IOM STRATEGY FOR EL SALVADOR

2023 - 2026











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Publisher: International Organization for Migration

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This publication has not been officially edited by IOM.

This publication was issued without the approval of the IOM Publications Unit (PUB).

This publication has not been translated by the IOM Translation Service.

Cover photo: Belen Peña | Communication Unit. © IOM 2023

Graphic Design: Elena Montoya | Paola Castaneda | Belen Peña | Communication Unit.

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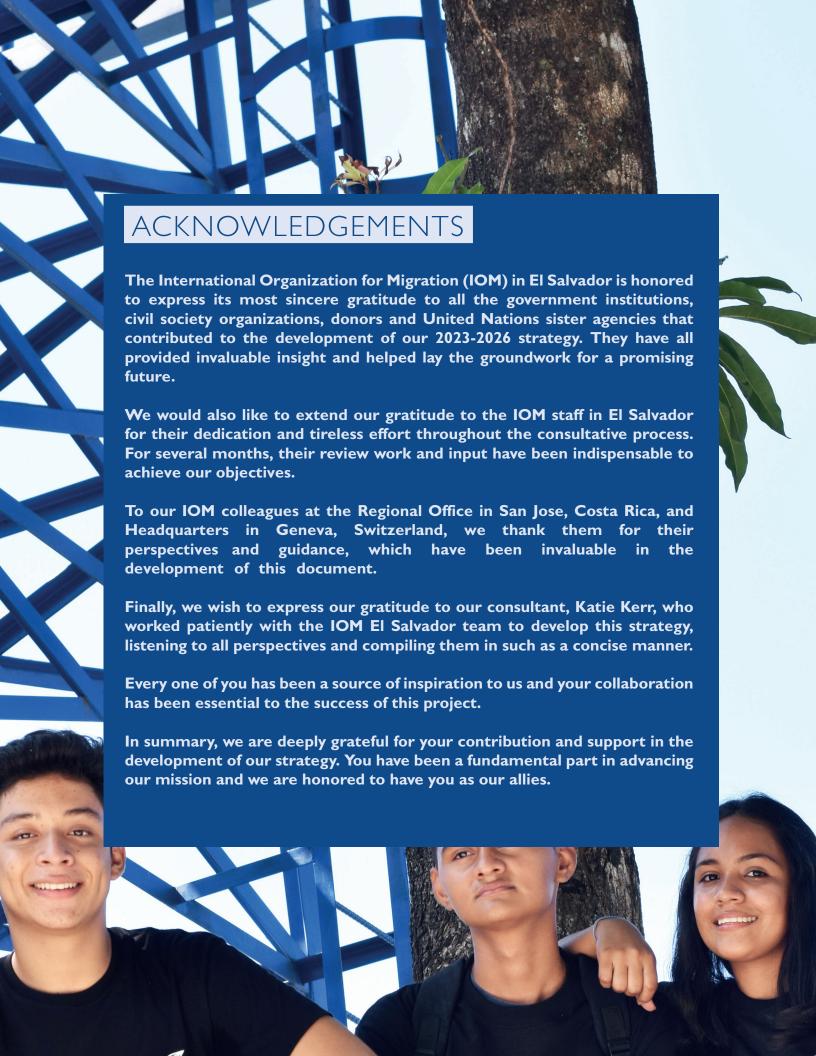
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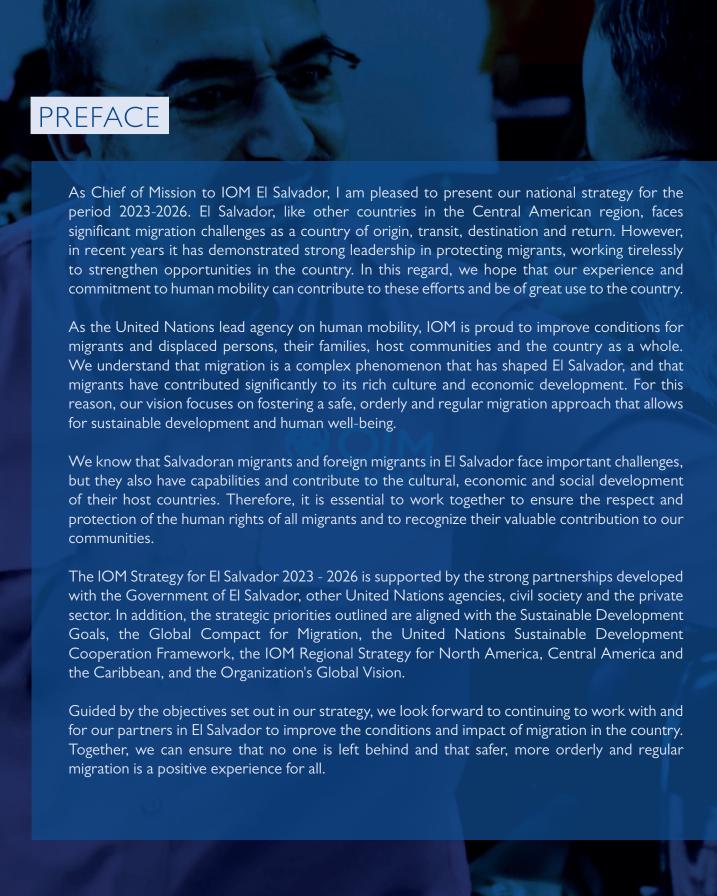
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Chief of Mission to El Salvador
and Honduras

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ACRONYMS

COVID-19 Coronavirus-2019

GBV Gender-Based Violence

GCM Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

GDP Gross Domestic Product
GOES Government of El Salvador

HDPN Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

IDP(s) Internally Displaced Person(s)

IMRF International Migration Review ForumIOM International Organization for Migration

LGBTQI+ Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex

OCAM Central American Commission of Migration Directors

(Spanish: "Comisión Centroamericana de Directores de Migración")

RCM Regional Conference on Migration SDG(s) Sustainable Development Goal(s)

SICA Central American Integration System (Spanish: "Sistema de Integración

Centroamericana'')

UAC Unaccompanied Migrant Children

UN United Nations

UNS United Nations System

UNSDCF United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework



PROJECT PARTICIPANT FOCUSED ON FACILITATING THE REINTEGRATION OF RETURNED MIGRANTS. © IOM 2022.

