, Marco* encouraged his daughter to join the programme as well. She loves cooking and has a dream of opening her own small food stall, offering tortas, burgers, and hot dogs. She is currently enrolled in the programme and already attended three workshops.

Through the combined efforts of Súper Pilas programme and UNHCR’s holistic assistance, they not only discovered their entrepreneurial spirit but also found hope and inspiration in the face of adversity. Together, are ready to embrace a brighter future full of possibilities.

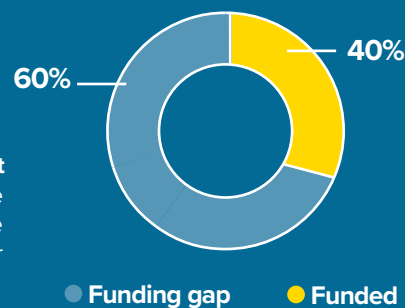
*Named changed for protection reasons.



Father and daughter at the Súper Pilas graduation event. © UNHCR/ Alejandra Romo

Funding

In 2023, UNHCR is appealing for USD 26 million to provide protection, response, empowerment and solutions to refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally 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:



Private donors Australia, Private donors Italy, Private donors Japan, Private donors Republic of Korea, Private donors Spain, Private donors USA

For more information, please contact:

Sonia Aguilar | aguilar@unhcr.org
External Relations Officer

Alejandra Romo | romo@unhcr.org
Associate Reporting Officer

<https://www.acnur.org/pais/el-salvador>
<https://reporting.unhcr.org/elsalvador>

@ACNUREISalvador
 @ACNUREISalvador