

# Annual Results Report

**2025**

**El Salvador**

## Acknowledgements

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### **Note:**

The baseline values presented in this document reflect previous year's progress when available. If such data is not available, strategy baseline values are used instead.

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# Section 1: Context and Overview

## 1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

Steady declines in homicide rates, from 18.1 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2021 to 1.3 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2025, along with reductions in other crimes, have improved the security context. According to official figures, crime decreased by 51.50% between 2024 and 2025. This context offers opportunities to advance solutions to internal displacement, support reintegration of returnees with protection needs, and promote solutions for refugees and asylum seekers.

The official figure for internally displaced persons (IDPs), according to 2018 data, stands at 71,500 people; and trends indicate a decrease in new displacements in recent years. However, groups such as previously displaced persons, women and girls who have experienced violence, and returnees continue to require enhanced protection responses. Communities historically affected by gang control require differentiated approaches to ensure safe access to rights, services, and protection mechanisms, including access to asylum where relevant.

The number of returnees increased by 7.1 per cent, totaling 16,051 people by end 2025. Some returnees arrived with specific protection needs and faced obstacles to reintegrate, including stigma and discrimination, limited access to livelihoods and formal employment, and barriers to housing, education, and basic services. Moreover, by the end of 2025, according to official data, there were 523 refugees and asylum-seekers in El Salvador, primarily from Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

In this context, UNHCR strengthened its engagement with State institutions to reinforce protection frameworks. Efforts focused on advancing comprehensive responses for IDPs and returnees with specific needs, while also supporting fair, efficient, and accessible asylum procedures through technical assistance and capacity-building of national authorities. UNHCR continued working with communities, civil society, academia, cooperation partners, and the United Nations to advance solutions and promote social cohesion to prevent future displacement.

## 1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

### 1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

**Forcibly displaced people fully enjoy their rights and obtain protection.**

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
<b>1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
<b>1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%

Measures introduced during previous years to safeguard access to territory and to the asylum procedure, such as ensuring coordination between legal representatives and authorities working at border points were further strengthened and became more consistently applied at field level. As a result, asylum-seekers were able to approach authorities and seek protection in a more predictable and stable environment. The extension of the validity of the documentation issued to asylum-seekers from one to six months significantly contributed to reducing uncertainty and ultimately facilitated access to basic services and livelihood opportunities, while supporting early integration prospects.

The adoption of the Human Mobility Law introduced explicit recognition of the right to seek asylum, in line with constitutional and existing specialized provisions and marked an important step in acknowledgement of people seeking international protection within the national human mobility framework.

Institutional coordination was further consolidated among relevant authorities, civil society organizations and UNHCR, contributing to a more predictable and comprehensive response. Enhancements to the asylum case management system, informed by UNHCR’s assessment, contributed to progress toward a more efficient and fair refugee status determination procedure.

As a result of UNHCR-supported training sessions on international protection standards to relevant institutions, forcibly displaced and stateless people encountered authorities and service providers ultimately better equipped and knowledgeable to respond in a sensitive, timely and coordinated manner.

### 2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

**Forcibly displaced people meet their basic needs.**

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
<b>2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	96.36%	96.36%

Forcibly displaced people accessed protection services and humanitarian assistance in safe environments, particularly outside the capital. The expansion of decentralized spaces and mobile outreach activities increased the availability of case management and counselling in underserved geographical areas, ultimately contributing to more timely identification of protection risks and referral pathways to national programmes.

The dignity and well-being of forcibly displaced people remained central to the coordinated response led by the Humanitarian Country Team. Those affected by disasters and prolonged displacement received timely

humanitarian support through collaboration between UNHCR and public institutions.

Perceptions of safety continued to improve. According to findings resulted from the national public opinion survey from the Institute of Public Opinion (IUDOP), some 81.7 per cent of respondents reported that crime had decreased during the year. Trust in key justice institutions remained moderate, with the Attorney General's Office (PGR) registering 56.9, and the Ombudsperson's Office (PDDH) 50.9 points, indicating mid-range levels of public confidence within the national justice and accountability system.

78 per cent of respondents of UNHCR's participatory assessments felt at least somewhat safe in their communities. However, 54 per cent expressed an intention to flee the country, underscoring the continued influence of socioeconomic and protection-related challenges despite improved security perceptions.

Partnerships with the Directorate for Attention to Victims (DAV), the Attorney General's Office, and the Directorate for Civil Protection facilitated the integration of forcibly displaced people into national protection programmes. Strengthened coordination and institutional capacities contributed to enhance the inclusion of forcibly displaced people within existing national protection systems.