I. INTRODUCTION

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Strategy for El Salvador 2023 – 2026 contributes to global frameworks, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), as well as IOM's global Strategic Vision and Regional Strategy for Central America, North America and the Caribbean. Importantly, this strategy is rooted in the Salvadoran human mobility context, as well as the needs, opportunities and priorities of its people and Government. It draws from and contributes to national sustainable development and migration policies and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for El Salvador 2022 – 2026 (UNSDCF). The strategy is also based on consultations carried out in October and November 2022, with 75 individuals (45 women and 30 men) representing the Government, civil society, the United Nations System (UNS) and the broader international community in El Salvador, as well as IOM regional and Mission staff.

I.I ABOUT IOM



MEETING WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS IN MEANGUERA DEL GOLFO, LA UNION, EL SALVADOR. © IOM 2022

As the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration, IOM promotes safe, orderly and regular migration by providing services and advice to governments and migrants from an integral and holistic perspective. Established in 1951, IOM has worked closely with the United Nations (UN) and other key stakeholders since its foundation at both operational and policy levels. In September 2016, IOM joined the UNS, becoming the UN Migration Agency, in recognition of its indispensable actions in the field of human mobility, which enabled its participation in the UN Sustainable Development Group. IOM now has more than 170 Member States, offices in over 400 field locations and more than 20,000 staff members, ninety percent of whom work in the field.

As recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, human mobility is indivisible from development and the SDGs. Additionally, the GCM is grounded in the 2030 Agenda and also highlights this intrinsic link between migration and sustainable development. Following the decision of the UN Secretary-General to establish a UN Network on Migration to ensure effective and coherent system-wide support for GCM implementation, IOM was designated to serve as coordinator and secretariat of the Network.

IOM in Central America, North America and the Caribbean

The IOM Regional Office for Central America, North America and the Caribbean, covering 24 countries, oversees, plans, coordinates and supports IOM activities in the region.

It also formulates regional strategies, guides their implementation, executes regional programmes of strategic importance and provides programmatic support in the region on specific topics, such as labor migration, border management, action against human smuggling and trafficking in persons, rights protection, migration and health, migration and environment, and climate change, among others.

In addition, the Regional Office liaises and coordinates with regional and subregional processes and initiatives, UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes, and intergovernmental bodies, such as the Central American Integration System (SICA, by its acronym in Spanish) and the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), among other key partners.

In this strategy, the Mission strives to continue the progress achieved in these areas and to innovate to respond to new challenges and opportunities. IOM has also recently sought to optimize resources and harmonize responses by implementing regional and subregional programmes in Guatemala, Honduras and other Central American countries that share social, economic and cultural ties and similar human mobility dynamics. While subregional coherence and complementarities remain key to addressing cross-border challenges, IOM recognizes important differences between country contexts and the need to develop strategies that reflect national realities, such as this document.

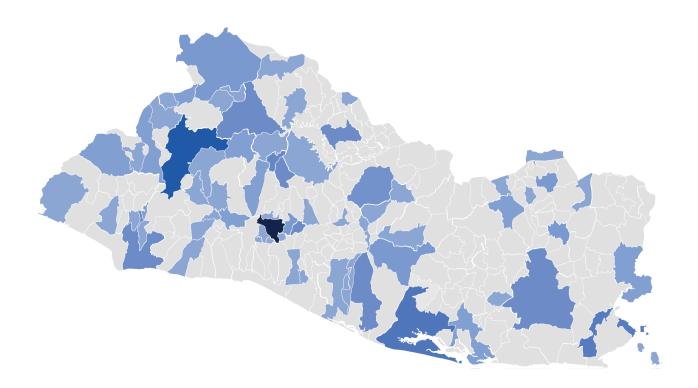
IOM in El Salvador

El Salvador became a member of IOM in 1968, and the Organization has maintained an office in the country's capital since 1983. The Mission works in partnership with the Government of El Salvador (GOES), the UNS, civil society and the private sector to improve outcomes for people in mobility throughout the migration cycle (migrants, internally displaced persons, or IDPs, and returnees), as well as their communities. In El Salvador, IOM is an active member of the UN Country

Team and the Humanitarian Country Team and co-leads the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Sector of the latter. In the last five years, the Mission has primarily focused on the following areas: institutional capacities for migration governance, prevention of irregular migration, dignified returns, post-arrival assistance, sustainable reintegration, humanitarian assistance, protection, resettlement, migrant women empowerment, quality and access to education and health for migrants and IDPs, basic infrastructure, disaster preparedness and response, and migration data for evidence-based decision-making, among others.

1.2 VISION STATEMENT

In 2026, IOM El Salvador remains a trusted partner, an effective implementer and a reliable source of information in the field of human mobility. Through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, IOM contributes measurably and significantly to resilience, to safe, orderly and regular mobility, and to migration governance in El Salvador, while upholding the rights, dignity and well-being of migrants, IDPs, their families and communities, and affected populations. To achieve this vision, IOM applies its expertise and operational skillset to support the Government, migrants and IDPs in meeting their current priorities, while fostering a long-term perspective to anticipate future needs. IOM adopts a joined-up approach in its own programming, ensuring complementarity across its portfolio and considering its impact on broader development goals. Finally, IOM prioritizes internal collaboration across the UN, including the UN Network on Migration, regional mechanisms and other partnerships with national, local and community stakeholders.



Coverage area of IOM El Salvador projects

2. MIGRATION PROFILE AND OUTLOOK

2.1 KEY DYNAMICS AND POPULATIONS



El Salvador's migration profile has been historically characterized by substantial emigration and return flows. Emigration is fueled by structural drivers, such as lack of employment opportunities, food insecurity, violence, disasters, as well as pull factors, including family reunification and the prospects of employment opportunities abroad, especially in the United States. In accordance with the <u>Development, Protection and Social Inclusion Plan</u>, there are no official statistics on the number of people who emigrate, as this occurs in an unofficial manner.

Emigration

El Salvador's net migration rate for 2022 has been estimated at -6.29 per 1,000 inhabitants.¹ A large majority of migrants travel irregularly to the United States through Guatemala and Mexico, risking their lives and exposing themselves to acute protection risks at multiple stages of the migration cycle. Migrants from El Salvador often pay large sums for the services of smugglers and criminal organizations.² Migrants who travel in an irregular situation include people in situations of vulnerability, such as unaccompanied migrant children (UAC), persons with disabilities, members of the LGBTQI+³ community, as well as survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (GBV). Emigration has had a profound influence on the national economy, fueling a shift away from agricultural exports toward a model focused on consumer imports.⁴ In El Salvador, emigration is largely pursued by young people, thus subtracting human capital, especially in the agricultural sector.⁵

El Salvador is currently committed to managing the migration phenomenon from a more humane perspective that allows for an improved coordination of action strategies, promoting and strengthening effective migration policies and more solid protection assistance systems in the region, respecting the human rights of migrants and facilitating access to international protection for those who need it.

