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## **National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21\***

**El Salvador**

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



## **I. Introduction and methodology**

1. El Salvador hereby submits its national report for the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review, which describes the main advances in the implementation of the recommendations from the third cycle and the steps taken to strengthen the legal and institutional framework for the protection and promotion of human rights.

2. The present report is the result of extensive consultations coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in which the following entities participated: the Office of the President, through its technical secretariats; the Supreme Court of Justice; the Attorney General's Office; the Counsel General's Office; the National Council of the Judiciary; the Executive Technical Unit of the Justice Sector; the Ministry of Justice and Public Security; the Ministry of Public Works and Transport; the Ministry of Housing; the Ministry of Labour and Social Security; the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology; the Ministry of Culture; the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources; the Ministry of the Interior and Territorial Development; the Ministry of Local Development; the Ministry of Defence; the National Civil Police; the Directorate General for Migration and Alien Affairs; the Directorate for Restoring the Social Fabric; the National Public Security Academy; the Social Housing Fund; the National Public Housing Fund; the Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women; the National Council for Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents; the Salvadoran Institute for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities; the National Registry of Natural Persons; the Salvadoran Water Authority; the National Council for Persons with Disabilities; the National Council on Trafficking in Persons; the National Commission on the Search for Children who Disappeared during the Internal Armed Conflict; the National Commission on the Search for Adults who Disappeared during the Armed Conflict in El Salvador; the National Directorate for Integration; and the Office of the Superintendent General of Electricity and Telecommunications.

3. In preparing the report, El Salvador held consultations with civil society, including representatives of women, children, Indigenous Peoples, older persons and victims of serious human rights violations committed during the armed conflict, in order to identify the challenges that remain in implementing the recommendations received during the previous cycle of the universal periodic review and establish a set of national priorities to guide the commitments to be made by the Government during the fourth cycle.

4. El Salvador received support from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in organizing the inter-institutional and civil society consultations.

## **II. Implementation of the recommendations from the third cycle of the universal periodic review and other advances**

### **A. Legal framework and public policy**

5. The following laws were adopted in order to bring the national legal framework into line with international human rights standards and to promote the effective enjoyment of human rights: the Act on Comprehensive Waste Management and the Promotion of Recycling (2019); the Act on the National System for the Culture of Integration (2019); the General Act on Sports (2019); the Electronic Commerce Act (2019); the Food Donation Promotion Act; the Act on the National Comprehensive Health System; the Special Act on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (2020); the Special Act on the Comprehensive Care and Protection of Persons in Situations of Forced Internal Displacement (2020); the Salvadoran Employment Protection Act (2020); the Special Act on Voting from Abroad (2021); the Special Act on the Protection of the Rights of Older Persons (2021); the Caring Births Act on Decent Childbirth and Loving and Sensitive Care for Newborn Children (2021); the General Act on Water Resources (2021); the Special Transitional Act to Determine the Family Status, Parentage and Birth or Death of the Victims of the Massacres in El Mozote and Nearby Places (2022); the Loving Nutrition Act for the Promotion and Protection of and Support for Breastfeeding (2022); the General Act on the Digital

Modernization of the State (2023); the Growing Together Act for the Protection of Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents (2023); and the Integration System Act (2023).

6. These laws are reinforced by the following public policies, plans of action, programmes and strategies: the National Equality Plan 2021–2025; the Policy on Inclusion and Access to Justice; the National Environment Policy 2022; the National Local Development Policy; the Policy on Criminal Prosecution of Violence against Women; the National Policy on Access to a Violence-Free Life for Women and its plan of action; the National Policy on the Sharing of Caring Responsibilities; the “Growing Together” National Policy to Support Early Childhood Development 2020–2030; the National Policy for Indigenous Peoples; the Territorial Control Plan; the National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons; the National Climate Change Plan 2022; the Development and Social Protection Plan 2019–2024; the Economic Plan; the Plan for the Modernization of the Public Health System; the National Care Plan of the National Policy for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents; the Plan for the Comprehensive Care and Protection of Returnee Children and Adolescents and Their Families (the “Open Arms” plan); the Plan on Care Centres for Children, Adolescents and Families; the Plan for the Care of Children in Street Situations; the Comprehensive Educational Assistance Plan; the “Eliminating Barriers” Strategic Plan 2021–2024; the Plan for the Technical Verification of Accessible Infrastructures in Public and Private Institutions; the Poverty Eradication Strategy; the National Cross-sectoral Strategy for the Prevention of Child and Adolescent Pregnancy 2017–2027; the strategy to mainstream the principles of equality and equity, the eradication of discrimination against women and the right of women to a violence-free life; the “Let’s Play Together” National Play Strategy; the National Strategy for Comprehensive Early Childhood Development; and the Comprehensive Early Childhood Care Model.

7. During the previous cycle, El Salvador did not accept the recommendations concerning the ratification of international treaties. However, in keeping with its remit, the Legislative Assembly conducted an analysis of various international instruments and, in 2021, ratified the Convention against Discrimination in Education. In 2022, the instruments of ratification of the following five conventions were deposited with the International Labour Organization (ILO): the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102); the Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration) Convention, 1977 (No. 148); the Collective Bargaining Convention, 1981 (No. 154); the Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183); and the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190).

## **B. Cross-cutting issues**

### **Mechanism for the monitoring of recommendations**

8. The Government has made progress in the establishment of the Recommendations Monitoring System of El Salvador, having received support under the related technical cooperation programme with Paraguay and from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to that end.

### **Collaboration with human rights mechanisms**

9. El Salvador has submitted periodic reports to the human rights treaty bodies and has continued to engage with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. The following reports were submitted during the period under review:

- Combined twentieth to twenty-second periodic reports under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (2024).
- Report on the follow-up to the concluding observations of the Committee against Torture on the country’s third periodic report (2023).
- Seventh periodic report under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2023).
- Supplementary report to the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (2023).

- Third periodic report under the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (2022).
- Additional information to the Committee against Torture prior to the review of the country's third periodic report (2022).
- Report supplementing the country's sixth periodic report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2022).
- Tenth periodic report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (2021).
- Report on the follow-up to the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (2021).
- Supplementary report on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Human Rights Committee in respect of the country's seventh periodic report on compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (2020).
- Sixth periodic report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2019).
- Third periodic report under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (2019).

10. El Salvador has submitted its first voluntary report on the implementation of international humanitarian law at the national level, in line with its responsibility to guarantee the application and observance of that body of law.

11. El Salvador received an on-site visit from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in 2019.

#### **Human rights institutions**

12. In May 2023, the President appointed a Presidential Commissioner for Human Rights and Freedom of Expression<sup>1</sup> to coordinate work with other State institutions in order to guarantee the protection of human rights and freedom of expression. This initiative is an important step towards the institutionalization of human rights within Government, as it provides a centralized mechanism for coordinating efforts.