### 3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

**Forcibly displaced people are empowered, informed and are meaningful actors of their own protection and solutions.**

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
<b>3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	32.38%	38.94%
<b>3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education</b>		
IDPs	100.00%	100.00%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	83.33%	83.33%

Forcibly displaced people and host community members strengthened their role as informed and active participants in protection and community-based solutions. Around 4,856 individuals, including forcibly displaced people or those at risk of displacement, refugees, asylum-seekers, and returnees with protection needs and host community members, benefited increased their awareness of available services, had greater access to referral pathways, and engaged in peaceful coexistence activities.

Activities in public spaces, including rehabilitated community centres and facilities supported in coordination with the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion, the Salvadoran Institute for Women Development (ISDEMU), municipalities, and schools, promoted participation and more inclusive environments where communities could collectively address protection concerns.

Residents from 11 communities and four community groups across seven municipalities in three departments engaged in activities that strengthened participation, integration and community-led solutions. Participants improved knowledge of referral pathways for children, adolescents and survivors of violence against women and girls, supporting better identification of protection risks and community-based responses.

Access to reliable information through UNHCR's communication and feedback channels supported decision-making. More than 4,500 individuals shared comments, questions and suggestions through the "A Tu Lado en Línea" ChatBot and other feedback mechanisms, ensuring community perspectives informed programme adjustments and priorities. Although financial constraints reduced outreach volunteers from 90 to 22, UNHCR's outreach network remained a key link with communities, sustaining two-way communication and access to information.

These developments strengthened communities' ability to identify priorities, make informed decisions and

take collective action, advancing community-driven protection and solutions.

## 4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

**Forcibly displaced people find solutions to their situation and become self-reliant, while also contributing to the development and resilience of their communities.**

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
<b>4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement</b>		
Others of Concern	1,033	138

In 2025, forcibly displaced people in El Salvador advanced their access to durable solutions and livelihood opportunities, strengthening their socioeconomic self-reliance. Through access to employability, skills development and entrepreneurship programmes, 302 individuals enhanced their livelihoods opportunities, while 23 refugees progressed towards naturalization, marking a substantial step toward stability and inclusion.

Strategic agreements with the National Institute of Training (INCAF) and the Ministry of Economy (MINEC) expanded access to national programmes, enabling forcibly displaced people to participate in existing skills development and employment national initiatives. This integration initiative into national structures strengthened their capability to sustain livelihoods and contribute to the economic resilience of their communities.

Through advocacy and data-driven efforts, UNHCR used socioeconomic profiling and the Self-Reliance Index to provide relevant actors with evidence on the socioeconomic situation of refugees and asylum-seekers in the country, identify systemic bottlenecks, and promote stronger institutional collaboration. Such approach enabled national institutes and civil society actors to better identify solution gaps and design more responsive interventions, reducing barriers limiting socioeconomic integration of forcibly displaced people.

These results were enabled by UNHCR's shift towards a more partnership-driven approach that strengthened institutional coordination and system linkages. Greater institutional awareness of the rights of displaced populations and expanded access to available services contributed to more sustainable pathways to self-reliance for both displaced and host communities.

### 1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

A significant reduction in funding posed a major challenge to achieving the operation's initial 2025 targets. Funding shortfalls disrupted programme implementation, forced the scaling down and earlier closure of some field interventions, and limited sustainability of results. Reduced financial predictability constrained forward planning and slowed progress across priority areas.

The funding gap also led to a substantial reduction in operational capacity. Staff downsizing and adjustments in partnerships affected technical expertise, institutional memory and outreach coverage. With fewer personnel, field presence decreased, implementation timelines were delayed, and engagement in multi-stakeholder coordination processes became more limited. These constraints reduced territorial reach and placed additional pressure on partners as well as on quality-assurance processes.

UNHCR reprioritized activities to focus on the most critical protection needs and consolidated a smaller and strategically aligned portfolio of core programmes. This approach aimed to strengthen coherence, ensure

continued adherence to protection mandates, and reinforce UNHCR's catalytic role within the broader humanitarian and development response.

Increased collaboration with other UN agencies, including United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), generated complementary synergies, avoided duplication and maximized limited resources through complementary expertise.

Strengthened referral pathways and partnerships with national institutions, civil society, development actors and private sector enabled continued assistance to the most urgent cases.

In response to these challenges, UNHCR continues to emphasize efficiency, scalability and measurable impact. By prioritizing partnerships grounded on shared protection objectives and comparative advantage, collaboration became more targeted and results-driven, supporting a more resilient and sustainable operational model.