Drivers of migration

IOM recognizes that there are complex, varied and interconnected causes that underlie the decision to migrate, and that people are often motivated by multiple drivers. Salvadorans who migrate or express their intention to do so largely attribute their choice to the search for better economic opportunities, while secondary reasons include insecurity in El Salvador and family reunification.

Livelihoods

El Salvador's economic growth has rarely exceeded 3% per year over the last two decades and has been equally hampered by low savings and investment, violence, low incomes, lack of job opportunities and food insecurity.⁶ ⁷ Nowadays, the country seeks to overcome these conditions with the implementation of several social and economic programmes aimed at reducing the irregular flow of Salvadoran migrants.

In the decade preceding the Coronavirus-19 (COVID-19) pandemic outbreak, El Salvador had achieved significant reductions in poverty and unemployment, alongside improvements in health and education services. The pandemic led to an 8% decrease in gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020, which disproportionately affected women through increased care burdens and caused a reduction in their labor force participation and a higher incidence of GBV.8 However, since then the economy and, in particular, the GDP, have been registering an increase, as observed with 10.2% in 2021, with 2.4% expected in 2022 and 2% in 2023.9

¹ CIA, Nate Migration Rate, The World Factbook, 2022. Available at: https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/field/net-migration-rate/

² IOM and WFP, <u>Understanding the adverse drivers and implications of migration from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras</u> (Panama and San Jose, 2022), pp. 5 and 22.

³ LGBTQI+ refers to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex, inclusive of individuals with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and/or sex characteristics who use other terms or no terms to describe themselves.

⁴ United Nations El Salvador, Common Country Analysis [CCA] (2021).

⁵ It is estimated that 1% of the labor market departed each of the last five years from northern Central America, and in the case of El Salvador, 32% of these migrants had worked in agriculture prior to migrating. Ariel G. Ruiz Soto, Rossella Bottone, Jared Waters, Sarah Williams, Ashley Louie and Yuehan Wang, Charting a new regional course of action: The complex motivations and costs of Central American migration. World Food Programme [WFP], Civic Data Design Lab, and Migration Policy Institute (2021).

⁶ United Nations El Salvador, Common Country Analysis [CCA] (2021).

⁷ People who are food insecure are three times more likely to migrate: Ruiz Soto, et al, Charting a new regional course (see footnote 4).

⁸ United Nations El Salvador, Common Country Analysis [CCA] (2021)

⁹ World Bank El Salvador: General Overview

Violence and insecurity¹⁰

Violence and crime, including gangs, homicide, forced recruitment, extortion, drug trafficking and trafficking in persons, especially of women and girls, as well as sexual and GBV, have been structural factors of human mobility within and across national borders. Violence against women is equally a serious and persistent concern in El Salvador: as of 2021, El Salvador registered a femicide rate of 2.4 per 100,000 women and a female homicide rate of 3.9 per 100,000 women"."

The efforts of the GOES through the initiative of the Territorial Control Plan initiative, aimed at guaranteeing security for the Salvadoran population, are recognized. The complexity of the security agenda and its influence on migratory flows require continuous and coordinated work with all relevant actors in observance of human rights.

Climate change, environmental degradation and disaster

It is becoming increasingly clear that climate change, environmental degradation and disasters are other factors driving human mobility in Central America.¹² In addition to immediate displacement, disasters also fuel long-term irregular migration, as evidenced by the mobility following the tropical storms in 2020.¹³

El Salvador is highly exposed to climate change impacts and natural hazards. Climate change is already manifesting in rising temperatures, recurring droughts and increased frequency of extreme weather events.¹⁴ Natural crises in recent years have left 1.1 million people in need across the country, many of whom have needs related to gaps in livelihoods, protection, health, nutrition, education and basic water and sanitation.¹⁵ Moreover, the areas of the Dry Corridor and the Trifinio, both of which are characterized by significant agricultural production, hydrological resources and migratory flows, will continue to be heavily impacted.

Labor demand

Circumstances in countries of destination also motivate migration. Labor demands and relatively better salaries in countries like the United States, Canada and others, are a significant draw. Recent studies reveal that in the next few years millions of additional workers will be needed to fill new jobs and those left vacant by retiring workers in industrialized countries. This tendency is reinforced by the rapidly aging population and the increase in the number of elderly people in need of care in these countries.¹⁶

Family reunification

With an estimated population of 1.4 million migrants born in El Salvador, the United States hosts the largest population of Salvadorans abroad (2021).¹⁷ The desire to reunite with their families and the possibility to count on well-established connections and transnational networks motivate many Salvadorans to leave their country.

Remittances

The strength of the Salvadoran diaspora's connection to their country is seen in the flow of remittances. According to the recent Survey of Salvadorans in the United States undertaken by IOM and the National Reserve Bank of El Salvador in 2022, four in five Salvadoran adults in the United States send remittances regularly. Remittances have been steadily rising since 2016, benefiting one in four Salvadoran households and amounting to USD 7.5 billion in 2021, 26% of GDP.¹⁸ These resources have proven critical for recipient households to avoid poverty and gain resilience, particularly in times of crisis such as the one caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, remittances can also have negative economic effects, such as discouraging labor market participation, especially among women and youth.¹⁹

¹⁰ At the time of writing, the Government of El Salvador had decreed a state of emergency in March 2022, still in effect one year later. Its long-term effects on human mobility are yet to become evident.

 $^{^{11}}$ Violence against women and girls throughout the life cycle in El Salvador 2021. Infografía | Infosegura

Sarah Rose, Reva Resstack, Helen Dempster, Elisa Cascardi and Jeremy Weinstein, Addressing the "root causes" of irregular migration from Central America: An evidence agenda for USAID. Center for Global Development and Immigration Policy Lab, CGD Policy Paper 243 (Washington DC, 2021).

¹³ IOM and WFP, Understanding the adverse drivers and implications of migration from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras (Panama and San Jose, 2022).

¹⁴ United Nations El Salvador, Common Country Analysis [CCA] (2021).

¹⁵ Humanitarian Response Plan (2023).

¹⁶ American Immigration Council, New data reveals how immigration can help meet labor demands and move the US economy forward (May 2022).

¹⁷ United States Census Bureau, <u>American Community Survey</u> (2021).

