



Global Report 2024 - Situation overview

Amelia, internally displaced in El Salvador, graduated in civil engineering but faced stigma and struggled to find a job. After participating in UNHCR's «My First Job» programme, Amelia got her first professional experience at one of Central America's largest Salvadoran-owned metallurgical companies, and at the end of the programme Amelia was hired. © UNHCR/Markel Redondo

El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras situation

UNHCR country operations: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama Multi-Country Office.

2024 year-end population* figures

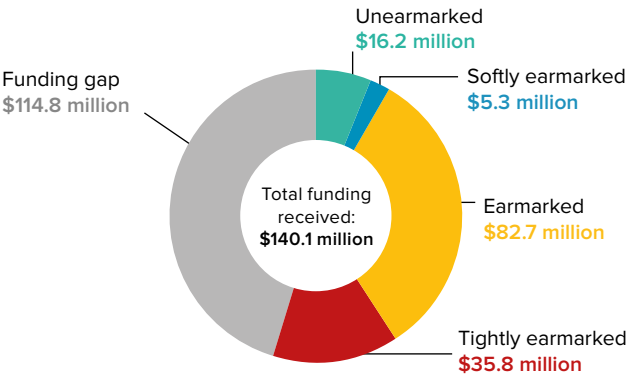


*Salvadorians, Guatemalans, and Hondurans in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and the countries covered by Panama Multi-Country Office.

2024 financial overview

Funding received (USD)

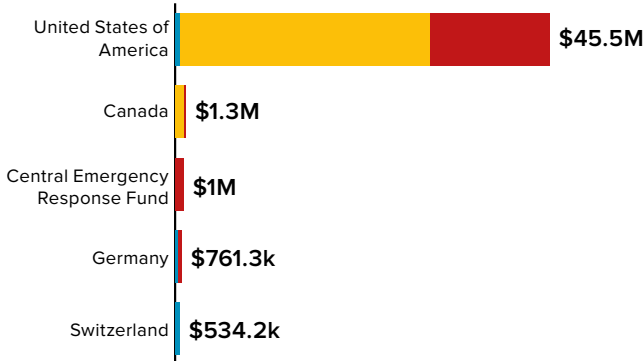
In 2024, UNHCR required a total of **\$254.9 million** to address the emergency situation in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras and received only **55%** of the needed amount.



The percentage funded (55%) and total funding amount (\$140,076,686) are indicative. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$114,795,094 representing 45% of the financial requirements.

Top 5 Contributions (USD)

Unearmarked Softly earmarked Earmarked Tightly earmarked



Insecurity and violence, including violence against women and girls, rising poverty, food insecurity, and the impact of extreme weather-related disasters is a driver of forced displacement in North of Central America.

UNHCR worked with UN agencies, NGOs, government institutions and over 100 partners, including local organizations and networks, to provide life-saving humanitarian support within the frameworks of the Humanitarian Response Plans (HRP) in [El Salvador](#), [Guatemala](#), and [Honduras](#). UNHCR provided training on refugee law and referral pathways among frontline staff, including police, migration, and health care workers, to ensure people in need of protection could be identified and could access asylum procedures. UNHCR also supported the identification and referral of cases.

Through mobile units like the PDH Mobile (Ombudsperson's Office) and five Centres for Assistance to Migrants and Refugees (CAPMIR) across the country, UNHCR and partners provided information on how to seek safety in **Guatemala** under the asylum system, protection services, housing, primary health care, mental health and psychosocial support, legal assistance and essential resources, and internet connectivity to a total of 28,581 people.

In Guatemala, UNHCR helped 611 asylum-seekers, refugees, and at-risk Guatemalans to build sustainable livelihoods: 291 secured employment opportunities, 286 established sustainable businesses, and 34 improved their soft skills. UNHCR also supported peacebuilding initiatives to create lasting and resilient solutions for asylum-seekers, refugees and the communities hosting them. These efforts focused on promoting social and economic integration, empowering these populations by enabling them to live independently, access essential services and economic opportunities, and actively participate in community life. One example is Ms. Antonia, who fled her country due to insecurity and lack of services.

Seeking asylum in Guatemala, she received support from UNHCR and its partner World Vision to start her snack business "D'Anto." Through determination, she achieved independence, managed her business, and accessed financial services, sharing that perseverance leads to success.