## 1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

UNHCR collaborated with a wide range of state institutions, many of which are members of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) National Technical Team, a key mechanism for implementing the Global Compact for Refugees at regional and national levels. To strengthen the asylum system, UNHCR worked closely with the Commission for Refugee Status Determination (CODER), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Public Security and Justice (MPSJ), alongside the Attorney General's Office (PGR) and the National Civil Registry (RNPN).

UNHCR also partnered with the General Directorate for Migration and Foreigners (DGME), the Directorate for the Attention to Victims (DAV), the National Commission for Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents (CONAPINA) and the Institute for Women's Development (ISDEMU) on responses to returnees with protection needs.

The Ombudsperson's Office (PDDH), the Ministries of Labor and Economy, and the National Institute for Training and Education (INCAF) remained key partners in 2025, contributing to protection and solutions efforts.

To enhance access to rights for communities historically affected by violence, UNHCR partnered with the MPSJ, the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion, the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), and municipalities. This work was reinforced through collaboration with the UN Country Team, culminating in a UN Common Pledge 2.0 submitted at the 2025 GRF Progress Review in support of Government-led peacebuilding efforts.

UNHCR coordinated with the General Directorate for Civil Protection, co-leading the Emergency Shelter Sector. It also led the Protection Sector, facilitating coordination among members, and co-led the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Sector with the Directorate of Shelter and IOM.

Collaboration with academia enabled forcibly displaced people from prioritized communities to strengthen skills as community communicators.

## Section 2: Results

### 2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

#### 1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

Reception conditions are improved

##### Core Output Indicators

Indicator		Actual (2025)
Population Type		
<b>01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		112
<b>01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		177

#### 2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

Asylum-seekers have access to a fair and efficient refugee status determination procedure and have their asylum claims determined in a fair and timely manner.

##### Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	398.00	30.00	498.00
<b>2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

##### Core Output Indicators

Indicator		Actual (2025)
Population Type		
<b>02.1.1 UNHCR has provided capacity development support to strengthen the national status determination system(s), in accordance with international standards</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		Yes

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Asylum-seekers in El Salvador continued to access the refugee status determination procedure amid evolving regional mobility dynamics. A total of 177 individuals applied for asylum, a decrease from 286 in 2024, reflecting regional migration policy shifts. Applicant profiles also shifted, with increases among nationals from Mexico, Guatemala and Cuba, as well as individuals returning from the north of the continent who could not return to their countries and sought protection in El Salvador as an alternative.

Women represented 42 per cent of applicants, and 57 per cent of claims were filed by families, underscoring the need for procedures responsive to specific needs and profiles.

The national asylum system improved efficiency. Following the 2024 system assessment and consultancy for the design of the registration system, the Commission for Refugee Status Determination (CODER) began implementing recommendations to strengthen fairness and effectiveness. All applicants in 2025 were registered and received legal assistance from PGR, reinforcing due process guarantees.

CODER reduced the admissibility backlog from 62 per cent of pending cases in 2024 to 36 per cent in 2025. During 2025, the Sub-Commission conducted eligibility interviews and issued initial decisions on 139 claims, enabling asylum-seekers to obtain documentation and exercise their rights.

Capacity-building reached 460 representatives from government institutions, civil society and academia, exceeding targets despite financial constraints. Training initiatives, including the second edition of the specialized course on international protection delivered with the Diplomatic Institute and engagement with PGR lawyers, supported more consistent application of national and international standards.

Collaboration with the National Civil Registry (RNPN) and PGR advanced statelessness prevention, enabling at-risk Salvadoran nationals to obtain identity documentation and access legal safeguards.

## 3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

**Rights of forcibly displaced people are recognized and guaranteed in the national legal framework and public policies.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol</b>			
None	Broadly aligned	Broadly aligned	Broadly aligned
<b>3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness</b>			
None	Broadly aligned	Broadly aligned	Broadly aligned

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
<b>03.1.1 UNHCR has engaged in legislative and judicial processes to strengthen laws and policies for the protection of refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless people and/or the reduction and prevention of statelessness</b>	
IDPs	Yes
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The adoption of the new Human Mobility Law in September marked a significant development, recognizing the right of foreign nationals to seek international protection and including safeguards for returnees with protection needs. UNHCR provided technical inputs to strengthen identification and referral of returnees and persons requiring international protection, supporting alignment with constitutional and specialized frameworks.

UNHCR's technical review and comments on the draft Law on Judicial Facilitators to integrate forced displacement and asylum considerations into community-based justice mechanisms. UNHCR will continue working with authorities to support implementation. Two years after the adoption of the asylum reception protocol, a joint review with CODER identified legislative and policy gaps requiring further normative or regulatory adjustments, helping define advocacy priorities.

