

El Salvador | 2022

January 2022

UNHCR works in El Salvador in **coordination** with the government, the private sector, civil society, and communities in support of **people** who have been **forced to leave their homes** due to violence.

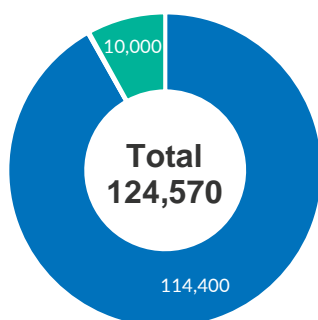
In 2021, UNHCR **strengthened its operation** in the country, in **collaboration** with **communities, local entities**, and **State institutions** in a joint effort to favour **durable solutions**.

Despite the prolonged effects of the pandemic in El Salvador, joint efforts in 2021 have put forward **innovative responses** to benefit **internally displaced persons and those at risk of displacement**.

THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

Target population | 2022

Projections estimated based in previous yearly trends.

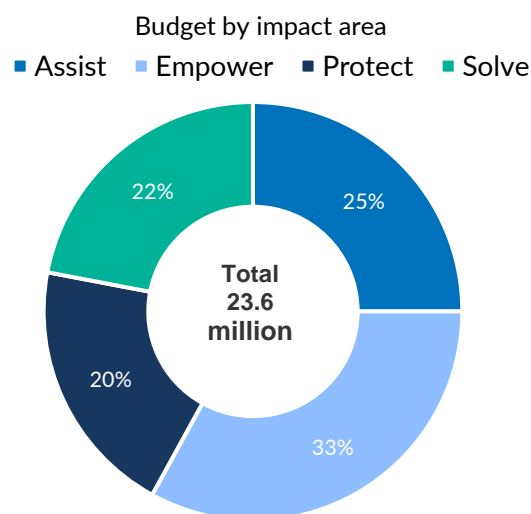


- Internally displaced people (IDPs)
- Asylum-seekers
- Refugees
- Deportees with protection needs

FUNDING

USD 23.6 M

UNHCR financial requirements for El Salvador's operation.



PRIORITIZATION 2022

40 Communities



3

San Salvador

- **San Salvador:** Distrito 5, Colonia Dina, Tinety, Barrio Lourdes, Roma, Iberia, Las Palmas, Dolores
- **Apopa:** Valle Verde, Valle del Sol, Tikales

Soyapango:

- San José, Santa Eduvigis, Los Angeles, Conacastes
- **Ciudad Delgado:** Casco Urbano, San Francisco, Pasaje Colindres, El Progreso, La Milagrosa
- **Mejicanos:** San Roque, Montreal, San Ramón, Zacamil

Context

- Violence have forced tens of thousands to flee internally in El Salvador. The Supreme Court of El Salvador officially recognized internal forced displacement in 2018. **According to the profiling exercise led by the Government, published in 2018, there are 71,500 IDPs. In 2022, UNHCR and the Government are updating the study** to obtain quantitative and qualitative information for evidence-based decision making, and public policies.
- El Salvador joined in 2019 the **Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS in Spanish)** to address forced displacement in Central America and Mexico and held its Pro Tempore Presidency during 2020. In contribution to MIRPS, the Government outlined a **National Response Plan with 49 commitments** in protection, health, education, and livelihoods to assist IDPs, refugees, and asylum-seekers.
- In 2020, the Legislative Assembly approved the "**Special Law for the Comprehensive Care and Protection of People in a situation of Forced Internal Displacement**", a fundamental instrument to provide care, protection, and lasting solutions to people internally displaced or at risk of displacement due to violence. In this framework, UNHCR provides technical guidance and works with municipalities in the development of local referral pathways for IDPs.