¹⁸ IOM and National Reserve Bank of El Salvador [BCR], <u>Survey of Salvadorans in the United States</u> (2022).

¹⁹ Monica Robayo-Abril and Rafael Chelles, El Salvador: Addressing vulnerabilities to sustain poverty reduction and inclusive growth. World Bank Group (2022).

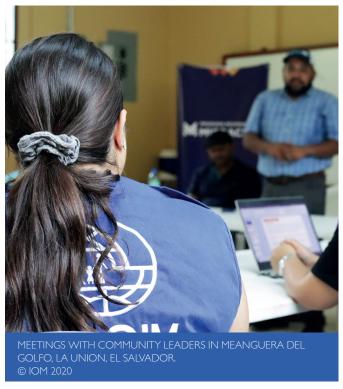
Return

A significant portion of Salvadorans who migrate or attempt to migrate return to El Salvador, both involuntarily and voluntarily.²⁰ Among those returning involuntarily, several different profiles emerge, with important implications. For example, those who have been living abroad for many years have different psychosocial and socio-economic inclusion needs than those who were recently detained or expelled at the border. Moreover, planned, voluntary returns may increase in coming years as early migrants to the United States opt to retire in their country of origin. An estimated 78,000 Salvadorans in the United States have made specific plans to return to El Salvador in the next five years, often with the expectation of living off savings or pensions or starting a business.²¹

Internally displaced persons

Both disasters and insecurity drive internal displacement in El Salvador. Severe storms in the last three years, including Eta, lota, Amanda, Cristobal and Julia,²² have tested the response capacity of the National System of Civil Protection. Disasters have become more frequent over the last decade and are expected to result in rising numbers of affected people in need of shelter and other protection and disaster risk reduction measures in the coming years.

With a primary focus on violence-driven displacement, the GOES passed the Special Law for Assistance and Comprehensive Protection for Internally Displaced Persons (23 January 2020) and established the National Directorate for the Care of Victims and Forced Migration of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, as well as the Internal Forced Displacement Unit of the Attorney General's Office, in order to guarantee comprehensive care for persons in a situation or at risk of internal displacement. These include, for example, "persons at risk of recruitment by criminal groups," "victims of extortion," and "members of the LGBTQI+ community who suffer persecution or threats by organized crime gangs," among other profiles.²³ Internal displacement represents a severe rupture from previous lives and livelihoods, requiring action to prevent displacement and assist IDPs comprehensively, with a view to achieving durable solutions.



Immigration in and transit migration through El Salvador

While the number of foreign-born persons living in El Salvador is presumed to be low overall, the numbers of immigrants and cross-border populations are significant within some border municipalities. Guatemalans, Nicaraguans and Hondurans can enter legally in El Salvador under the framework of <u>CA-4</u> agreement. However, IOM has observed that many of them are employed irregularly in the agricultural, construction and service sectors, facing inadequate labor conditions, including payment below minimum wage and uncompensated overtime.²⁴

El Salvador is not a common route for migrants traveling north, who tend to take the Atlantic sea route or traverse Honduras and Guatemala. However, this preference rests on an assessment of relative conditions along alternative routes and thus could change, for example, if the current routes become more dangerous or onerous.

²⁰ A recent survey of Salvadoran families with migrants noted that one in three people who had migrated across borders in the preceding five years had returned. IOM and WFP, Understanding the adverse drivers and implications of migration from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras (Panamá and San José, 2022).

²¹ IOM and National Reserve Bank of El Salvador [BCR], <u>Survey of Salvadorans in the United States</u> (2022).

²² Several of these storms impacted El Salvador between June and November 2020, affecting almost 200,000 people including 12,600 who required temporary shelter.

²³ See <u>Attorney General's Office (El Salvador)</u>. Internal Forced Displacement Unit: <u>Profiles</u> (accessed 3 December, 2022).

See, for example, Socio-labor Study of foreigners and their families - Municipalities of La Unión, Pasaquina and Santa Rosa de Lima (IOM, October 2020).

2.2 OPPORTUNITIES



Leadership in global, hemispheric and regional efforts

El Salvador has demonstrated leadership in the migration field by, for instance, adopting the GCM in 2018, becoming a country champion in its implementation in 2020 and having an active participation in the review fora (the Regional Review in 2021 and the International Migration Review Forum, or IMRF, in 2022). When serving as President Pro-Tempore of the RCM in 2022, the GOES, together with the Government of Mexico, led the efforts to identify regional migration priorities.²⁵ El Salvador also plays a central role in promoting regional integration and technical cooperation in Central America, notably through the SICA and the Central American Commission of Migration Directors (OCAM, by its acronym in Spanish). El Salvador pursues coordinated work from a perspective of shared responsibility in the region, as witnessed by its signing of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection 2022, together with 21 other countries.



Dynamic institutional frameworks

The GOES continues to prioritize transformational change in migration governance, including the passage of the Special Law on Migration and Foreigners in 2019; the establishment of the Vice Ministry for Diaspora and Human Mobility in 2021; the creation of binding municipal ordinances on migration management, among other efforts. Moreover, the GOES is strengthening institutional capabilities to address specific drivers and integrate mobility dimensions into key strategies and plans: for instance, through its updated National Plan for Civil Protection, Prevention and Disaster Mitigation.



Strengthened diaspora engagement and impact

Engaging the diaspora and leveraging their diverse contributions to sustainable development in El Salvador represents a significant opportunity for migrants, their families and communities. The GOES is intensifying efforts to support and engage Salvadorans living abroad, including by facilitating their participation in national elections and strengthening consular services. As announced in the Plan Cuscatlán and reiterated at the 2022 IMRF and in their GCM Voluntary National Review submission, the GOES has committed to identifying, better understanding and serving the diaspora, for example, through financial products. Therefore, to integrate the diaspora, actions have been created to promote opportunities that encourage investment and business with national companies. Over 900,000 Salvadorans living in the United States are interested in such products, including, for example, pensions (for themselves or others), health insurance and housing loans.²⁶ Remittances are primarily used to cover basic costs, utility bills and medical expenses,²⁷ which highlights the importance of incentivizing diaspora investment in development.



Growing opportunities for legal pathways of decent work

Labor opportunities enable migrants to achieve the employment benefits of working abroad, returning with resources and skills that contribute to the development of their home country or providing an opportunity to integrate abroad, without excluding a possible contribution to the economic and social development of their country of origin. There are labor shortages in various sectors worldwide, particularly in North America and Europe in industries such as hospitality, agriculture, construction and health care. Recognizing that these can bring new opportunities, El Salvador is committed to strengthening and expanding initiatives to manage circular labor migration with a focus on human rights and co-responsibility.



