



ANNUAL REPORT

# MIRPS 2024

Comprehensive  
Regional Protection  
and Solutions  
Framework









# El Salvador

# NATIONAL CONTEXT

## Indicators



# 386<sup>1</sup>

**NUMBER OF DISPLACED PERSONS** or persons at risk of displacement assisted in the “*A tu Lado*” (By Your Side) support spaces by the time of closing this report.



# 7 months

**MAXIMUM PROCESSING TIME** from registration to first instance asylum adjudication.



# 761<sub>2</sub>

**NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE ACCESSED** the *Mi Primer Trabajo* (My First Job) programme of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MTPS, by its Spanish acronym).

Since joining the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) in 2019, El Salvador began a process of transformation, with safety, creation of opportunities and social cohesion at its core, marking a new chapter in the country’s history. This vision has also been reflected in the strategies promoted to comprehensively address the challenges of the changing context of human mobility and its causes in El Salvador.

In this regard, El Salvador has continued to demonstrate its firm commitment to the principle of responsibility-sharing that guides the Global Compact on Refugees, and its operationalisation through the MIRPS. This has been key

1 Data on the attention provided by the Directorate for Victim Services (DAV, by its Spanish acronym) in the Support Spaces “*A tu Lado*” (By Your Side) until September 2024.

2 Data on participants of the *Mi Primer Trabajo* (My First Job) programme linked to an apprenticeship contract until September 2024.

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to strengthening and adapting protection arrangements and solutions to these challenges and ensuring that people who were victims of historical violence, and who now seek State-support to claim their rights and to access to specialised services, such as legal advice, psychological support, education, decent work opportunities, natural disaster mitigation and reintegration into their communities of origin, receive such support in a timely manner.

In this spirit, in 2024, the National Technical Team carried out an exercise to update its national commitments and the Directorate for Social Fabric Reconstruction (DRTS, by its Spanish acronym) was incorporated into this framework, promoting actions that contribute to the creation of spaces for peaceful coexistence, community organisation and the promotion of sport, art, and culture, with a special focus on youth. Similarly, the National Council for Early Childhood, Childhood and

Adolescence (CONAPINA, by its Spanish acronym) also collaborated with the MIRPS, strengthening psychosocial care services and livelihoods opportunities to protect the mental health of children, adolescents, and their families and ensuring their integration.

National policies on human mobility respond to the needs of those who require international protection, guaranteeing their fundamental rights. Currently, with the support of strategic partners, the shelter system has been modernised, with the construction of a new reception centre for asylum-seekers, which will be operational before the end of next year. This centre will not only be a physical space, but also a symbol of the respect and dignity with which El Salvador receives those in need of protection. All these actions are part of a national context that seeks social integration, the generation of opportunities and the provision of protection and durable solutions.



# PROGRESS

## Protection



### International Protection Diploma for Immigration Officials

75 immigration officials completed the in-person training on Comprehensive Protection, which was carried out by the Directorate General for Migration and Foreigners (DGME, by its Spanish acronym), with UNHCR's support, with a duration of 18 hours.

### Strengthening and modernisation of the asylum system

To ensure that individuals seeking international protection in El Salvador receive dignified and respectful assistance, the *Comisión para la Determinación de la Condición de Personas Refugiadas* (Commission for Refugee Status Determination, CODER, by its Spanish acronym) has made progress in the implementation of the Comprehensive Support Protocol for Asylum-Seekers and Refugees, launched at the end of 2023. To this end, seven training sessions have been conducted for various institutions, benefiting a total of 167 public officials and representatives from non-governmental organisations. The construction of a new service area for users, set to open in November this year, has been completed. Additionally, the design of a computer system to streamline the processing and resolution of asylum applications is underway.

### Efforts at the community level to rebuild social fabric

DRTS, in coordination with its Urban Well-being and Opportunities Centres (CUBOS, by its Spanish acronym), launched the first phase of "Grafitour," an initiative that combines curatorial workshops with local communities, providing a foundation for street artists to express community sentiment through graffiti, thereby promoting the recovery of public spaces and preserve collective memory.

### Modernisation of the National Civil Protection System

The mapping of processes to optimise efficiency, coordination, and transparency in the management of humanitarian resources has begun, led by the General Directorate for Civil Protection, Disaster Prevention and Mitigation. This initiative marks the first step toward developing a national information system for humanitarian assistance logistics. The system will enhance the management of resources, strengthening and streamlining responses to and mitigation of natural disasters, particularly in vulnerable communities affected by adverse events.

## Education



The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MINEDUCYT, by its Spanish acronym) continues to guarantee the right to education for displaced children, adolescents, and young people or those at risk of displacement.