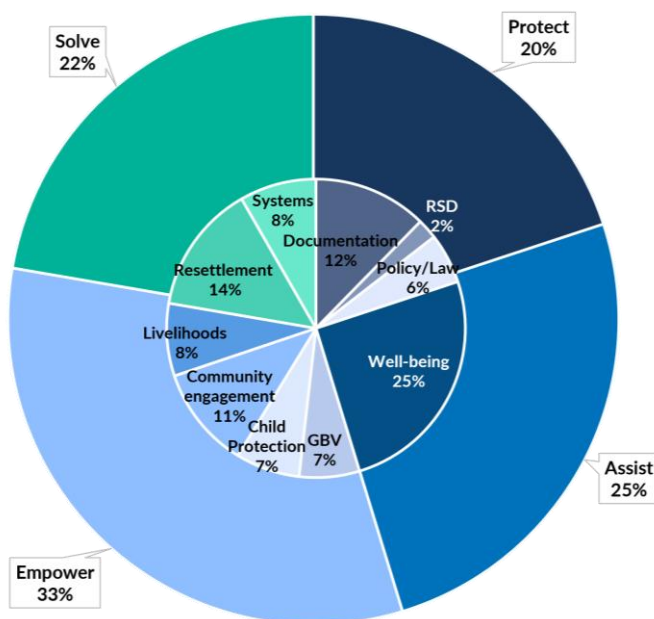
Working with Partners

- In 2022, UNHCR works in **partnership with 9 local and international non-governmental organizations** in El Salvador to ensure operational capacity for its interventions: Comcavis Trans, FUNDASAL, International Rescue Committee, Missionaries of St. Charles Scalabrinians, Norwegian Refugee Council, Plan International, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages and World Vision.
- The **Protection Working Group is led by UNHCR** and coordinates the response of 32 organizations to the needs of people in vulnerable situations due to forced displacement.
- UNHCR contributes to the success of **El Salvador's MIRPS National Plan** that seeks to generate the needed conditions so victims of forced displacement can access efficient and adequate protection and durable solutions.
- UNHCR collaborates with the **private sector** to generate job opportunities and promote the economic benefits of inclusive workplaces. Through alliances with the National Institute for Vocational Education and Training (INSAFORP) and the Ministry of Labor, UNHCR expands access to apprenticeships and job placements.