Engagement with key institutions including PGR, the Salvadoran Institute for Women Development (ISDEMU), PDDH and DAV helped to sustain specialized attention for internally displaced persons, asylum-seekers, returnees with protection needs and people at risk of displacement. Despite reduced project support, prioritization of direct protection services mitigated the impact on access to rights.

Regional human mobility dynamics, and shifts of migration policies, highlighted the continued relevance of maintaining protection-sensitive responses at the Returnee Reception Centre (GAMI), particularly as return profiles included individuals expressing protection needs or fear of returning to their communities. Systematic screening and referral mechanisms within reception processes remained essential.

Overall, 2025 observed incremental and meaningful advances in embedding international protection considerations within legislation, policy discussions and institutional practices, while highlighting the need for continued normative development and sustained institutional engagement.

## 4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

**Gender-based violence survivors have adequate and timely access to specialized services, and communities are actively engaged in prevention and risk mitigation activities.**

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator		Actual (2025)
Population Type		
<b>04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes</b>		
IDPs		391
Others of Concern		1,685
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		5

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

National and local institutions, as well as community structures, demonstrated strengthened and more coordinated capacities to prevent, identify and respond to gender-based violence, resulting in timely and survivor centred support for women and girls at risk.

UNHCR and its partners supported institutional response mechanisms, enabling over 1,900 survivors to access safe information and specialized services, reflecting greater institutional readiness and protection sensitive practices. ISDEMU reinforced its operational capacity, particularly for remote support through the 24/7 “126 Attention Centre,” which provided emergency, psychosocial and legal assistance to 725 women. Strengthened its presence at the GAMI returnee reception centre and enabled 168 returnee women to be identified and referred to national protection systems.

UNHCR partnerships with women-led and LGBTIQ+ organizations contributed to a more decentralized and community-based protection networks to address violence against women and girls. Through these actors, 665 survivors accessed psychosocial and legal services. Expanded referral pathways and remote modalities increased outreach in areas with limited services, improving survivors’ access to national mechanisms and supporting safe reintegration.

Capacity building for 234 government officials enhanced institutional knowledge of survivor centred approaches and LGBTIQ+ rights, contributing to improved protection sensitive service delivery.

According to UNHCR partners 2025 feedback survey, all beneficiaries of specialized services reported satisfaction of the assistance received.

The National Service of Judicial Facilitators of the Supreme Cour of Justice strengthened the knowledge of 70 volunteers in referral pathways and the promotion of rights and available services, with emphasis in the identification of women survivors of violence as result of UNHCR’s capacity building.

## 5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

**Forcibly displaced children are included in national child protection systems and have access to child friendly procedures and services, including best interest procedures.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure</b>			
IDPs	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
<b>05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services</b>	
IDPs	74
Others of Concern	580
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR prioritized mental health and psychosocial support for children and families in four communities experiencing the protracted effects of violence and displacement—La Campanera, Las Margaritas, Tutunichapa 1, and Tutunichapa 2. In partnership with the National Council for the Protection of Children and Adolescents (CONAPINA), UNHCR supported psychological assistance for 500 children, assisting them in processing trauma, strengthening social and emotional skills, and reintegrating safely into community life. Families also received counselling, enhancing their capacity to provide stable and nurturing

environments for their children.

UNHCR and partners provided psychological and legal assistance to 127 children and facilitated referrals to education and health services, contributing to support pathways within the national protection system.

UNHCR and partners trained 89 officials from the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) and NGOs to strengthen identification and referral pathways, which ultimately enhanced coordination in child protection responses. In parallel, 103 community leaders enhanced their understanding of child protection rights and available referral pathways, supporting earlier identification of children at risk.

Through sustained efforts to reinforce national child protection systems, these initiatives contributed to meaningful improvements in children's wellbeing at a community level. Children who received support showed progress in their mental health and successfully reintegrated into their communities. The mentioned interventions strengthened community resilience, fostered safer environments, and enabled families to continue supporting children's recovery and long-term stability.

## 7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

**Strengthened community structures promote inclusion and effective participation for the enjoyment of their rights.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms</b>			
IDPs	26.30%	71.00%	26.30%
Others of Concern	29.55%	71.00%	29.55%
<b>7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures</b>			
IDPs	67.27%	60.00%	100.00%
Others of Concern	64.18%	65.00%	75.97%

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
<b>07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments</b>	
IDPs	0
Others of Concern	256
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0
<b>07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback &amp; response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback</b>	
IDPs	3,247
Others of Concern	1,859
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	24
<b>07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services</b>	
IDPs	3,639
Others of Concern	39,890
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	675

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Around 4,856 people, including women, men, elderly people, youth, LGBTIQ+ and other highly vulnerable groups, actively engaged in community-based protection and solution seeking initiatives. Strengthened knowledge and skills enhanced community engagement, coordination, and advocacy with government institutions, private sector, and civil society organizations, ultimately reinforcing community capacities to prevent, mitigate, and respond to risks of forced displacement. As a result, communities increasingly contributed to collective wellbeing and support the reintegration of returnees within an improved security environment.