Arraigo or rootedness

New research on structural drivers of migration not only explores reasons for migrating but also seeks to understand why some people choose not to migrate. One reason to stay is the sense of belonging, shared identity or "rootedness" in one's community. In a recent survey, *arraigo* was cited by Salvadorans who opted not to migrate more than any other reason for staying. ²⁸

²⁵ See RCM Extraordinary Declaration Before the International Migration Review Forum, April 2022.

²⁶ IOM and National Reserve Bank of El Salvador [BCR], <u>Survey of Salvadorans in the United States</u> (2022).

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

2.3 CHALLENGES



Protecting migrants and vulnerable populations

Migrant populations, especially those in an irregular situation, and IDPs face risks to their safety and dignity at different stages of mobility. People who move in an irregular manner are exposed to human rights violations, violence and GBV, trafficking in persons, robbery and other crimes. Migrants who disappear or die in transit, as well as their families, are of grave concern.²⁹ The return process may bring new protection risks, especially for people returning to the same conditions that compelled their decision to migrate and other vulnerable populations, which may include members of the LGBTQI+ community, persons with disabilities, women, girls, boys and adolescents. However, it is worth highlighting the efforts made by the GOES to guarantee the physical protection of migrants, as well as their access to healthcare and legal identity.



Sustainable reintegration

The magnitude of return flows, the diverse needs of returnees and the pre-existing vulnerability of many communities of origin represent significant obstacles to achieving sustainable reintegration in the economic, social and psychosocial spheres. The GOES has strengthened its governance framework and operational capacity for the reintegration of returnees. They have full legal rights to basic services; however, there is a need to reinforce full access to education, health services, especially in mental health, as well as decent and sustainable work.



Transnational families

More needs to be understood about the potential negative effects of migration on families and children who "stay behind." For example, IOM research suggests that these children and adolescents are more likely to travel unaccompanied,³⁰ and that children in remittance-recipient families are less likely to attend secondary school, possibly due to changes in the supervision of caregivers or the sense that the child will also migrate to obtain a job that does not require a secondary education.³¹



Data and information limitations

El Salvador has strengthened its migration data and analysis capacity to reduce the existing gaps. However, further information on the needs of indigenous, LGBTQI+ and international migrants in El Salvador, for example, would provide more visibility and evidence about their mobility dynamics, risks and solutions. Support is also needed to ensure timely and quality data is available to the various actors who require it for the development of relevant policies and programmes.

²⁹ See IOM, Missing Migrant Project (recording over 7,000 deaths in the region since 2014) (accessed 18 December, 2022).

³⁰ See IOM, <u>Unaccompanied child and adolescent returnees to El Salvador</u>. IOM (2021) (noting that within sample of UAC, 88% of their households had a family member abroad, 72% lived with only one parent or with extended family, and 68% received remittances).

³¹ Rodolfo Herrera, Karla Abrego, Julia Escobar, Elena Castro, Guillermo García and Juan Barrios, El Salvador: Migration, remittances and education. IOM (San Salvador, 2021).



3. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The IOM Strategy for El Salvador is anchored in the Organization's global Strategic Vision, which sets out three pillars: resilience, mobility and governance. It contributes directly to I4 of I5 regional priorities set out in the Organization's Regional Strategy for Central America, North America and the Caribbean. It is also closely aligned with the UNSDCF for El Salvador across its three objectives and especially with the third outcome of the first objective, which states that "Salvadoran institutions ensure coverage and quality of the assistance, specialized and holistic protection, (re)integration and economic inclusion of migrants, returnees, displaced persons, and those in transit, as well as their families" (hereinafter: UNSDCF Outcome 3).

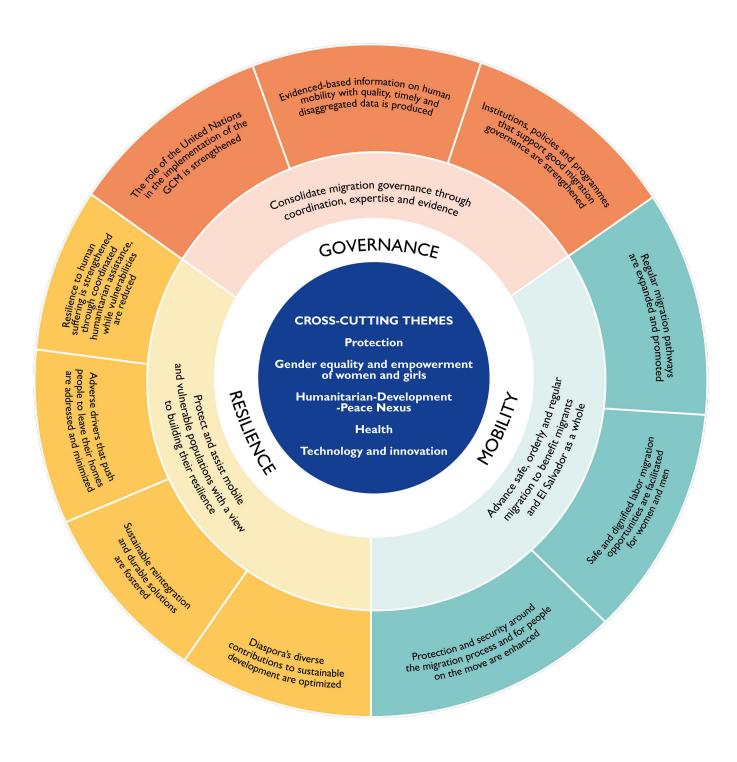
To guide IOM's work in El Salvador over the next four years, this section establishes three objectives that mirror the three pillars of the Strategic Vision, together with ten strategic outcomes and illustrative actions for each. The strategic framework is geared toward national development priorities for social wellbeing, economic reactivation, and security and effective governance, as well as the Government's top migration priorities for protection, assistance and reintegration of IDPs, returnees, diaspora engagement and labor migration. Moreover, the ten outcomes aim to support El Salvador to meet its global commitments under the GCM and the 2030 Agenda.

ANNEX I

Strategic alignment.



3.1 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES



Objective I: Protect and assist mobile and vulnerable populations with a view to building their resilience (Resilience)

IOM's resilience pillar calls for a diverse set of actions to support people moving in and out of situations of vulnerability, as well as their communities of origin. In addition to life-saving responses, this objective focuses IOM's efforts on the wide-ranging drivers that compel people to leave their homes and create barriers to sustainable reintegration of those who return.