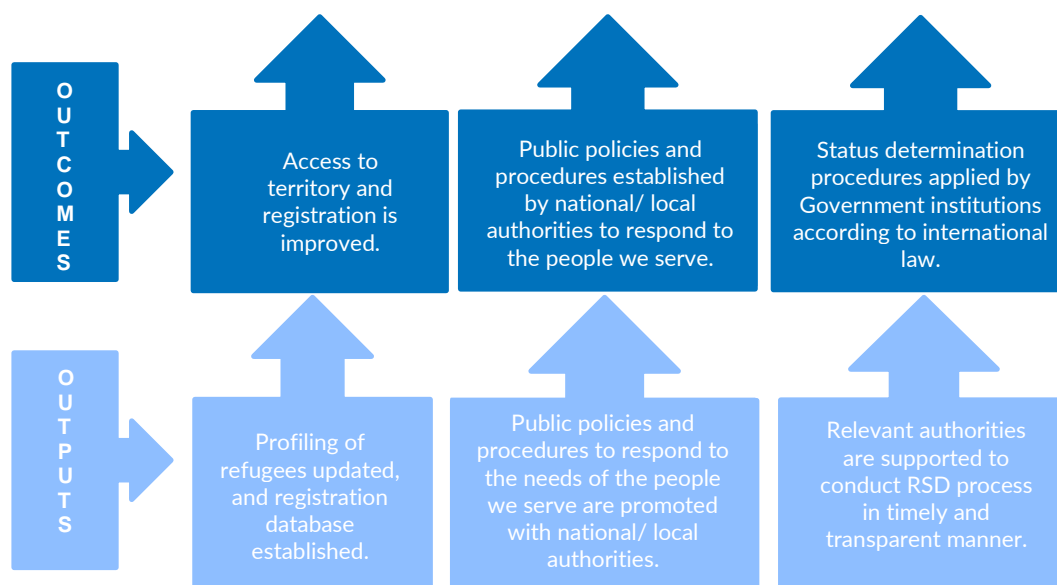
Planning for Impact

| Outcome/Enabling area | Budget (USD) |
|--|-------------------|
| Well-being and basic needs | 5,982,787 |
| Protection policy and law | 1,282,101 |
| Refugee status determination | 517,126 |
| Access to territory, registration, and documentation | 2,907,967 |
| Systems and processes | 1,957,727 |
| Resettlement and complementary pathways | 3,307,260 |
| Self- reliance, economic inclusion, and livelihoods | 1,856,741 |
| Community engagement and women's empowerment | 2,613,870 |
| Child protection | 1,640,031 |
| Gender-based violence | 1,541,411 |
| Total | 23,607,026 |



Protect: Attaining favourable protection environments

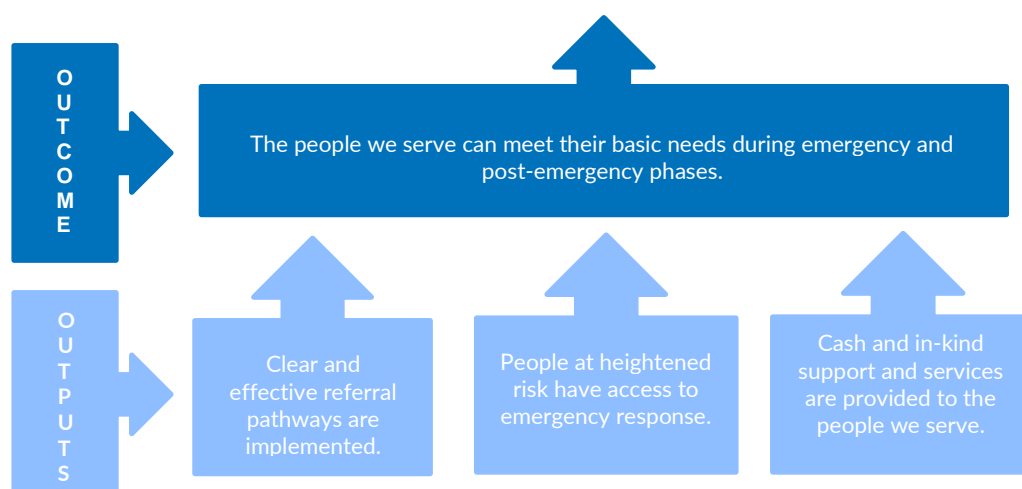
Internally displaced persons, refugees and asylum-seekers receive an effective response to their protection needs, in compliance with international standards.



- **Strengthening the asylum system and the IDP legal and institutional frameworks are a priority.** UNHCR supports advances in regulatory frameworks including the implementation of the IDP law and advocacy for the approval of by-laws.
- UNHCR works with public institutions to strengthen referral pathways for victims of displacement, while supporting the strengthening of registration systems to produce reliable data. UNHCR will further support for the **National Directorate of Attention to Victims and Forced Migration** and its **Local Offices for Attention to Victims** as the governing body responsible for the protection and assistance to IDPs and persons at risk of displacement.