Through participatory assessments, 237 participants identified protection risks and developed community workplans based on locally prioritized solutions. This process reinforced community-led approaches and strengthened the capacity of community leaders to identify risks and guide responses. Communities, in coordination with UNHCR and partners, highlighted protection concerns to local authorities, facilitating coordinated interventions in affected areas such as La Campanera.

A UNHCR-supported community centre served 1,115 people and functioned as a key space for community participation, learning, and peaceful coexistence. In coordination with national and local stakeholders, including the Directorate for the Reconstruction of Social Cohesion, community engagement activities, such as street soccer and sports with values initiatives that provided safe environments for youth participation and strengthened social cohesion.

## 8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

**Forcibly displaced people access efficient and effective national protection services and humanitarian responses.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items</b>			
IDPs	4.41%	6.00%	2.28%
Others of Concern	4.82%	6.00%	4.36%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	43.67%	100.00%	23.71%

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
<b>08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance</b>	
IDPs	824
Others of Concern	776
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	124
<b>08.2.1 Number of people who received non-food items</b>	
IDPs	808
Others of Concern	1,011
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR and partners strengthened early identification of vulnerabilities and provided immediate assistance in communities where the long-term impacts of displacement and socioeconomic fragility persist. Such advances were supported by a gradually improved security environment and by consolidated local support mechanisms, enabling more timely and targeted interventions.

During the year, 1,603 individuals received individualized case management support, which allowed more systematic support and clear referral pathways. Through UNHCR's "By Your Side" initiative, implemented with the Directorate for Attention of Victims (DAV) and aligned with El Salvador's MIRPS commitments and Protection Strategy, people accessed specialized protection services, including counselling and legal assistance, mental health and psychosocial support, shelter and humanitarian assistance, to stabilize basic conditions and reduce protection risks. Within this framework, 315 internally displaced people, returnees with protection needs, and asylum-seekers and refugees accessed safe shelter services, food, healthcare, legal assistance and psychosocial support that safeguarded their dignity and contributed to their stabilization.

Roving teams and mobile units delivered information on available services to 27,196 people nationwide, reaching remote locations and reducing geographic and access barriers. Direct cash support to cover basic needs reached 1,724 people forced to flee, while 4,555 core relief items addressed urgent needs and supported stabilization.

Coordinated work with public institutions, implementing partners and community organizations strengthened referral pathways and enhanced the coherence in service provision. Multisectoral coordination boosted the alignment of responses with national protection frameworks and strategic priorities.

## 13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

### Forcibly displaced people have access to livelihoods and economic inclusion opportunities

#### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider</b>			
IDPs	63.38%	71.00%	63.38%
Others of Concern	61.52%	71.00%	61.52%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	27.37%	71.00%	27.37%

#### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
<b>13.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions</b>	
IDPs	127
Others of Concern	171
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR advanced livelihoods and economic inclusion for forcibly displaced people by providing targeted support and actively coordinating with partners, enabling 302 individuals to access livelihoods assistance across employment, skills development and entrepreneurship initiatives.

Targeted programmes strengthened employability among youth and community members in areas affected by violence. Seventeen participants from La Campanera completed a certified Community Manager course, enhancing digital, leadership and soft skills relevant to formal employment. Under the My First Job programme, implemented with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MTPS), 78 young people strengthened their soft skills and improved their preparedness to enter the labour market.

Through the Súper Pilas programme, 192 participants (379 in 2024) received training in soft and entrepreneurial skills, strengthening self-reliance. Participants developed life and business plans, and 46 presented proposals to evaluation panels organized by UNHCR and World Vision. Additionally, 36 entrepreneurs trained during 2024 received seed capital in 2025 to start or expand small businesses.

UNHCR conducted socioeconomic characterization sessions engaging 57 refugees and asylum-seekers. Using the Self-Reliance Index, sessions generated evidence to inform an employability roadmap. In coordination with MTPS, participants holding provisional carnet and work permits registered on the national job placement platform, Oportunidades.

A Memorandum of Understanding between UNHCR and INCAF promoted access to skills certification and technical and vocational training for forcibly displaced people.