The outcomes pursued here are aligned with GCM's objectives to save lives and minimize adverse drivers, among others; the Government's priorities on returnees and diaspora; UNSDCF Outcome 3 and especially products relating to assistance and protection, social cohesion and support to diaspora and remittance-recipient families; and the seven resilience priorities established in IOM's Regional Strategy.

Outcome I.I Resilience to human suffering is strengthened through coordinated humanitarian assistance, while vulnerabilities are reduced

- Support GOES policy development, planning and service delivery around crisis and displacement, with special attention to disaster preparation and response, in line with the <u>UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement</u>.
- Contribute to interagency coordination mechanisms and effectively co-lead the Camp Coordination and Camp Management sector.
- Deliver direct humanitarian assistance, in particular to people in vulnerable situations.
- Identify, address and reduce protection risks, while ensuring that specialized assistance reaches the most vulnerable.

Outcome 1.2 Adverse drivers that push people to leave their homes are addressed and minimized

- Enhance national and local government capacities to prepare for sudden and slow-onset disasters, reduce the risks of displacement and develop planned relocation processes.
- In line with IOM's <u>Institutional Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change</u>, produce, analyze and disseminate relevant data and knowledge on migration in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters.
- Prioritize environmental sustainability in diverse programme areas, such as "green remittances" and climate-adapted livelihoods (particularly in border areas such as the Trifinio).
- Foster non-violence in communities of origin and return by supporting them in strengthening their own social fabric and creating safe, peaceful and inclusive environments, which could include efforts to prevent recruitment and promote disengagement from violent groups.

Outcome 1.3 Sustainable reintegration and durable solutions are fostered

- Contribute to sustainable reintegration in the economic, social and psychosocial dimensions at the individual, community and structural levels, contributing to the elimination of stigma towards this population, as set out in IOM's Reintegration Handbook.
- Support the livelihoods of returnees and IDPs, with a strong focus on scalable programming, and an integrating, cross-sectoral approach that is inclusive and sensitive to the dynamics of the private sector, as well as sustainable across time.
- Support the GOES in developing and implementing efforts that promote sustainable reintegration, both comprehensively and in specific sectors, such as employment, education and health.
- Support the sustainable reintegration of Salvadoran individuals who decide to return, including for retirement purposes, enhancing their contribution to local sustainable development.

Outcome 1.4 Diaspora's diverse contributions to sustainable development are optimized

- Undertake research, mapping and outreach with diaspora associations and individuals.
- Support national and local partners to generate opportunities for diaspora investment in business and community development in the country.
- Build on innovative ideas to engage diaspora members and connect them with their families and communities.
- Contribute to the mobilization of the diaspora for the development of new economic sectors, among others, through knowledge transfer programmes.

Objective 2: Advance safe, orderly and regular migration to benefit migrants and El Salvador as a whole (Mobility)

Recognizing the enormous potential of regular migration as an engine for development, alongside the dangers and risks of irregular migration, IOM will continue to promote opportunities for safe, orderly and regular migration. The Organization aims to expand access to flexible and innovative pathways for labor migration, resettlement and return, family reunification, among others. IOM will continue to prioritize the rights, dignity and well-being of people on the move and stands ready to support the GOES in its efforts to reinforce protection and security around the migration process.

In addition to the cross-cutting contributions of regular migration to sustainable development, these outcomes contribute to the SDG target on orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility, as well as the GCM objectives on regular and flexible pathways for safe migration, effective access to legal identity, coordinated response to the search for missing migrants and the eradication of trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, among others. The outcomes here directly contribute to the priorities of the GOES on labor migration; to the UNSDCF Outcome 3 and its product on assistance and protection; and to regional priorities for orderly migration processes, mobility schemes and safe and dignified returns.

Outcome 2.1 Regular migration pathways are expanded and promoted

- Support migrants returning under assisted voluntary return schemes.
- Provide operational and movement assistance for resettlement for asylum or family reunification purposes, among others.
- Expand access to legal identity and documentation for nationals living in El Salvador and abroad.
- Support the regularization of the migratory status and promote the labor rights of immigrant populations living in border areas (for example, El Amatillo and others).
- Expand legal pathways to facilitate the mobility of people affected by sudden and slow-onset disasters.
- Promote access to information on regular migration pathways and the risks of irregular migration.

Outcome 2.2 Safe and dignified labor migration opportunities are facilitated for women and men

- Identify new partnerships for labor migration that match migrant profiles with labor market demands abroad.
- Develop new mechanisms to increase access to regular labor migration, with a particular focus on different gender groups and skills, from El Salvador to countries within the region and beyond.
- Foster ethical recruitment capacity building for the public and private sector.
- Support mechanisms to protect the rights of migrant workers, including those recruited in the private sector, at all stages, from recruitment to return to their country of origin.
- Support initiatives related to the prevention of labor migration fraud and deception.
- Support the strengthening of institutional capacities to manage labor mobility flows.

Outcome 2.3 Protection and security around the migration process and for people on the move are enhanced

- Raise awareness of and advocate for the rights of migrants and IDPs.
- Strengthen the capacities of the Salvadoran consular offices in the assistance to the diaspora, as well as the capacities of consular offices accredited in El Salvador.
- Support the efforts of the GOES in strengthening border points, for example, with specialized border management information systems, in line with IOM's Immigration and Border Governance (2022-2027) strategy for the region.
- Reinforce existing capacities to identify and respond to incidents in which migrants have died or disappeared at State borders or during transit.

Objective 3: Consolidate migration governance through coordination, expertise and evidence (Governance)

This objective seeks to support the GOES in building capacities for migration governance and strengthen the cooperation around migration with the UN and regional mechanisms, grounding both efforts on robust data, analysis and research. IOM's approach in El Salvador builds on the solid commitment of the GOES and its collaboration in the region and broad-based inter-institutional coordination in the country. This objective significantly contributes to the SDG target 10.7 on migration and mobility and its emphasis on the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies, as well as GCM objectives on data, information, evidence-based discourse to shape perception of migration and international cooperation.

These outcomes align with IOM's regional priorities to strengthen national and local capacities in migration governance, build new and deepen existing partnerships, effectively coordinate UN engagement and enhance capacities around data and evidence-based policymaking. They also contribute to the UNSDCF Outcome 3, including its product on institutional capacities for collection and use of disaggregated data.