Assist: Realizing rights in safe environments

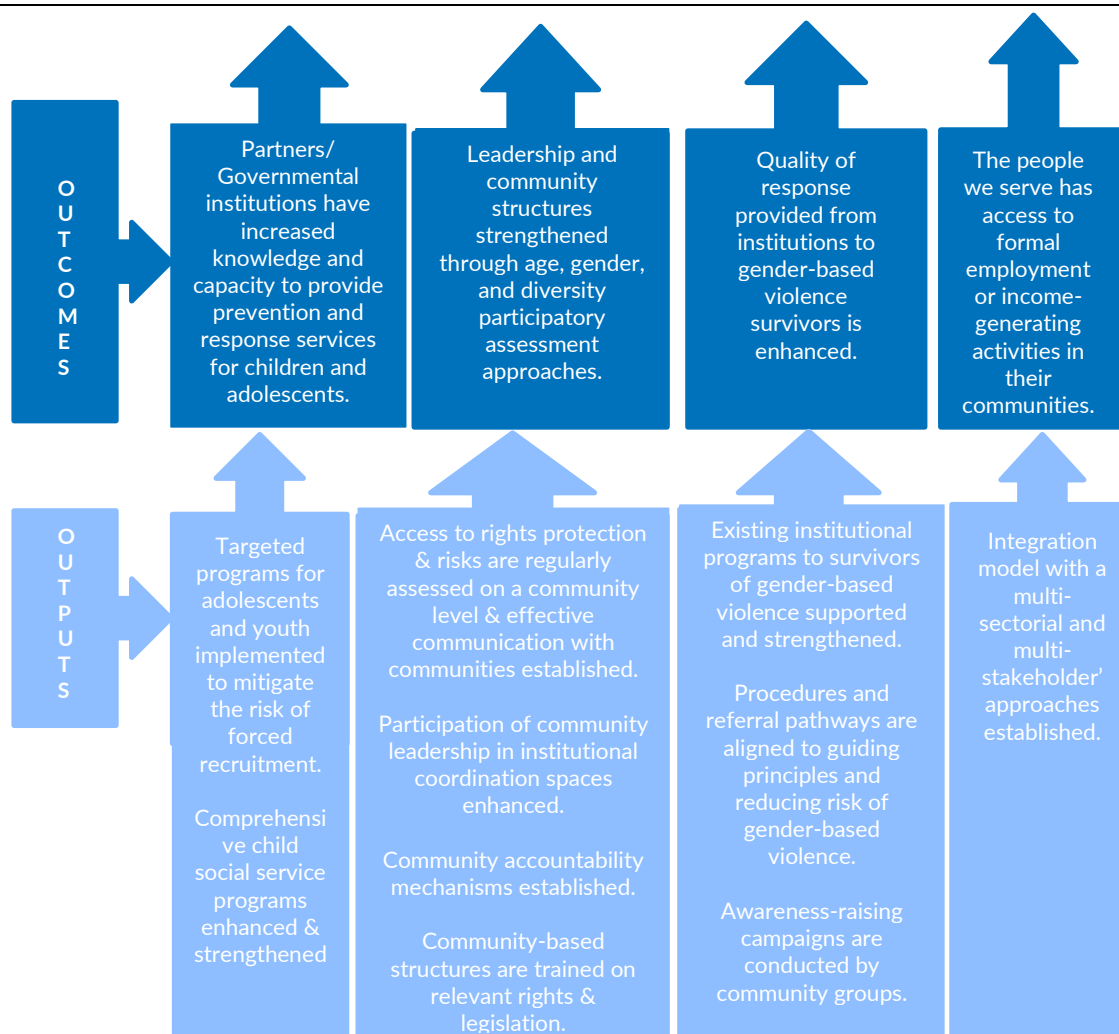
The people we serve have equal access to basic rights and their needs are covered through efficient and effective national services.



- UNHCR supports the **inclusion** of refugees, asylum-seekers, deportees with protection needs and internally displaced people in **national systems**.
- A **robust referral system** is in place to identify internally displaced people and deliver integral assistance according to reported needs, such as: **legal counselling, psychosocial support, mental and physical health services, cash grants, in-kind support, and inclusion in livelihoods programmes**.
- UNHCR **strengthens reception conditions** by supporting the government at the reception centre GAMI both through UNHCR's direct presence as well as providing support to child protection institutions. This support will aid in the identification and timely response to deportees with protection needs, with a focus on child protection.
- UNHCR develops interventions with partners to ensure **access to shelters for individuals in need of protection**. Moreover, through inter-agency coordination the network of shelters and safe spaces throughout the country is reinforced.
- UNHCR works on strengthening the capacities of the Ministry of Health ensuring that the people we serve can access **primary health care services**. Additionally, UNHCR improves the response capacity of the specialized units for **attention to gender-based violence**, and the expansion of **mental health and psychosocial support services**.