Through partnership with the Ministry of Economy’s ALDEA Project, UNHCR referred 128 displaced and at-risk individuals, including two naturalized refugees, to state-led employability and entrepreneurship programmes, broadening livelihood opportunities

## 15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

**People at heightened risk are identified, referred, submitted, and processed for solutions in another country through strengthened and efficient mechanisms.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement</b>			
Others of Concern	2,797	322	52

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, opportunities for resettlement and complementary pathways were significantly affected by external policy shifts. A total of 52 individuals were submitted for resettlement consideration, and 138 persons departed to resettlement countries, representing a substantial decrease compared to 2024.

Departures during 2025 demonstrated the continued functionality of coordination mechanisms and sustained prioritization of individuals facing acute protection risks. The profile of persons considered for solutions continued to reflect heightened vulnerabilities, including survivors of violence and individuals exposed to serious protection threats.

The outlook for 2026 will depend largely on the diversification of resettlement partnerships and the potential reactivation or expansion of quotas by traditional receiving States. Strengthening complementary pathways and maintaining readiness mechanisms at country level will be critical to ensure that, when opportunities arise, persons at heightened risk can be processed efficiently and in line with existing protection standard

## 16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

**Forcibly displaced people access programmes advancing solutions to displacement.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land</b>			
IDPs	28.69%	50.00%	28.69%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	25.96%	50.00%	25.96%

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator	Actual (2025)
	<b>16.1.1. Government Social protection system is inclusive of forcibly displaced and stateless people</b>	
IDPs		Partially
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		Limited
<b>16.2.1 Number of people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		23

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR strengthened refugees' access to citizenship in El Salvador, supporting 23 individuals through cash for documentation to acquire nationality, a threefold increase compared to previous years (seven in 2023 and ten in 2024). This progress was facilitated by legal support and institutional coordination with the Attorney General's Office, while collaboration with CODER, DGME, the Official Gazette, and the National Civil Registry helped streamline administrative procedures and ensure continuity in case processing. Coordination with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) further supported refugees in obtaining permanent residence, a critical step toward naturalization.

As co-lead of the Global Shelter Cluster, UNHCR presented an intersectoral mapping of challenges and solutions in La Campanera to the Humanitarian Country Team. Developed in consultation with the community in 2024 as a pilot initiative, the mapping identifies key needs and projects to guide targeted, multi-sectoral interventions. Under the Area-Based Approach, such efforts were complemented by the presentation of a community development plan and information sessions to raise awareness of available programmes and services for the community.

In close coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, UNHCR supported an intersectoral diagnostic session in Las Margaritas, engaging UN agencies and civil society organizations to identify

priority interventions, strengthen collaborative planning, and foster active area-based cooperation in addressing diverse community needs for durable solutions.

### Other Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Actual (2025)
<b>06.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance</b>	
IDPs	17
Others of Concern	45
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	168
<b>09.1.1 Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance</b>	
IDPs	1,424
Others of Concern	1,773
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	310
<b>10.1.1 Number of individual consultations in UNHCR supported health care services</b>	
IDPs	329
Others of Concern	314
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	88
<b>10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services</b>	
IDPs	317
Others of Concern	691
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	171
<b>11.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from education programming</b>	
IDPs	0
Others of Concern	0
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0
<b>14.1.1 Number of people who received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0

## 2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

UNHCR advanced implementation of its Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) policy by ensuring that people of all ages, genders and backgrounds could exercise their rights and participate in decisions affecting their lives. Multiple safe, accessible feedback mechanisms, including a toll-free helpline, online forms, suggestion boxes and tablets in shelters and centres, enabled confidential communication and reached about 4,500 individuals, whose inputs informed programme design and service delivery.

Inclusive participation remained central. UNHCR conducted 23 participatory assessments with 237 individuals in prioritized communities, generating analysis that informed protection responses and community interventions. Fourteen youth networks and committees led community revitalization efforts in areas affected by violence, strengthening peaceful coexistence and ensuring participation of adolescents and youth in local decision-making.

The JuegaXLaPaz project, implemented with support from the Barça Foundation, engaged some 600 children (10–16), 120 caregivers, 50 youth committee members and 12 community referees across six communities. By year's end, more than 1,000 children and youth participated in tournaments, bringing communities together and reinforcing safe, inclusive spaces.

Age, gender and diversity considerations guided solutions and self-reliance programming. Through the Ministry of Economy's ALDEA initiative, 128 displaced and at-risk individuals, including naturalized refugees, were referred to employability and entrepreneurship training. Of these, 79 per cent were women, supporting equitable access to livelihood opportunities.

Additionally, findings from a survey under the project ¡De Una! Transformando Mi Comunidad, supported by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (2023–2025), showed female participation exceeded 50 per cent overall and reached 70 per cent in leadership activities, and 95 per cent of surveyed youth identified as agents of change.

