



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 21 June 2024
(OR. en)

11481/24

COHAFA 48
DEVGEN 101
COLAC 78
GENDER 149
MIGR 293
RELEX 889
INTER-REP 68

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	19 June 2024
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Humanitarian situation in El Salvador - presentation by Plan International

Following the meeting of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) of 19-20 June 2024, delegations will find in Annex the presentation made by Plan International¹².

¹ Plan International EU office, identification number in the EU Transparency Register: 310344150876-09.

² This document contains a presentation by an external stakeholder and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.



Invisible Journeys

**Neglected humanitarian crises:
The impacts of displacement in El Salvador and
Central America**

Plan International

21/06/2024

1

Introduction



21/06/2024

2

Introduction



Plan International

- Founded in 1937:
- **A humanitarian and development organisation** operating in over 80 countries worldwide.
- We strive for a just world that advances **children's rights and equality for girls.**
 - Addressing immediate humanitarian needs
 - Tackling the root causes of the challenges children face.
 - Promoting gender equality through key programmes.
- In **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Active in 13 countries
 - Reaching over 9 million people in 2023.
 - Humanitarian assistance: Delivered to more than 2.1 million people.



El Salvador and Central America



21/06/2024

5

Regional humanitarian context: Central America

- Increase in migration from Venezuela, Ecuador, Haiti, and Northern Triangle countries:
 - In 2022, 21.5 million people on the move in the region.
 - Darien Gap crossings have increased by 400% since 2021, including 20% of children and adolescents.
- Drivers: Armed violence, climate shocks, displacement, food insecurity, political instability, socioeconomic and gender inequalities.
- High levels of violence.
 - 4 out of 10 adolescents consider community violence an everyday problem.
 - 1 out of 5 adolescents cite SGBV is a reason to migrate .



Credit: PlanInternational, Guatemala, 2023.

El Salvador: Focus

- **Dominance of gangs, across decades**
 - More than **60% of the population live in areas controlled by gangs.**
 - More than **10,000 children involved in gang activities.**
 - Increased numbers of people **internally displaced** by crisis: 77,000+ in 2022
- **Similar issues in Honduras and Guatemala**
 - 687,800 refugees and asylum-seekers from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador.
 - In Honduras, 32% of the country population has humanitarian needs. In Guatemala, 5.3 million people with humanitarian needs related to food insecurity, acute malnutrition and human mobility and migration.



Credit: PlanInternational. Guatemala, 2023.

Plan International Response



21/06/2024

8

Plan International Response



Programmatic model for children on the move

Programmatic regional model for children on the move that considers the specific needs and challenges children experience at different moments of their journey

- **Integrated, cross sectoral approach:** Integrating child protection, education, livelihoods, sexual and reproductive health.
- **Regional approach:** Regional nature of the mixed migration flow crises requires key initiatives and strategies that can address the needs of vulnerable populations in different settings.
- **Evidence-based approach:** Based this model on the results of needs assessments and research pieces carried out both this and last year in several countries with the active participation of children

Programmatic model: Addressing immediate and long-term needs for children on the move

In transit: immediate humanitarian needs

- Multi-disciplinary mobile units at border points
- Strengthening capacity of shelters and reception points
- Case management services for at-risk children
- Cross-border coordination and information sharing

At destination: long-term interventions

- Strengthening child protection services
- Ensuring access to education and continuity of learning
- Promoting access to safe and sustainable economic activities for families
- Data-driven and coordinated advocacy efforts

Plan International Recommendations



21/06/2024

11



Key recommendations



- Urgently address the **severe funding gap**.
- **Keep and increase attention** on El Salvador and the region - political, diplomatic, funding.
- **Strengthen protection services** (gender-based violence, child protection).
- **Boost and better facilitate (re)integration** of returnees, improving conditions for asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and IDPs.
- Invest in **multi-sectoral integrated responses** (education, health, livelihoods).
- Address **climate impacts** and improve **food security**.
- Invest in **youth-led initiatives**.
- Address communication gaps between States and **improve regional coordination** despite securitization trends.



Credit: Plan International. El Salvador, 2022.



Image Caption © Plan International