Empower: Empowering communities and achieving gender equality

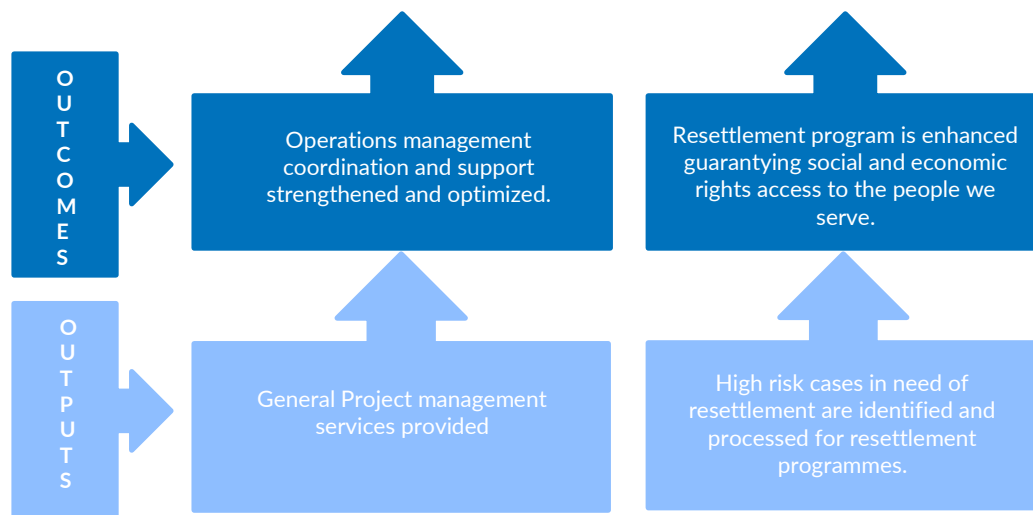
Community participation in the field and communication channels strengthened ensuring that the people we serve have knowledge of their rights and participate in the decision-making of measures that affect them.



- UNHCR engages directly with communities through **consultative processes and volunteer networks**. This informs our approach by the views of affected communities and is sensitive to the needs of all groups in the identification of risks, planning of the response, and delivering of assistance.
- UNHCR **guides key government institutions and partners on gender-based violence prevention**, risk mitigation and response.
- **Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) protocols compliance is promoted**, and accessible complaint mechanisms are available in all areas where UNHCR and its partners have direct contact with beneficiaries.
- UNHCR supports small scale community initiatives that promote **community engagement** and peaceful coexistence.
- UNHCR promotes educational, cultural and sports activities, providing alternatives to create **safe environments for youth** in their communities.
- UNHCR supports alternative **livelihoods initiatives and access to employment**, including training on soft skills and job certification, seed capital and entrepreneurship. Through engagements with the private sector, the National Commission of Micro and Small Businesses (CONAMYPE), and the National Institute for Vocational Education and Training (INSAFORP), UNHCR links people with employment and other income generating opportunities.

Solve: Securing solutions

The people we serve find durable solutions to their displacement in a manner that they contribute as active members to the development of the communities where they live.



- UNHCR provides local **integration support** for refugees and asylum-seekers including job placement, access to vocational training and financial and legal aid for attaining permanent residence and naturalization. Furthermore, deportees with protection needs who wish to remain in El Salvador are provided with reintegration support via access to a range of livelihoods programs.
- UNHCR identifies and refers individuals and households at high risk in need of **resettlement**.

Performance Target Indicators for 2022



2,450 Households assisted with multi-purpose grants for basic needs through direct implementation.



41 Community groups supported actively participated in diagnoses for the development of community plans for prevention and response to displacement.



702 Internally displaced people provided with temporary collective shelter solutions.



440 Individuals supported with access to technical or vocational skills certification.



365 Individuals received legal and psychosocial assistance.

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

Belgium | Denmark | European Union | Germany | Ireland | Netherlands | Norway | Republic of Korea | Sweden | Switzerland | United States of America | Peacebuilding Fund | Private Donors

CONTACTS

Sonia Aguilar, External Relations Officer
aguilar@unhcr.org

Alejandra Romo, Reporting Officer
romo@unhcr.org

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