People in **Honduras** continued to face extortion, gang violence, violence against women and girls, forced recruitment of children, land disputes and extreme weather events, triggering internal forced displacement. 247,000 people were internally displaced by the end of 2024. The number of irregular entries decreased by 32% compared to 2023, with 369,000 people in mixed movements transiting through Honduras. This decline can be attributed to a sustained reduction in irregular entries following the July 2024 Panama-U.S. agreement on the Darién. Around 6,000 Honduran nationals with protection needs were deported to the country, and many left again. UNHCR and its partners provided essential humanitarian aid to those most in need, and technical support to Government institutions to enhance their ability to prevent and respond to forced displacement. For example, UNHCR and partners supported over 2,000 internally displaced people and people at risk of displacement with financial assistance and provided emergency relocation and shelter assistance to 893 individuals. Overall, UNHCR provided specialized direct services, including psychological counselling, to support 2,400 women and girls who were survivors of violence. In addition, more than 6,000 people received medical consultations and 9,500 people received mental health support. UNHCR also enhanced and strengthened reception conditions at 15 shelters in key locations hosting 2,500 people monthly, with over 8,800 women receiving hygiene items.

In **El Salvador**, improvements in security and a notable decrease in gang violence presented opportunities to strengthen engagement with communities, and for UNHCR to work on medium and long-term solutions. To promote peaceful

coexistence and participation, UNHCR and UN-Habitat began the improvement of playgrounds, sports fields, parks, and alleys in four communities historically affected by gang violence and forced displacement: UNHCR and partners worked with institutions and over 200 companies to link displaced youth with jobs and to boost access to vocational training and other opportunities. The successful work with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare resulted in 363 people with soft and employment skills and 139 people with a decent job under the “My First Job” initiative. In 2024, 216 people completed vocational training and education, 173 people received seed capital for their small businesses, and 891 underwent training in employment and self-employment skills. The National Institute for Training and Vocational Education (INCAF) and UNHCR designed a new labour integration programme that will benefit 60 people in 2025 with training in high-demand economic fields to expand their livelihood opportunities.

During 2024, El Salvador recorded 100,000 people mostly from Ecuador, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, India, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, among others, who entered the country but did not record an exit, which might indicate that they left through unofficial crossing points. Also, 286 people, primarily from Ecuador, Nicaragua, Honduras, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, lodged asylum claims, a 30% increase compared to 2023. The Refugee Status Determination Commission (CODER) inaugurated new premises thanks to UNHCR’s support, to ensure people can access asylum and the system is prepared for increasing arrivals.

Across the region, UNHCR continued to ensure a protection-centered response and to coordinate efforts among national and local governments, international organizations, civil society, community organizations, and displaced populations. UNHCR led the Protection sectors in all three countries, co-led Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCCM) in Guatemala, and

co-led CCCC and Shelter Sectors in El Salvador. UNHCR supported the efforts of Protection Clusters and Sectors in improving the analysis of protection risks and increasing visibility of the needs of forcibly displaced people in the region with data and analysis to support evidence-based decision making.

UNHCR, together with the Organization of American States, served as Technical Secretariat for the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), whose member States, in December 2024, reaffirmed their commitments to [strengthen coordinated regional responses](#) to displacement.

Despite the significant efforts and progress made by UNHCR and its partners in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, critical funding gaps persisted, severely impacting the ability to provide comprehensive support to displaced communities. These gaps hindered the expansion of essential services such as protection, shelter, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities. Without adequate funding, the capacity to respond to emergencies and sustain long-term solutions was compromised, leaving thousands of displaced people and those at risk of displacement without the necessary assistance to rebuild their lives, exposing them to violence, exploitation, and poverty, and a heightened risk of further displacement.

UNHCR is increasingly engaging with line Ministries, the private sector, international financial institutions, and other development actors to **promote integration while addressing the root causes** of forced displacement. In this context, UNHCR enhanced strategic partnerships with organizations such as the Central American Development Bank (CABEL), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the World Bank. For example, in El Salvador, UNHCR worked closely with the World Bank and the IDB to ensure that the government includes forcibly displaced people in the protection and solutions programmes it is currently designing.