Outcome 3.1 Institutions, policies and programmes that support good migration governance are strengthened

- Provide technical assistance and expertise to national public policy and legal frameworks linked to migration, aligned with international standards and adopting whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches.
- Enhance institutional capacities for migration governance at subregional, national and local levels, with a special focus on maintaining capacity gains across time.
- Support the participation of the GOES in global, regional and hemispheric processes that encourage dialogue, data exchange and sharing of good practices on migration and related topics.

Outcome 3.2 Evidenced-based information on human mobility with quality, timely and disaggregated data is produced

- Strengthen technical and operational capacities of GOES' partners and other relevant stakeholders to collect, disaggregate, analyze and use data.
- Support the development of processes and technological tools that facilitate data-sharing between institutions for comprehensive, multi-sectoral responses, adhering to IOM's data protection principles.32
- Disseminate evidence-based information and messages to promote positive perceptions of migrants as agents of sustainable development and tackle xenophobia and stigmatization.

Outcome 3.3 The role of the United Nations in the implementation of the GCM is strengthened

- Coordinate the UN Network on the basis of shared analysis and planning, as well as coherent programming.
- Apply migration governance Indicators to jointly address national priorities in the matter.
- Continue to position human mobility in UN and Humanitarian Country Team processes and strengthen thematic leadership.



DELIVERY OF SEED CAPITAL FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP TO RETURNED MIGRANTS. © IOM 2022



THE CAYAUANCA REGION. © OIM 2023

³² Global Compact for Migration, Objective I (i); and <u>IOM Data Protection Manual</u>.

3.2 CROSS-CUTTING THEMES



Protection

Protection comprises "all activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant bodies of law." IOM is determined to mainstream protection across the three pillars by (a) prioritizing safety and dignity and avoiding to cause harm, (b) enabling meaningful access, (c) providing accountability, and (d) fostering participation and empowerment. IOM is also committed to developing tailored responses for those in need of specialized protection, who may include survivors of GBV or victims of trafficking, persons with disabilities, UAC, indigenous people and members of the LGBTQI+ community, among others.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls



IOM will realize its goal of safe, orderly and regular migration by including a gender perspective, and by committing to achieving gender equality transversally in all its objectives. Strengthening this commitment, IOM El Salvador pursues programming under the three strategic pillars, designed with and for women and girls, to meet their needs and advance their interests, capacities and priorities. Initiatives may include, for example, responding to the gendered burdens of climate change and environmental degradation, leveraging labor migration opportunities for women and generating data on how gender shapes decisions to migrate. IOM El Salvador will also continue to work with young men and women to explore new masculinities, violence prevention and healthy relationships.

Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus



IOM adheres to the <u>Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Recommendation on Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus</u> (HDPN). The HDPN calls for strengthened coherence between humanitarian aid and development assistance, together with peace and conflict prevention efforts, to move toward sustainable recovery, self-reliance and resilience. Under this strategy, the HDPN is particularly relevant to IOM El Salvador's commitments to (a) increase coordination across the UN and with other key stakeholders, (b) prioritize capacity-building among local actors, and (c) adopt conflict sensitivity in all activities, especially attuned to the way that assistance can influence relationships between migrant and host communities.



Health

IOM recognizes that mobility is a social determinant of health that affects physical vulnerability, as well as mental and social wellbeing. IOM El Salvador will continue to work with partners to deliver comprehensive, preventive and curative health assistance throughout the mobility cycle, including as part of its programming for humanitarian assistance and protection, reception and reintegration of returnees, development in communities impacted by migration and displacement, and support for regular migration pathways.



Technology and innovation

The GOES has shown that technology is a high priority by creating a Secretariat of Innovation and committing in its voluntary review of progress under the SDGs to develop technological-digital infrastructure, adopt technological solutions in government services and reduce the digital gap. Building on the priorities of the GOES and IOM's emerging expertise in leveraging digital technologies for better migration outcomes, IOM El Salvador will mainstream technology and innovation throughout this strategy, including, for example, border management, legal identity, information management for inter-institutional processes, monitoring of returnee reintegration and disaster risk reduction.

³³ Inter-Agency Standing Committee, <u>Protection of Internally Displaced Persons. Policy paper (1999)</u>.

3.3 PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINATION

In line with the GCM, IOM is committed to a whole-of-government approach aimed at policy coherence across all Government sectors and levels. IOM recognizes and supports El Salvador's progress in consolidating vertical and horizontal coordination around migration, while continuing to invest in essential partnerships, strengthening the communication with relevant ministries, agencies and local governments to address the challenges and opportunities described above.

Also echoing the GCM, IOM promotes a whole-of-society approach and seeks to facilitate "broad, multi-stakeholder partnerships to address migration in all its dimensions by including migrants, diasporas, local communities, civil society, academia, the private sector, parliamentarians, trade unions, national human rights institutions, the media and other relevant stakeholders in migration governance" (para. 15).

Going forward, IOM El Salvador aims to deepen and expand partnerships with civil society, migrant associations and the private sector, among others, as well as strengthen their capacities for engagement and facilitate broad-based dialogue.

IOM El Salvador will continue to work to strengthen coordination across the UN, not only within the country team or in collective forums such as the UN Network, but also through joint programme development and implementation, for instance, under the Peacebuilding Fund or the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

Finally, IOM El Salvador will continue to encourage information exchange and stronger cooperation at the regional level through SICA and OCAM, to address challenges that require cross-border solutions.

4. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In parallel to the programmatic actions set out above, IOM El Salvador will invest in its own institutional development to ensure the Organization can deliver on its strategic vision and priorities over the next four years. IOM El Salvador will focus on the following areas:



Joined-up approach

IOM El Salvador has grown in recent years, mirroring the rising importance of migration in political and development agendas across the region. This large-scale growth has required the Mission to prioritize communication, collaboration and coherence among its programmes and units. In addition to regular coordination forums and joint training activities, the Mission is developing technological tools to support coordination and knowledge management. These tools will facilitate learning about other programmes and finding information on activities, relationships and visits linked to specific partners or municipalities.



Localization

IOM recognizes that the role played by local actors in El Salvador is critical to achieving the objectives and priorities set out in this document. The challenges of prevention, protection, fight against adverse drivers, sustainable reintegration and local migration governance depend on the effective engagement of local authorities, service providers, private sector, civil society actors, women and youth organizations and community leaders. IOM will continue to collaborate with local actors, with a particular focus on remote, rural and border areas with high rates of migration and limited resources.