#### **Equality and non-discrimination**

13. In compliance with the obligations established under the 2011 Act on Equality, Equity and Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the 2012 Special Comprehensive Act on a Violence-Free Life for Women, public institutions in El Salvador have integrated institutional policies on gender equality and equity into their work. The Executive Technical Unit of the Justice Sector, the Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women, the National Council of the Judiciary and the schools of the Counsel General's Office, the Attorney General's Office and the Office of the Human Rights Advocate also provide public officials and the general public with training on this topic with a view to fulfilling the common objective of achieving substantive equality between men and women. The judiciary and the Counsel General's Office likewise coordinate their efforts in order to ensure that violence against women is adequately addressed.

14. Steps have been taken to implement the National Equality Plan 2021–2025,<sup>2</sup> which lays down public policy guidelines on equality and combating discrimination against women at the national, sectoral and municipal levels. El Salvador is endowed with a full system of civil rights and liberties consisting of the Attorney General's Office, the Office of the Human Rights Advocate, the Counsel General's Office, the judiciary, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and the newly appointed Presidential Commissioner for Human Rights and Freedom of Expression, all of which seek to uphold the principle of equality and non-discrimination.

15. The General Act on Young People<sup>3</sup> was amended to broaden the definition of "young person" to cover individuals up to 35 years of age, thereby providing them with access to the loans, bursaries and housing programmes available under public policies aimed at that group.

16. The Comprehensive National Council for Older Persons was established following the adoption of the Special Act on the Protection of the Rights of Older Persons.<sup>4</sup> The Council, which counts civil society representatives among its members, is responsible for monitoring compliance with the Act and public policies aimed at older persons.

## C. Civil and political rights

### Right to life, liberty and security of person

17. El Salvador is implementing the Territorial Control Plan, which is a comprehensive, human rights-based strategy for the prosecution of crimes and the restoration of the social and community fabric that has helped transform El Salvador into one of the safest countries in the region. The state of emergency and its extensions, which were imposed to address the extraordinary levels of homicidal gang violence in the country, resulted in a fall in crime and homicide rates and had a positive impact on the population's fundamental rights and freedoms, which, for years, had been affected by the activities of criminal groups.

18. As part of the strategy to revitalize public spaces provided for under the Territorial Control Plan, 11 urban welfare and opportunities centres have been built in areas that were affected by gang activities. The centres are spaces within communities that promote personal development through reading, art, culture and the use of information and communications technology, thereby strengthening peaceful coexistence and social integration.<sup>5</sup> The first survey conducted under the centres' monitoring system, which took place in February 2024, showed that the centres play a key role in the restoration of the social fabric and have a positive impact on communities historically affected by violence.

19. September 2023 saw the launch of the sixth, so-called "integration", phase of the Territorial Control Plan and the adoption of the Integration System Act, which provided for the creation of the National Directorate for Integration and the establishment of a legal framework for the instilment of a culture of social integration, based on active and ongoing cooperation among public entities and private sector actors, to promote social, cultural, educational, political and economic development.<sup>6</sup>

20. The National Civil Police has citizen complaints and assistance offices, specialized institutional units for the care of women victims of violence and specialized teams for the investigation of violent crimes against women, the work of which has been strengthened since 2019 in order to ensure that vulnerable groups receive specialist care and to enhance police training.

### Right of access to justice

21. Six courts and a number of chambers specializing in organized crime, as well as guarantees courts, have been established. These entities are responsible for authorizing wiretapping in criminal investigations, the use of which is provided for in the Special Act on Monitoring of Telecommunications in order to boost efforts to improve the judicial investigation and criminal prosecution of criminal groups.

22. In 2021, the Attorney General's Office created the Anti-Corruption Directorate, which is composed of the Special Prosecutor's Unit for Money-Laundering, the Special Prosecutor's Unit for Corruption and the Special Prosecutor's Unit for Termination of Ownership. It also established the Subdirectorate for Combating Organized Crime in May 2024.

23. Since its establishment in 2016, the Unit for the Investigation of Offences Committed during the Armed Conflict of the Attorney General's Office has been provided with more human and logistical resources to improve its investigative work. This has led to significant progress in the investigation of cases such as the El Calabozo Massacre case, the Dutch Journalists case and the José Simeón Cañas University of Central America Massacre case, in which the arrest of senior military commanders from the time of the armed conflict has been ordered.

24. El Salvador continues to implement the Programme of Reparations for Victims of Serious Human Rights Violations Committed during the Internal Armed Conflict and disburses funds to an annual average of 1,466 relatives of victims and 3,741 older adults who are victims or relatives of victims of such violations.

25. It also runs the largest development programme in the area affected by the so-called massacres of El Mozote and nearby places, which has led to the improvement of roads, the building and renovation of schools, the construction of a care centre for older persons, the introduction of basic services, the implementation of a housing programme, the organization of commemorative events and the promotion of the area's economic development.

26. As part of its strategic activities, the Executive Technical Unit of the Justice Sector has organized round tables, forums, online courses and workshops on various human rights issues, including transitional justice, trafficking in persons and health in the prison system, for the institutions that make up the justice sector, thereby supporting the administration of justice. The Unit is also developing and implementing an expanded model for the protection of victims and witnesses that covers care, assistance, protection and comprehensive reparation for victims.

27. El Salvador has strengthened its prison infrastructure; there are currently 23 prisons in the country, which are categorized as reception centres, preventive detention centres, centres where sentences are served or special centres, in which access to basic services, food, drinking water, health services, recreational activities, hygiene facilities, programmes and workshops is guaranteed. There are also women's prisons, which house children accompanying their mothers in detention; a prison for foreign nationals; and a prison for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals and those with chronic or terminal illnesses. The newly built Terrorism Confinement Centre has the capacity to house 40,000 inmates.<sup>7</sup>

28. In order to strengthen the right of access to justice for vulnerable groups, in 2020, the Attorney General's Office introduced a protocol for the investigation of crimes aggravated by hatred on the grounds of gender identity and expression or sexual orientation. In 2022, the Counsel General's Office adopted a policy on inclusion and access to justice for vulnerable groups and a protocol for their care.

29. Since 2023, El Salvador has been implementing the "Women peacekeepers" project, the aim of which is to increase the participation and influence of women in peacebuilding processes and to contribute to the development of national policies such as the national plan of action on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). The "Keep Telling Me", "Roads of Remembrance" and "Connecting Stories" projects, which seek to ensure the sustainability of transitional justice initiatives through generational succession and social cohesion, are currently being implemented.

### **Prohibition of all forms of slavery**

30. The National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons 2019–2024, whose implementation is monitored by the National Council on Trafficking in Persons,<sup>8</sup> covers prevention, prosecution, detection, comprehensive care and protection and specialized training. Efforts are also made to ensure compliance with the inter-institutional protocol on the immediate delivery of comprehensive care for victims of trafficking in persons<sup>9</sup> by the institutions that make up the Council.

31. The Directorate General for Migration and Alien Affairs is implementing the protocol for detecting, handling and combating trafficking in persons, people smuggling and related crimes. The protocol sets out the lines of action for the prevention of human trafficking and provides for the registration of cases in the Integrated Migration Management System, which contains a specific module on this crime.

32. The Special Prosecutor's Unit for People Smuggling and Trafficking of the Attorney General's Office and the Special Anti-Trafficking Unit of the National Civil Police carry out operations to identify possible victims as part of investigations and as a preventive measure. Since 2021, more than 1,200 individuals have been prosecuted for crimes related to

trafficking in persons and people smuggling. As at July 2024, 646 convictions had been handed down.

33. Public officials from the National Public Security Academy, the Directorate General for Migration and Alien Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Counsel General's Office and the Ministry of Tourism are provided with ongoing training on trafficking in persons and related issues, with a view to raising awareness of and preventing such acts. The National Council on Trafficking in Persons conducts information sessions on the laws on the subject and runs activities as part of the Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking, which is aimed at raising awareness of the crime of trafficking in persons and its impact on society.

## **D. Economic, social and cultural rights**

### **Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**

34. In 2021, the minimum wage was increased by 20 per cent, benefiting all economic sectors. The Government granted micro, small and medium-sized enterprises a subsidy of \$60.5 million in order to mitigate the impact on them.

35. Programmes such as “My First Job”,<sup>10</sup> which is managed in coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and ILO, and “Young People Building the Future”, which is implemented in conjunction with the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation, have boosted access to employment for young people without work experience, prioritizing displaced persons, refugees and returnees between 18 and 35 years of age. Furthermore, the programme on productive inclusion within the framework of social programmes in the most vulnerable municipalities of El Salvador offers training in administrative and life skills for young people and adults. Employment opportunities for specific population groups have been arranged through the Public Employment Service.

36. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security has made significant progress in the implementation of the ILO-approved Labour Market Information System,<sup>11</sup> thereby consolidating the position of El Salvador as the leading country in Central America in terms of the collection and systematization of data on the labour market. The Ministry has spearheaded the development of market intelligence mechanisms through the establishment of the Labour Market Intelligence Unit, which has facilitated inter-institutional coordination on labour-related issues.

37. From 2023 to October 2024, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security carried out 22,307 workplace inspections to verify and ensure respect for labour rights, with the overall aim of eradicating forced labour and trafficking in persons and preventing child labour. In addition, August 2022 saw the launch of a programme that has enabled more than 5,000 single mothers to obtain jobs in 50 companies in various economic sectors by providing them with access to suitable job opportunities.

38. Access to employment for older persons has been promoted through the “Opportunities” programme run by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, which encourages the creation of posts for, and the recruitment of, individuals over 40 years of age and offers employers a three-month subsidy while the individual concerned learns on the job.

### **Right to an adequate standard of living**

39. In 2019, the newly appointed Presidential Commissioner for Operations and Cabinet Affairs assumed responsibility for the coordination of the National System of Development, Protection and Social Inclusion and the Universal Protection Subsystem. The Development and Social Protection Plan 2019–2024, which was launched that same year, provides for the implementation of the Poverty Eradication Strategy, which is aimed at vulnerable groups and is made up of four components: social and family support, financial and productive inclusion, income support to reduce inequality gaps, and social infrastructure.

40. The following tools have been implemented to monitor the progress made under the Development and Social Protection Plan 2019–2024: the central register of social programme beneficiaries, which covers 80.15 per cent of all municipalities; the system for monitoring the indicators set out in the Plan; and the system for monitoring multidimensional poverty indicators. The main achievements under the Plan include increasing social spending by 7.4 per cent between 2019 and 2022 and reducing multidimensional poverty by 2.7 percentage points over that same period, according to the national methodology for measuring this figure.

41. El Salvador is also implementing the Economic Plan, which consists of three stages: the “food” stage, which is focused on food security; the “technology” stage, the objective of which is to promote macroeconomic growth; and the “logistics” stage, which is geared towards strengthening the country’s logistical infrastructure, thus guaranteeing a comprehensive approach to the country’s economic and social development.

42. The Ministry of Local Development was established in June 2022. It is responsible for the implementation of the National Local Development Policy, which is aimed at fostering sustainable improvements in the quality of life in communities through the management of policies, programmes and projects for sustainable local development. The Ministry has provided financial support to an annual average of 35,468 older adults through the old age solidarity pension, the rural and urban components of the Community Solidarity Programme and the Poverty Eradication Strategy. It has also provided such support to an annual average of 1,152 individuals through the solidarity pension for persons with disabilities and an annual average of 16,788 families living in extreme poverty.

43. In 2021, El Salvador adopted the General Act on Water Resources,<sup>12</sup> which sets out a comprehensive framework for sustainable water management and establishes the Salvadoran Water Authority as the lead agency for the comprehensive management of water resources and other assets that are part of the public water domain. Following the adoption of the special regulations for determining fees for the use and exploitation of water resources,<sup>13</sup> water boards and community organizations that provide water distribution services have been exempted from paying fees, which has benefited thousands of inhabitants of rural areas, including Indigenous and Afrodescendent communities.

44. El Salvador has ratified the Paris Agreement and actively participates in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The key policies developed include the National Environment Policy 2022,<sup>14</sup> which promotes a low-carbon economy, and the National Climate Change Plan 2022,<sup>15</sup> which is focused on economic resilience and decarbonization.

45. A department for the environment has been established within each public institution, and efforts are being made to inform the population about how to properly care for natural ecosystems and resources. Steps have also been taken to strengthen the National Civil Protection System and the environmental monitoring infrastructure through the establishment of new meteorological and hydrological stations, thereby enhancing capacity to respond to extreme events. An early warning system has been implemented, and weather forecasting models have been improved to facilitate anticipatory action in productive sectors and communities.

46. El Salvador has conducted its seventh population and sixth housing census, during which territorial and demographic information on the population and its environment was gathered, thus facilitating the monitoring of social policies with a rights-based approach.

## **Housing**

47. The Housing System has been strengthened through the conversion, in 2019, of the Office of the Deputy Minister of Housing and Urban Development into the Ministry of Housing, which, together with the National Public Housing Fund, the Social Housing Fund and the Property Legalization Institute, implements programmes to facilitate access to housing for different population groups. Between June 2019 and August 2024, the Housing System invested approximately \$1.158 billion, benefiting 107,725 Salvadoran families.



48. The National Public Housing Fund has created the “End-User Loans” programme, which offers loans to families with an income up to six times the minimum wage, thereby facilitating access to housing for both formal and informal economic groups. The Social Housing Fund has expanded the “Homes for Women” programme, extending the age range and increasing the income limit so that it benefits a greater number of women. Following an investment of more than \$4 million, a building legalization programme has also been implemented, benefiting 8,952 low-income families, with women accounting for 63 per cent of the beneficiaries. The Government has recovered approximately \$225 million for 45,000 families who were affected by the activities of land development companies.