## Section 3: Resources

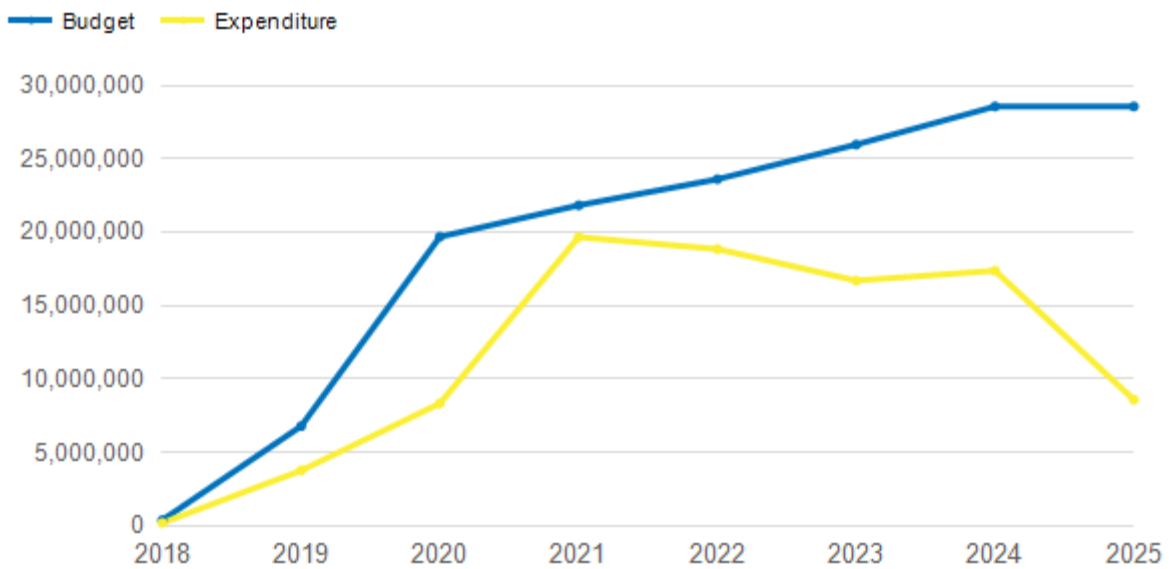
### 3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

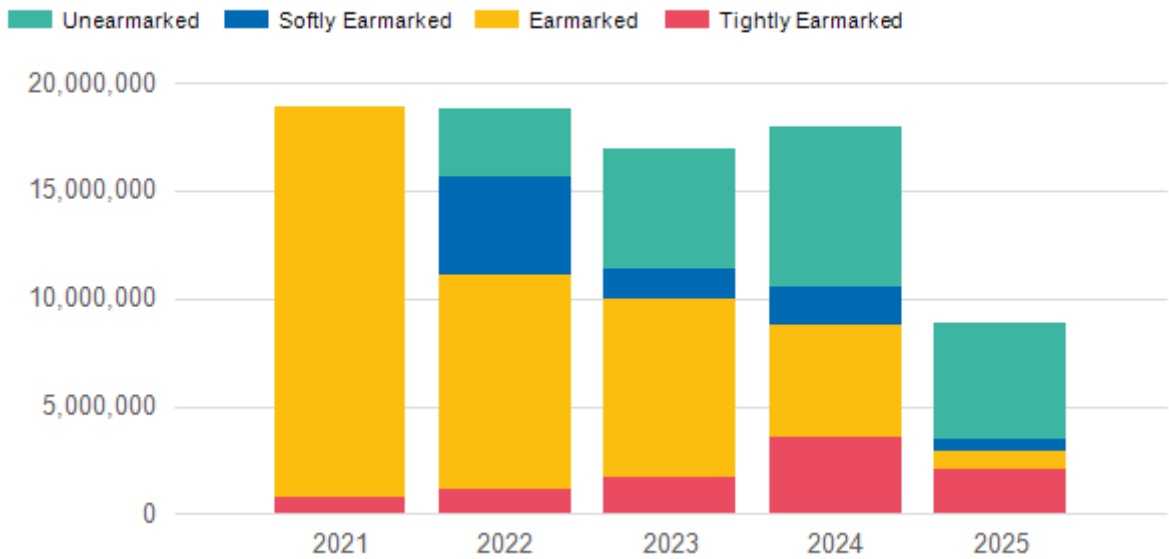
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	3,566,274	1,673,383	46.92%	1,603,278	95.81%
IA2: Respond	8,865,666	3,286,746	37.07%	3,286,746	100.00%
IA3: Empower	4,726,481	1,653,719	34.99%	1,653,719	100.00%
IA4: Solve	11,406,259	2,047,629	17.95%	2,047,629	100.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,564,680</b>	<b>8,661,477</b>	<b>30.32%</b>	<b>8,591,372</b>	<b>99.19%</b>

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA2: Status	1,139,611	962,300	84.44%	892,195	92.71%
OA3: Policy/Law	2,426,664	711,083	29.30%	711,083	100.00%
OA4: GBV	2,076,847	712,534	34.31%	712,534	100.00%
OA5: Children	1,052,795	510,217	48.46%	510,217	100.00%
OA7: Community	4,726,481	1,653,719	34.99%	1,653,719	100.00%
OA8: Wellbeing	5,736,023	2,063,996	35.98%	2,063,996	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	2,511,025	811,899	32.33%	811,899	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	4,832,109	630,481	13.05%	630,481	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	4,063,124	605,249	14.90%	605,249	100.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,564,680</b>	<b>8,661,477</b>	<b>30.32%</b>	<b>8,591,372</b>	<b>99.19%</b>

### Budget and Expenditure Trend



### Contributions Trend by Type



## 3.2. Resources Overview

The operation faced one of its most challenging years in terms of funding, receiving only 27 per cent of its budgeted needs. The initial USD 14 million budget was reduced by 54 per cent, creating a significant gap between requirements and available resources. This contraction required repeated prioritization to preserve essential protection services for forcibly displaced people.

Budget pressures sharply limited support spaces and essential services, including food, transportation, documentation, health, education and livelihoods. The cash assistance programme, previously a key safety net, was suspended. Of the 7,000 individuals originally targeted, only 1,724 (24 per cent) received cash

assistance for rent, food or hygiene items, leaving many unable to meet basic needs.

Community-based protection activities observed a substantial reduction. The number of prioritized communities decreased from 43 to 11 (a 74 per cent reduction), affecting risk identification and timely response. Direct livelihood interventions were discontinued mid-year, halting economic inclusion opportunities for more than 200 people.

As a result of cuts to health services, including mental health and psychosocial support services, 54 per cent of individuals needing primary care could not be reached, and over 1,300 people were left without appropriate mental health or psychosocial support. Only 38 per cent of reported survivors of gender-based violence were able to access assistance.

Despite these limitations, flexible funding was essential to sustaining priority interventions through unearmarked contributions allowed the operation to support critical activities and secure some key achievements.

The above-mentioned contributions were particularly important to strengthen the national asylum system, an area supported exclusively by UNHCR, and to continue legal assistance, protection monitoring, and emergency responses for asylum-seekers, refugees, returnees, and internally displaced people.

Throughout the year, the operation prioritized reinforcement of asylum and IDP policy frameworks, identification and support of highly vulnerable individuals, maintaining community-based protection in the most affected areas and ensuring data collection for evidence-based decision-making. Such core activities preserved minimum protection standards despite reduced resources. Partnerships remained central to programme delivery, as 67 per cent of total expenditure was implemented through partners, with 45 per cent channelled to national and local organizations and 18 per cent to governmental institutions, strengthening localized protection responses.

While substantial unmet needs remained, the operation continued to work with development partners, the private sector, and supporters advancing Global Refugee Forum pledges to expand durable solutions and rebuild programmes affected by the budget shortfall

## Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

### 4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

The operation strengthened institutional capacity, supported actors across the asylum system, and maintained mechanisms to ensure continuity of assistance despite reduced service availability. Lessons learned highlighted the need to improve data collection for evidence-based planning and to preserve programme areas critical for durable solutions. The operation also advanced the area-based approach by mobilizing UN agencies and partners for multisectoral interventions in communities most affected by displacement.

Collaboration with UN agencies, diplomatic missions and government counterparts supported coherent messaging and sustained engagement on public policies related to human mobility, displacement and solutions, enabling more coordinated action.

Regarding monitoring, reporting, and programme management, reduced staffing limited the establishment of more systematic multifunctional monitoring spaces and hindered early identification of challenges. Despite these constraints, UNHCR staff adapted accordingly and ultimately provided hands-on support that enabled partners and UNHCR to meet key targets. In 2026, the operation will prioritize more coordinated monitoring mechanisms, stronger quality assurance in planning, and systematic use of partner capacity assessments to ensure effective implementation, accurate target setting, and timely course correction.

Rapid adjustments in internal controls, resource allocation and staffing initially caused procedural delays. However, the operation adapted quickly, applied financial control measures, and redistributed responsibilities across remaining staff to sustain core functions. As a result, the operation maintained financial oversight and delivered planned outputs despite significant resource reductions.

In 2026, efforts will focus on consolidating strategic partnerships, strengthening coordinated monitoring systems, and reinforcing internal controls to improve efficiency and safeguard priority protection outcomes



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