Staff development

Echoing IOM's global Strategic Vision, which highlights staff development as a driver of success, IOM El Salvador will continue to invest in its team. Specifically, the Mission aims to ensure opportunities for advancement, create space for staff to reflect on IOM's work and the context, strengthen training and orientation for new staff members and support staff to develop their skills and expertise, including on emerging topics, such as the nexus between migration, environment and climate change. IOM El Salvador will maintain its firm commitment to gender equality, diversity and differentiated capabilities, including equal opportunity in recruitment and advancement.



Adaptive management

Adaptive management refers to an intentional process to make and adjust decisions based on experience, contextual changes and new information. Adaptive management is an established good practice and especially relevant to dynamic contexts surrounding large-scale human mobility. IOM El Salvador will work with donors and staff to increase capacity to adapt in order to produce more relevant and context-sensitive impacts.

5. THE WAY FORWARD

El Salvador's migration profile, and especially its significant rates of emigration and return, creates both challenges and opportunities. Observing the current context and the coming four years, IOM has identified the conditions that compel people to leave their homes and the challenges faced by migrants throughout the migration cycle. The foresight exercise also highlighted opportunities, such as the GOES' commitment to policymaking, coordination and innovation, as well as promising conditions for labor migration and diaspora engagement.

In line with IOM's global Strategic Vision and the <u>UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for El Salvador 2022 – 2026</u>, this strategy sets out three strategic objectives for resilience, mobility and governance, and ten strategic outcomes related to: (I) protection and humanitarian assistance, (2) adverse drivers, (3) sustainable reintegration, (4) diaspora engagement, (5) regular mobility pathways, (6) labor migration, (7) protection and security in the migration process, (8) public policies and programmes, (9) evidence and data, and (I0) the role of the UN.

The Strategy also highlights several themes that apply across all objectives and outcomes, including protection, gender equality, the HDPN and health. IOM El Salvador will use the Strategic Results Framework to closely monitor its progress under the strategy, and the Organization will periodically review priorities and plans, adapting as necessary to reflect new circumstances, learning and information.

ANNEX STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT





RESILIENCE:

Assist and protect mobile and vulnerable populations with a view to building their resilience

PMM

- **2** minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin
- **7** address and reduce vulnerabilites in migration
- **8** save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants
- **15** provide access to basic services for migrants
- **18** invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences
- **19** create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries
- **20** promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants
- **21** cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration

GOES

- Three overall government priorities: social wellbeing, economic reactivation and security and effective governance
- Migration priority in humanitarian assistance, prevention of irregular migration and reintegration of returnees, including reception, psychosocial support, livelihoods, education and employment.
- Plan Cuscatlán and migration priority on diaspora engagement in the political, economic, cultural and social realms

REGIONAL STRATEGY

- I strengthen disaster preparedness, reduce the risk of displacement and respond to crises
- **2** foster social cohesion, reduce violence and encourage inclusive socioeconomic development in communities of origin and return
- **3** facilitate the sustainable reintegration of migrants and affected populations
- **4** advance adaptation to both sudden and slow-onset natural disasters, adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation

- **5** promote the productive use of remittances and facilitate the direct participation of the diaspora in remittance development
- **6** provide accessible equitable and quality health, including mental health services
- 7 enhance the respect, protection and the fulfillment of the rights of migrants, and assist those who are vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse, particularly women, children, youth, victims of trafficking and stranded migrants, among others

ODS

- I no poverty
- 2 zero hunger
- **3** good health and well-being **4** quality education
- **5** gender equality
- **6** clean water and sanitation
- **8** decent work and economic growth
- **9** industry, innovation and infrastructure
- **I0** reduced inequalities
- II sustainable cities and communities
- 13 climate action
- **16** peace, justice and strong institutions

RESILIENCE:

Assist and protect mobile and vulnerable populations with a view to building their resilience

UNSDCF

- Strategic priorities for (1) wellbeing, rights and social inclusion, (2) sustainable economic transformation, and (3) sustainable, inclusive and equitable peace
- Outcome 3 Salvadoran institutions ensure coverage and quality of the assistance, specialized and holistic protection, (re)integration and economic inclusion of migrants, returnees, IDPs and those in transit, as well as their families
- Products 1, 2 and 3 on assistance and protection; social cohesion and living conditions; and diaspora and remittance-recipient families

MOBILITY:

Advance safe, orderly and regular migration to benefit migrants and El Salvador as a whole

PMM

- **4** ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation
- **5** enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration
- **6** facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work
- **7** address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration
- **8** save lives and establish coordinationinternational efforts on missing migrants
- **9** strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants
- **10** prevent, combat, eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration
- II manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinatedmanner
- **14** enhance consular protection assitance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle

GOES

Links to one of government's three migration priorities to expand temporary labor opportunities abroad, with a rights-based approach

REGIONAL STRATEGY

- 8 support orderly migration processes with proven, practical solutions for registering migrants, managingtheir identities, and combating migration fraud, as well as preventing, detecting and responding to health threats linked to migration
- **9** develop plans, labor market needs and the impacts of disasters, or for purposes of family reunification, among others
- **10** Ensure the safe and dignified return of migrants and affected populations

ODS

- I no poverty
- **5** gender equality
- **8** decent work and economic growth
- 10 reduced inequalities
- **16** peace, justice and strong institutions

UNSDCF

Outcome 3, product I on assistance and protection, especially as it relates to return processes

GOVERNANCE:

Strengthen migration governance through effective coordination, expertise and evidence

PMM

- I collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies
- **3** provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration
- **17** eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration
- **23** Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

GOES

- Overall development priorities, especially on good governance
- Migration priorities on returns, labor migration and diaspora

REGIONAL STRATEGY

- engagement in the area of migration at the country and regional levels, notably toward the achievement of the SDGs and the implementation of the GCM
- 12 build new and deepen existing partnerships, and create synergies with regional processes and initiatives
- I 4 enhance the capacity of governments to collect, analyze and use migration and internal displacement data for evidence-basedpolicymaking I 5 strengthen national, provincial and local governments' ability to develop and implement well-managed migration policies

ODS

- I no poverty
- 2 zero hunger
- 3 good health and well-being
- **4** quality education
- **5** gender equality
- **6** clean water and sanitation
- **8** decent work and economic growth
- **I0** reduced inequalities
- II sustainable cities and communities
- 13 climate action
- **16** peace, justice and strong institutions
- 17 partnerships for the goals

UNSDCF

Outcome 3, especially product 4 on strengthened institutional capacities for collection and use of disaggregated data