As of September 2024, 548 returnee migrants have been assisted with alternative educational modalities, thanks to the expansion of the *Programa de Modalidades Flexibles* (Flexible Modalities Programme) aimed at ensuring educational continuity. Likewise, the *Guía de Atención a Estudiantes y Docentes Desplazados o en Riesgo de Desplazamiento Forzado Interno* (Guide for Supporting Displaced Students and Teachers or Those at Risk of Internal Displacement) was updated and is incorporated into the Legislation on Human Rights for Children and

Adolescents in force in the country, through the *Ley Crecer Juntos para la Protección Integral de la Primera Infancia, Niñez y Adolescencia* (Growing Together Law for the Comprehensive Protection of Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence). The Guide will be released once approved.

According to the “Growing Together Law,” all children and adolescents are guaranteed the right to free education until age 18, ensuring educational access for children and adolescents in situations of displacement. The *Sistema de Información de la Gestión Educativa Salvadoreña* (Salvadoran Education Management Information System, SIGES, by its Spanish acronym) records the variable “returnee” for the timely follow-up of displaced students.



# Healthcare



## **ISDEMU continues to expand attention services and protection response.**

Whether through in-person or remote services, such as the specialised attention centres, *126 Te Orienta* (126 Guides You), *126 Te Orienta Sin Fronteras* (126 Guides You Without Borders), and the protection centres for women survivors of violence, including those on the move or at risk of displacement, comprehensive support is provided. At these centres, women of all ages and their children up to 11 years old receive specialized care from a multidisciplinary team of lawyers,

psychologists, social workers, doctors, educators, and caregivers.

From January to September 2024, 86,054 comprehensive healthcare services have been provided. On the other hand, the Specialised Centres for Women, in coordination with the Ministry of Health (MINSAL, by its Spanish acronym), have carried out 14 Comprehensive Health Days to bring exclusive health services to women at the community level, with 1,296 services that have benefited 797 women.







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## Jobs and livelihoods



The Mi Primer Trabajo (My First Job) programme continues to generate employability opportunities for displaced persons or persons at risk of displacement, refugees, and asylum-seekers.

By September 2024, the initiative led by the MTPS has successfully linked 761 individuals to formal employment. Since its launch, over 1,487 people have received training in soft skills for employment, and more than 200 companies have joined the programme. The programme's success rate in terms of long-term retention in the formal sector surpasses the national formal employability rate.

CONAPINA promotes the strengthening of durable solutions for returnee families with protection needs.

Families are supported through seed funding for entrepreneurship, access to scholarships, and humanitarian assistance, with a particular focus on protecting children and adolescents. This effort is coordinated in collaboration with the Organization of American States (OAS) MIRPS Fund. To date, the

project is 79% complete and has benefited a total of 296 individuals.

### **Displaced women or at risk of displacement, refugees, and asylum-seeker due to violence against women have access to seed funding.**

A project implemented by the Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo de la Mujer (Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women, ISDEMU, by its Spanish acronym) has provided support to 80 displaced women or at risk of displacement, refugees, and asylum-seeker survivors of gender-based violence, through self-care workshops aimed at strengthening their agency and empowering them. In addition, approximately 30 of these participants will receive seed funding to start up their business idea and enhance their autonomy. This initiative is being coordinated within the framework of the MIRPS Good Practice Implementation Project of the MIRPS Support Platform.



## Joana and the CUBOs: Leading change from community spaces

BY FRANKLYN RUIZ

A few years ago, living in Joana's community entailed many risks. Gangs controlled the area and extorted money from families, including her own. "They demanded money from us to be protected," she recalls. "My family couldn't pay, so we had to leave." To feel safe, Joana fled to her grandmother's house.

Years later, she was able to return home to San Salvador, determined to make a difference. Back in her neighbourhood, she discovered her passion for community work. She joined the youth committee and, together with other young people, she began to organise activities to integrate everyone in the area. "We painted the walls to erase gang symbols and created

spaces where neighbours felt like part of the community," she says.

Joana is the coordinator of the Centro Urbano de Bienestar y Oportunidades (Urban Well-being and Opportunities Centre, CUBO, by its Spanish acronym) in her community. This centre, one of 12 supported by UNHCR, is an initiative of the Government of El Salvador that offers activities that promote peaceful coexistence and community well-being. "We organise workshops for children, young people, and adults. The CUBO is a safe place where everyone can come to share, learn, and enjoy," explains Joana proudly.

In support of El Salvador's National Plan for the implementation of the MIRPS, UNHCR





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provides technical assistance and equipment to strengthen these spaces with the goal of improving coexistence and promoting integration in communities historically affected by violence. Working hand in hand with communities, it contributes to the prevention of forced displacement and helps people find solutions.

For Joana, working at the CUBO is a commitment to the future of her community. “Here, everyone has a place. It’s a safe place where we can work together for the well-being of everyone in the community.”



LINK TO FULL STORY:



