



HIGHLIGHTS

17,196

New asylum applications submitted by Salvadoran citizens in North and Central America countries in 2016 (Jan-Jun). **76%** increase in comparison with same period in 2015.

52,400

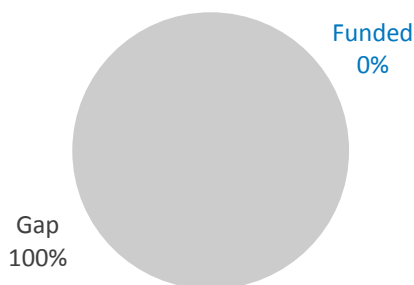
Salvadorans returned from Mexico and the United States in 2016. **16%** of adults and **32%** of children reported leaving the country due to insecurity and violence.

2,100

Persons of concern were assisted by UNHCR and partners in 2016, including **200** referred to the Protection Transfer Arrangement launched in 2016.

Funding – Regional Office Panama

USD 13.9 million requested



- UNHCR's Regional Office in Panama is implementing the Regional Protection and Solutions Strategy for the NTCA situation in close collaboration with partners.
- The Regional Office financially oversees the operations in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, as well protection activities in Cuba, Panama and Nicaragua.
- UNHCR has significantly scaled up its operational capacity in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras in order to better respond to complex protection and programmatic needs.

UNHCR Presence

Staff:

6 national staff and 5 international staff

Offices:

1 national office located in San Salvador

UNHCR El Salvador: Presence as of March 2017



Elaboration: March 2017 Sources: UNHCR / GADM Author: UNHCR - ROPAN

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR works in close coordination with the Government of El Salvador, civil society organizations, UN agencies, regional bodies, and persons of concern. The agency also works closely with the United Nations Development Group in Latin America and the Caribbean, alongside UN Resident Coordinators, to ensure UN coordination on protection issues in the region.
- UNHCR leads the Protection Working Group at national level in San Salvador with the participation UN agencies and the ICRC, in order to strengthen technical capacity in protection, joint risk analysis and exchange of information, as well as regional and global visibility to El Salvador's protection needs. UNHCR works closely with the Salvadorian State in the implementation of the National Plan for Citizen's Safety (*Plan El Salvador Seguro*) on the protection of internal displaced persons and other victims of criminal groups and other forms of violence, who have special protection needs.
- UNHCR's partners in El Salvador include The Human Rights Institute of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Caritas El Salvador, Cristosal, World Vision, Save the Children, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ombudsman's Office (PDDH), the General Attorney's Office (PGR), the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONNA), the National Institute for Children and Adolescents (ISNA), the Salvadorian Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other UN agencies.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

Internal displacement

- Technical support to the Victim's Assistance Directorate in the establishment of the Local Assistance Offices for Victims and in the development of a profiling study on internal displacement in El Salvador. UNHCR is also facilitating trainings on the protection of internal displacement guiding principles, protection needs and responses.
- Support the Inter-institutional working group on the Protection of Victims (*Mesa 6*) on the development of effective protection routes and mechanisms for victims of violence.
- Though sub-agreements, UNHCR is working on the identification and strengthening of existing protection mechanisms for victims of violence. In addition, partners and the Ombudsman's Office are providing legal assistance, orientation and psycho-social support to cases at heightened and imminent risk.

Returned persons with protection needs

- Technical assistance to State authorities in the development of protocols for the identification, documentation and referral of deported Salvadoran children and women with protection needs, which include guidelines for BIDs and BIAs.
- Improve reception conditions and establishment of identification, referral and protection guidelines in coordination with relevant entities, with particular focus on child protection and women victims of SGBV.
- Strengthen national protection mechanisms for the assistance of identified cases of children, women victims of SGBV and families returned with protection needs. UNHCR, with key partners World Vision and Save the Children, are strengthening community-based protection mechanisms for returned children with protection needs in the departments of Usulután, San Miguel and Santa Ana.

Asylum seekers, refugees and statelessness

- Strengthen the technical capacity of the National Commission for Refugees (CODER) in the enhancement of the national legal framework through the revision of the Refugee Law reform, the Migration Law and the ratification of the Convention to reduce cases of statelessness.
- Support the CODER and the Migration Directorate in the development of standard operation procedures on asylum seeker and refugee children, which includes the development of BIDs and BIAs for unaccompanied and separated children.

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