49. In rural areas, several housing projects have been implemented to provide decent housing in various localities. Examples include the housing development programme in Caserío el Mozote and surrounding areas, and the national housing improvement programme for low-income families.

### **Right to health**

50. The National Comprehensive Health System, which was set up in 2019, is made up of public and private institutions whose work is directly and indirectly related to health. Primary care has also been strengthened by extending the national coverage of preventive and curative care services in coordination with the hospital network and other institutions that are part of the National Comprehensive Health System.

51. The Government has made significant progress in strengthening the healthcare system, prioritizing the improvement of infrastructure and resources for maternal and child health. Healthcare for women, their babies and their families has been enhanced and modernized by clearly setting out the duties and obligations of healthcare personnel and guaranteeing that the infrastructure needed to provide safer and kinder care to the population is in place. In addition, breastfeeding rooms have been set up in all public institutions and the offices of the Salvadoran diplomatic and consular network.

52. Hostels have been set up for expectant mothers from remote areas, providing them with specialized care, accommodation, food and all the support necessary to guarantee a decent childbirth. As at June 2024, there had been 2,400 admissions to the hostels, and care services, such as check-ups by maternal and child healthcare personnel, health education and early learning activities, had been provided on more than 60,000 occasions, benefiting 6,921 families nationwide. These actions have contributed to reducing maternal mortality, which fell by 50 per cent between 2021 and 2022, from 62.8 to 34.5 deaths per 100,000 live births.<sup>16</sup>

53. The National Cross-sectoral Strategy for the Prevention of Child and Adolescent Pregnancy 2017–2027 has been implemented to coordinate activities in the areas of prevention, protection and access to justice. It has contributed to the decrease in the adolescent fertility rate, which fell from 45.88 in 2020 to 36.6 in 2022. The Strategy for the Eradication of Cervical Cancer covers vaccination against the human papillomavirus, regular screening and timely treatment. The epidemiological monitoring of individuals living with HIV has been improved, contributing to the comprehensive care of those affected. Telehealth centres have been set up in each of the five health regions to provide remote assistance and guidance to priority groups, including pregnant women and children under 5 years of age.

54. As part of the plan to modernize the public health system, 50 clinics of the Health Solidarity Fund have been rebuilt. An additional 133 such clinics are expected to be set up. The Ministry of Health has established a unit providing comprehensive care for older persons and is promoting the transformation of the comprehensive healthcare model for such individuals in order to support healthy ageing. To that same end, it has organized events at which comprehensive healthcare is delivered to older persons in the communities of the Nahua-Pipil and Kakawira Indigenous Peoples, providing them with specialized care in the areas of, inter alia, geriatric medicine, internal medicine, general medicine, physiotherapy, psychological support, nutrition and dental services, health education, vaccinations and cervical smears.

55. Despite the challenges posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, El Salvador continued to implement maternal and child health programmes and to increase vaccination coverage among pregnant women. At the beginning of the pandemic, with the

agreement of the health sector, a health emergency was declared in the national territory, allowing for the conduct of monitoring activities for the early detection of cases and the strengthening of the capacities of the health system.<sup>17</sup> El Salvador was able to swiftly implement a large-scale, voluntary vaccination campaign, providing each vaccinated individual with a digital COVID-19 vaccination certificate that was available online or via a QR code. Data on registered cases, statistics on hospitalized persons and information on the progress of the vaccination campaign were available for public consultation at: <https://covid19.gob.sv/>.

### **Right to education**

56. The Growing Together Act for the Protection of Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents recognizes the inalienable right of children and adolescents to free compulsory education. A comprehensive reform called “My New School” was launched in 2022. The reform is based on six pillars: infrastructure, early childhood, teacher training, an updated curriculum, technology, health and nutrition. Moreover, the “Links for Education” programme is designed to reduce the digital divide by providing technological tools to students in the public education system. The “Grow Up Reading” radio programme, which is intended for an early childhood audience, has also been launched.

57. The School Counselling Programme was introduced in 2019 to provide psychosocial care and legal advice to children and adolescents, with a preventive approach; there is one school counselling centre per department.

58. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, teaching strategies at all levels shifted towards virtual learning. The Programme on Universal Access to Educational Technologies was rolled out, ensuring that all students in the public system received an Internet-enabled computer or tablet. In addition, flexible teaching arrangements have been expanded to ensure continuity of learning, benefiting 15,744 children and adolescents between 2019 and 2021, of whom 54.9 per cent were young or teenage girls.

59. In 2018, the net enrolment rate for early childhood education was 6.4 per cent among children between 0 and 3 years of age, while the preschool enrolment rate was 57.4 per cent among children between 4 and 6 years of age. In 2019, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology invested \$2,479,080 in early education, benefiting 33,626 children under 3 years of age and 230,038 preschoolers. In 2021, enrolment in early childhood and preschool education increased by 7.8 per cent and 3.9 per cent, respectively.

60. From 2021 to 2023, scholarships were awarded to students living in poverty, especially in vulnerable areas, in seven of the country’s departments in order to improve retention in secondary education. This support covered the cost of, among others, transportation, food and connectivity for the recipients.

61. Between 2020 and 2024, the Government made major improvements to the national education infrastructure, partially or fully renovating 424 schools, and designed 158 additional schools. The Territorial Support System for Educational Inclusion, aimed at meeting the specific educational needs of children and adolescents, remains in place.

62. In the area of literacy and education for young people and adults, support has been provided to individuals over 15 years of age, including some adults, through flexible arrangements intended to facilitate their access to education.

## **E. Rights of specific groups**

### **Women**

63. Under the national support system for women affected by violence, the Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women provides psychological care and legal advice to women, both remotely and in person, through six specialized women’s support centres located in various parts of the country and the “126 Support Centre” for women victims of violence, women migrants and women returnees, which operates 24 hours a day through the 126 helpline, WhatsApp and the “126 Te Orienta Sin Fronteras” (Guidance without Borders)

platform. Through the Women's City Programme, an average of 148,141 women in vulnerable situations receive services annually.

64. The plan of action relating to the National Policy on Access to a Violence-Free Life for Women, which is aimed at changing sociocultural patterns that perpetuate violence and discrimination against women, has been implemented. In this framework, the mobile helpdesk strategy was launched to bring the institutional and support services of the Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women closer to beneficiaries by making them available at public and private institutions and in public spaces. From June 2019 to June 2024, 4,213 helpdesks were set up, reaching 250,005 people (187,589 women and 62,416 men).

65. In 2021, the Attorney General's Office established the Deputy Prosecutor's Office for Women, Children, Adolescents and Other Vulnerable Groups, which comprises 19 specialist support units for women, children and adolescents in various prosecutor's offices around the country. These units are responsible for investigating and prosecuting cases of gender-based violence, including offences such as femicide. The Attorney General's Office has a specialized femicide investigation unit in keeping with the Policy on Criminal Prosecution of Violence against Women.

66. The protocol for the investigation and criminal prosecution of violent deaths of women and cases of femicide or coerced or assisted suicide of women victims of violence was adopted in 2022, and the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Special Comprehensive Act on a Violence-Free Life for Women were amended in 2023 to remove the statute of limitations for the criminal prosecution of cases of femicide and aggravated femicide.

67. Models for the provision of legal and psychosocial support to victims of crime have been developed, resulting in infrastructural changes to prosecutor's offices to ensure safe environments for women, girls and adolescents who are victims of violence. The models envisage a crisis support room, a psychological support room for children and adolescents, a psychological support room for women, an interview room for children and adolescents, an interview room for women, a toy library and a Gesell chamber, depending on the space available.

68. The Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women has adopted a strategy on specialized training in women's rights and violence prevention. In addition, it is conducting awareness-raising, through which it has reached 37,353 people, including 23,401 women and 13,952 men, to foster a culture of respect for women's rights.

69. The School for Prosecutors has created a course on violence against women and femicidal violence and runs public campaigns to promote the timely identification and reporting of cases of violence against women, with slogans such as "Don't be Silenced by Fear", "#ViolenceDoesNotMakeYouAMan", "#Realize" "Violence against Women #IsACrime" and "Raise Your Voice against Violence".

70. Specialist staff of the Attorney General's Office also take part in fairs, interviews, workshops and forums held by various universities and public and private institutions to provide information on how to protect the human rights of women, young and teenage girls and other vulnerable persons and on the services offered by the Office.

71. The Counsel General's Office has a training plan for its staff, has conducted awareness-raising campaigns on women's human rights and maintains 15 specialist support units for women. In addition, it created a virtual assistance centre to offer legal guidance and support to victims. In 2023, it launched the "Violence against Women is not Normal" campaign.

72. The Executive Technical Unit of the Justice Sector conducts awareness-raising and training sessions on the Act on Equality, Equity and Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Special Comprehensive Act on a Violence-Free Life for Women, runs information campaigns on how to obtain assistance and report cases and has strengthened the technical capacities of staff delivering services in the specialized institutional support units for women.

73. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has dispensed training to teachers and administrative staff on the prevention and handling of sexual violence in educational

communities, in keeping with article 66 of the Growing Together Act for the Protection of Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents, which is intended to avoid revictimization and to ensure the dignified reintegration of victims in the school environment.

74. The National Cross-sectoral Strategy for the Prevention of Child and Adolescent Pregnancy 2017–2027 is being implemented through an action plan. Furthermore, the Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women is carrying out a project to support the implementation of the National Cross-sectoral Strategy in the Departments of Sonsonate and La Libertad. Protocols and guidelines have been developed in various institutions, and data and information on pregnancy and sexual violence have been produced to inform decision-making. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has developed a protocol for the retention in school of young and teenage girls who are pregnant or already mothers, which has been updated pursuant to the Growing Together Act for the Protection of Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents.

75. The Ministry of Public Works and Transport is taking steps to prevent harassment and violence in the context of public infrastructure projects, for instance by holding talks with and dispensing legal advice to workers and surrounding communities.

76. To contribute to the economic empowerment of women, the Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women is implementing the Institutional Strategy for the Promotion of Women’s Autonomy and Economic Empowerment 2022–2024, which involves various public institutions that provide technical training, business advice, entrepreneurial incentives and access to credit and financial services; 71,908 women benefited from these activities between 2020 and 2024.

77. Marketing spaces for women entrepreneurs have been created through the MercaMujer initiative. Since 2022, 239 MercaMujer fairs have been held, benefiting 2,234 women entrepreneurs, and 382 marketing fairs have been organized under the Women’s City Programme, benefiting 1,541 women’s enterprises and productive initiatives.

78. Through the “Homes for Women” credit programme of the Social Housing Fund and an investment of \$74.1 million, 3,727 loans were granted between 2020 and 2024, thus facilitating access to housing for women in situations of economic and social vulnerability.

79. The Directorate for Restoring the Social Fabric runs programmes, such as “I Am, I Can” and “Women: Transforming Lives”, aimed at providing women in vulnerable situations with tools for their comprehensive development. In addition, institutional coordination is ensured to provide comprehensive assistance to victims of violence.

### **Early childhood, childhood and adolescence**

80. Since 2019, efforts have been under way to update the regulatory, institutional and social framework pertaining to children for harmonization purposes and to ensure its consistency with the principle of the best interests of the child. This participatory process has involved consultations with different sectors of the population, especially children and adolescents.

81. The Caring Births Act on Decent Childbirth and Loving and Sensitive Care for Newborn Children,<sup>18</sup> which establishes the general principles and standards of a new biopsychosocial care model focused on women, babies and their families, was adopted in 2021. The Act contains regulations on the National Comprehensive Health System, the protocol on a human rights-based approach to care in the pre-conception, prenatal, labour and postnatal stages and in obstetric emergencies (2022)<sup>19</sup> and the protocols on care in the pre-conception, prenatal, labour and postnatal stages in low perinatal risk pregnancies.<sup>20</sup>

82. The Growing Together Act for the Protection of Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents,<sup>21</sup> which, for the first time, recognized early childhood and reinforced the notion that children and adolescents are rights holders, entered into force in 2023. The Act envisages an institutional framework including powers, obligations and more effective coordination. It also strengthens and clarifies the commitments of the National System of Comprehensive Protection, which is made up of 11 public institutions, the judiciary, Child and Adolescent Protection Boards, local rights committees, community ombudsmen for children and adolescents and the network of institutions providing care for children and adolescents.

Virtual training on the Growing Together Act has been designed; it is open to the public and mandatory for all officials who have contact with children and adolescents as part of their official duties.<sup>22</sup>

83. The Loving Nutrition Act for the Promotion and Protection of and Support for Breastfeeding,<sup>23</sup> was adopted in 2022 to safeguard the right of all children to breast milk. A guide on setting up and operating breastfeeding rooms in the workplace has been developed.<sup>24</sup>

84. The Special Adoption Act was amended in 2021 to make adoption processes more efficient and to allow children to exercise their right to live in a family, with appropriate follow-up and monitoring mechanisms.

85. Strategies on early childhood care are set out in the “Growing Together” National Policy to Support Early Childhood Development 2020–2030,<sup>25</sup> which comprises four areas of intervention: (i) health and nutrition; (ii) education and care; (iii) protective environments and settings; and (iv) protection of rights. Of note is the National Strategy for Comprehensive Early Childhood Development, which defines key results, outcomes and actions for a 10-year period (2018–2028).

86. The “Let’s Play Together” National Play Strategy<sup>26</sup> was launched in 2023 to foster the conditions necessary for young children to enjoy play as a fundamental right. Under this initiative, 8 October was declared National Play Day.

87. The National Council for Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence was established as the lead agency for child and adolescent issues. It coordinates the National System of Comprehensive Protection and the Growing Together Institute for early childhood care, which manages and delivers comprehensive care services and strengthens families through the development of parenting skills. The Adoptions Office, which was attached to the Counsel General’s Office until 2022, is now autonomous and has its own budget and technical resources, which will allow for more efficient management through focused specialized adoption efforts.

88. The Growing Together Act for the Protection of Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents recognizes children’s and adolescents’ right of access to justice and envisages standards to prevent the revictimization of child victims and witnesses; for example, statements are to be given only once, in a friendly environment and with professional support.

89. Amendments to the Organic Act on the Judicial System were adopted in 2022 to increase the judiciary’s capacity to respond to cases involving children and adolescents through the establishment of the Second Special Chamber for Children and the Second and Third Special Courts for Children.

90. The comprehensive early childhood care model was launched in 2023 to provide guidance on the features that care services for children, in utero and up to 8 years of age, must include, taking into account aspects related to the different areas or dimensions of their development.<sup>27</sup> Nurseries have been converted into early childhood care centres, whose maintenance, installation or contracting costs are deductible for employers.

91. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is developing a strategy to ensure the social and emotional well-being of the 947,720 students currently in non-formal education. The Family Education Programme has been rolled out to develop parents’ skills in fostering coexistence at school and at home using tools available from the Family Education Google Site.

92. In 2023, the National Registry of Natural Persons began issuing children with a personal identification number from birth. This number, which is linked to the child’s birth certificate, gives access to the Integrated Health System and the National Education Management Information System, among other systems with which individuals will interact over the course of their lives. A personal identification number is generated retroactively for children born before 1 January 2023.

93. The Executive Technical Unit of the Justice Sector has conducted training for the justice sector and other institutions that provide services to protect and restore the rights of children and adolescents, as well as training for children and adolescents themselves. Until 2019, it ran the public legal education programme called “Justice is Also for Me”, which

provides children with an overview of justice sector institutions and protective laws, such as the Juvenile Offenders Act, the Domestic Violence Act and the Special Comprehensive Act on a Violence-Free Life for Women.

94. In 2022, the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure were amended to guarantee the rights of child victims and witnesses to protection of their identity and that of their families, to make an advance statement, to recognition of their vulnerability and to receive specialized support in proceedings for offences against sexual freedom or for gender-based violence or human trafficking, as well as to introduce harsher penalties for offences committed against persons under 18 and over 60 years of age.

95. Pursuant to the Plan for the Comprehensive Care and Protection of Returnee Children and Adolescents and Their Families (the “Open Arms” plan), which was formulated in 2021, five offices have been established in consulates to provide assistance and protection to migrant children and adolescents in transit or in the country of destination. In addition, the institutions of the National Protection System have been providing care to returnee children and adolescents, and the Plan on Care Centres for Children, Adolescents and Families, which focuses on providing services to children and adolescents in a vulnerable situation resulting from irregular migration, is being implemented. Between 2021 and 2023, 9,811 children and adolescents benefited from these services.

96. A project on assistance for returnee children and adolescents and support for the sustainable reintegration of their families, as well as a project to connect the families of returnee children and adolescents with livelihood opportunities, were implemented in 2023. Both projects had a food security component involving the issuance of cards for the purchase of food supplies for more than 1,400 children and adolescents. In addition, a comprehensive project on human mobility has been rolled out to strengthen sustainable reintegration and to prevent returnee children and adolescents from migrating again through three components, namely humanitarian aid, technical training scholarships and entrepreneurship/seed capital.

97. The National Council for Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence monitors the situation of young children living with their mothers in detention to ensure that their rights to health, food, education and recreation, among others, are respected. From 2023 to July 2024, Child and Adolescent Protection Boards took action in relation to 69 cases of violations of or threats to collective rights, thus protecting the rights of 3,039 children and adolescents, 18,789 cases of violations of or threats to health rights and 3,328 cases of violations of or threats to education rights; 21,041 measures were ordered in cases of violations of or threats to health and education rights.

98. The National Council for Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence also conducts dissemination, promotion and training activities on the rights of children and adolescents in order to prevent threats to and violations of rights and to overcome the knowledge gap at the family and social levels. It has implemented the “Safe Childhood” plan for the care of children in street situations and the “I’m Also a Person” programme, which addresses the use of corporal punishment and fear as childrearing and education tools, especially in early childhood. Between January and October 2023, 804 adults received training under the programme, with 1,095 children benefiting indirectly from the training received by their parents. The National Council is also implementing the “Living in a Family” programme, the aim of which is to avoid the need to place children in institutional care and to promote the application of protective measures in a family environment; 6,184 services were provided in this context between 2020 and July 2024.

99. The Directorate for Restoring the Social Fabric has conducted activities aimed at fostering a culture of peace and violence prevention, including: the Street Soccer Programme, in which 9,120 people took part; Evento 4H (Spanish-language hip-hop), with 14,000 participants; and the Youth Programme, which consists of talks and training sessions focused on conflict resolution, violence prevention and non-violent communication to strengthen peaceful coexistence, in which 18,250 young people in 598 communities took part from 2020 to 2024. The “Paths to Social Integration” project, which involves 437 men and women over 18 years of age who have served out a sentence, is currently under way.

## Indigenous Peoples

100. The Legislative Assembly has adopted decrees to strengthen the recognition and protection of the culture and rights of Indigenous and Afrodescendent peoples. In 2023, 9 August was declared National Day of Indigenous Peoples; seven traditional dances from the Department of Morazán, including “Los Negritos” from San Simón and “La Yegüita” from Guatajiagua, were recognized as part of the intangible cultural heritage of El Salvador; 6 September was declared National Indigo Day; and the “Procession of the Christs” and the “Procession of the Holy Burial” in Izalco, Sonsonate, were declared a part of the country’s cultural heritage. Other decrees include declarations regarding the International Day of Indigenous Peoples and the protection of archaeological sites, such as the pre-Hispanic settlement in Tonacatepeque. The individual and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples are recognized in the Culture Act and the Act on the Promotion, Protection and Development of the National Handicrafts Sector.

101. The updating of the National Policy for Indigenous Peoples,<sup>28</sup> which was carried out in consultation with Indigenous communities and State entities, was completed in 2023. The Policy sets out strategies in five core areas, namely social development, economic development, cultural development, environmental sustainability and governance. Ten municipal ordinances have been implemented to protect the rights of Indigenous communities, and the municipality of La Unión adopted an ordinance for the recognition of the rights of persons of African descent in May 2023.

102. The Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Health have jointly launched the Ancestral Food Culture Project. In this context, the “Ancestral recipe book. Indigenous and Afrodescendent heritage: nutritious and easy-to-prepare food”,<sup>29</sup> developed in conjunction with rural Indigenous and Afrodescendent women, was published in 2023. Projects relating to the environment and climate change that guarantee the full participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendent peoples have also been implemented.

103. The Ministry of Culture is implementing the Indigenous Languages Plan, the “Healing Plants” project, a register of medicinal plants from the Indigenous communities of Santo Domingo de Guzmán (Náhuat and Spanish), the “Strengthening Language Immersion Choirs” project in the municipality of Santo Domingo de Guzmán and the “Strengthening Traditional Dance in El Salvador” project, which supports groups that practise Indigenous or Afrodescendent dance.

104. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has a cohort of 72 teachers trained in the Nahua-Pipil cultural identity and language who are applying the bilingual intercultural approach in the public education system. Education services are provided in 37 municipalities with Indigenous and Afrodescendent inhabitants, including 129,663 students at different levels and in different types of education. Fourteen interculturality networks have been established nationwide, comprising more than 400 teachers who have received the relevant training, and a study on the Patón and Cacaopera languages is currently being developed. “Language and identity immersion nests”, which involve Náhuat-speaking teachers and are designed to revitalize the Náhuat language, have been set up in schools for children between 4 and 7 years of age. The Directorate for Restoring the Social Fabric carries out activities for the revitalization of the Náhuat language in the Urban Welfare and Opportunities Centre in Panchimalco.

105. The Directorate General for Multiculturalism of the Ministry of Culture, which was created in 2019, promotes the rights of Indigenous and Afrodescendent peoples through activities in the areas of rights promotion, community development and cultural promotion.

106. The Standing Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples<sup>30</sup> of the Office of the Human Rights Advocate coordinates with the various State and civil society institutions involved in Indigenous affairs to shape the protection and promotion of the rights of these peoples.

107. Access to essential services for Indigenous older persons was ensured through 34 specialized health fairs, in which 75 per cent of participants were women.

**Persons with disabilities**

108. The Special Act on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>31</sup> which was adopted in 2020, establishes the National Council for Persons with Disabilities as the lead agency for disability issues, responsible for implementing related policies and other intervention measures.

109. The National Council for Persons with Disabilities has signed 22 commitment agreements regarding technical, academic and soft skills training for persons with disabilities to facilitate their integration into the labour market. Together with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, it has also launched an employment scheme through which persons with disabilities have obtained decent jobs and the “Become an Inclusive Business” programme, which has resulted in the roll-out of 11 inclusive projects, thus contributing to greater labour-market integration.

110. In the area of health, comprehensive medical fairs have been held in rural areas and mental health workshops have been organized for carers of completely dependent persons with disabilities, thus improving the psychological well-being of these families.

111. There are currently 17 guidance and resource centres operating throughout the country, benefiting 4,418 students who have undergone a psychoeducational assessment and are the subject of a comprehensive educational assistance plan. The strategy for teacher-supported inclusion has been implemented, benefiting more than 14,174 students with specific educational needs. The Resource Centre for the Inclusion of Students with Visual Impairments has distributed materials in various accessible formats, benefiting 300 students who are blind or partially sighted.

112. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has strengthened its inclusive education programme to guarantee access to education for children and adolescents with disabilities. In addition, psychosocial and technical support has been provided through the guidance and resource centres, ensuring that children and adolescents with disabilities receive appropriate education services and access to inclusive teaching materials, such as technological applications and specialized equipment.

113. The Government has launched the “Eliminating Barriers” Strategic Plan 2021–2024,<sup>32</sup> with a focus on improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities by strengthening institutions, expanding comprehensive assistance and modernizing services. The Plan includes the signing of 18 strategic agreements to promote the mainstreaming of rights.

114. In the area of social protection, the Ministry of Local Development has granted an average of 1,152 solidarity pensions per year to persons with disabilities in 29 municipalities. The Government has also enhanced inclusive infrastructure, with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport leading the implementation of the Salvadoran Technical Standard on Accessibility to eliminate architectural and urban planning barriers with a view to creating a more accessible environment.

115. In the area of justice, training workshops have been held for civil society organizations and the justice sector, at which emphasis was placed on the formulation of a protocol for the care of persons with disabilities and the production of accessible materials, such as Braille versions of the Constitution and national laws. These measures are complemented by a plan for the technical verification of accessible infrastructures in public and private institutions.

116. The Counsel General’s Office has established a new special prosecutor’s office for persons in a vulnerable situation, which provides interpretation in Salvadoran Sign Language and converts legal documents into accessible formats for persons with visual impairments.

**Migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons**

117. In 2019, El Salvador joined the comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework and created a national response plan containing 49 commitments in the areas of protection, health, education and livelihoods to respond to the needs of internally displaced persons, refugees and asylum-seekers. El Salvador held the temporary presidency of the framework in 2020 and led the working group on forced displacement in 2022.



118. With the creation of the Office of the Deputy Minister for the Diaspora and Human Mobility,<sup>33</sup> a comprehensive approach has been taken to the issue of mobility by promoting the right to freedom of movement and protecting the human rights of the Salvadoran diaspora. The diaspora's right to vote was recognized through the adoption of the Special Act on Voting from Abroad, pursuant to which, for the first time in Salvadoran history, all Salvadorans abroad had the option to exercise their vote electronically or in person in the recent 2024 elections. To this end, centres equipped to issue the requisite single identity document were opened in foreign countries, making it easier for Salvadorans living abroad to obtain the document in question. Between October and November 2023, 55,000 single identity documents were issued, contributing significantly to the closing of the electoral register.

119. A virtual consulate for the provision of assistance and guidance on migration issues to Salvadorans abroad has been created, as has the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Mobility, which brings together more than 40 institutions, including the Public Prosecution Service, with the aim of coordinating the development and improvement of public policies and actions for persons on the move. The Mechanism addresses six priority areas: prevention of irregular migration, assistance and protection, labour mobility, assistance for the diaspora, reintegration and environmental factors.

120. The implementation of the Labour Migration Programme (H-2 visas) has facilitated the regular labour mobility of Salvadorans abroad, and the El Salvador+ Programme, which brings together more than 24 government institutions, offers 45 services to Salvadorans abroad through "service fairs". In addition, the "Transforming Lives" programme for the sustainable reintegration of returnees, with a focus on migrant women, offers reintegration options through comprehensive assistance counters located throughout the country. These efforts include the development of the Protocol for the Care of Women Returnees, which advocates an intersectoral approach and respect for human rights.

121. The National Council for Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence established the Plan for the Comprehensive Care and Protection of Returnee Children and Adolescents and Their Families 2021–2024, through which 12,435 minors received assistance between January 2020 and July 2024. The National Council has opened four consular offices in Mexico and one in the United States of America, where 3,571 migrant children have received assistance in transit or at their destination.

122. Since 2022, the Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women has been expanding its service capacity with two shelters where women victims of violence and returnee women and children can receive psychological, legal and social support.

123. The Special Act on the Comprehensive Care and Protection of Persons in Situations of Forced Internal Displacement was adopted in 2020 to recognize, guarantee and protect the rights of displaced persons or persons at risk of being displaced. The Forced Internal Displacement Unit of the Counsel General's Office is responsible for tackling this issue.

124. The Commission on Refugee Status Determination has been strengthened. Its facilities were inaugurated this year, thus providing an appropriate space to assist claimants.

## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Decreto Ejecutivo No. 23, de fecha 19 de mayo de 2023. Véase en: <https://www.transparencia.gob.sv/institutions/capres/documents/indice-de-decretos-ejecutivos>.
- <sup>2</sup> Véase en: <https://www.transparencia.gob.sv/institutions/instituto-salvadoreno-para-el-desarrollo-de-la-mujer/documents/555912/download>.
- <sup>3</sup> Véase en: <https://www.transparencia.gob.sv/institutions/injuve/documents/535099/download>.
- <sup>4</sup> Véase en: <https://transparencia.asamblea.gob.sv/node/1829>.
- <sup>5</sup> <https://cubo.gob.sv/cubo/>.
- <sup>6</sup> <https://www.seguridad.gob.sv/presidente-nayib-bukele-anuncia-fase-vi-del-plan-control-territorial/>.
- <sup>7</sup> Véase en: <https://www.seguridad.gob.sv/presidente-nayib-bukele-presenta-el-centro-de-confinamiento-del-terrorismo/>.
- <sup>8</sup> Estas instituciones son: MRREE, MJSP, MINEDUCYT, MINSAL, MIGOBBDT, MTPS, MINTUR, FGR, PGR, ISDEMU, CONAPINA, PNC, DGME, ICJ.

- <sup>9</sup> Véase en: <https://w5.salud.gob.sv/archivos/UAITFVIOLENCIA/documentos-normativos/4-Protocolo-actuacion-interinstitucional-atencion-integral-inmediata-victimas-trata-de-personas.pdf>.
- <sup>10</sup> Véase en: <https://www.mtps.gob.sv/2024/09/27/mi-primer-trabajo/>.
- <sup>11</sup> Véase en: <https://simel.mtps.gob.sv/>.
- <sup>12</sup> Ley General de Recursos Hídricos, Decreto Legislativo No. 253, de fecha 21 de diciembre del 2021, disponible en: <https://www.asamblea.gob.sv/sites/default/files/documents/decretos/38040F9D-D229-4C16-8F55-51EF058A2F0A.pdf>.
- <sup>13</sup> Véase en: <https://www.asa.gob.sv/download/reglamento-especial-de-canonos/#>.
- <sup>14</sup> Política Nacional del Medio Ambiente.  
<https://bibliotecaambiental.ambiente.gob.sv/documentos/politica-nacional-de-medio-ambiente/>.
- <sup>15</sup> Plan Nacional de Cambio Climático 2022–2026.  
<https://bibliotecaambiental.ambiente.gob.sv/documentos/plan-nacional-de-cambio-climatico-2022-2026/>.
- <sup>16</sup> <https://crecerjuntos.gob.sv/mesLactanciaMaterna>.
- <sup>17</sup> Toda la documentación oficial del Ministerio de Salud de El Salvador, está disponible en el Centro de Documentación Virtual: <http://asp.salud.gob.sv/regulacion/default.asp>, así como la compilación de los Decretos de Emergencia por la pandemia COVID-19, que se pueden consultar en: <https://impresanacional.gob.sv/compilacion-de-decretos-de-emergencia-por-covid-19/>.
- <sup>18</sup> Ley Nacer con Cariño para un Parto Respetado y un Cuidado Cariñoso y Sensible para el Recién Nacido. Véase en: [https://crecerjuntos.gob.sv/dist/documents/Ley\\_nacer\\_con\\_carino.pdf](https://crecerjuntos.gob.sv/dist/documents/Ley_nacer_con_carino.pdf).
- <sup>19</sup> Protocolo para el abordaje de atenciones en el período preconcepcional, prenatal, parto, puerperio y emergencias obstétricas desde una perspectiva de derechos humanos. Véase en: <https://asp.salud.gob.sv/regulacion/pdf/otrosdoc/protocoloparaelabordajedeatencionesenelperiodopreconcepcionalprenatalpartopuerperioyemergenciasobstetricasdesdeunaperspectivadederechoshumanos.pdf>.
- <sup>20</sup> Protocolos de Asistencia para los períodos Preconcepcional, Prenatal, Parto y Puerperio de Bajo Riesgo Perinatal. Véase en: [https://crecerjuntos.gob.sv/dist/documents/PROTOCOLO\\_NACER\\_CON\\_CARINO.pdf](https://crecerjuntos.gob.sv/dist/documents/PROTOCOLO_NACER_CON_CARINO.pdf) [https://crecerjuntos.gob.sv/dist/documents/guia\\_salas\\_lactacia\\_materna.pdf](https://crecerjuntos.gob.sv/dist/documents/guia_salas_lactacia_materna.pdf).
- <sup>21</sup> Ley Crecer Juntos para la Protección Integral de la Primera Infancia, Niñez y Adolescencia. Véase en: [https://crecerjuntos.gob.sv/dist/documents/DECRETO\\_LEY.pdf](https://crecerjuntos.gob.sv/dist/documents/DECRETO_LEY.pdf).
- <sup>22</sup> <https://crecerjuntos.gob.sv/>.
- <sup>23</sup> Ley Amor Convertido en Alimento para el fomento, protección y apoyo a la lactancia materna. Véase en: <https://crecerjuntos.gob.sv/dist/documents/Ley-Amor-convertido-en-Alimento.pdf>.
- <sup>24</sup> Guía para la instalación y funcionamiento de Salas de Lactancia Materna en centros de trabajo. Véase en: <https://fosalud.gob.sv/download/guia-para-la-instalacion-y-funcionamiento-de-salas-de-lactancia-materna-en-centros-de-trabajo/>.
- <sup>25</sup> Política Nacional de Apoyo al Desarrollo Infantil Temprano. Véase en: <https://crecerjuntos.gob.sv/dist/documents/POLITICA-CRECER-JUNTOS-version-actualizada-DIC2023-modificada-21-de-mayo.pdf>.  
[https://crecerjuntos.gob.sv/dist/documents/POLITICA\\_CRE CER\\_JUNTOS\\_RESUMEN.pdf](https://crecerjuntos.gob.sv/dist/documents/POLITICA_CRE CER_JUNTOS_RESUMEN.pdf).
- <sup>26</sup> Estrategia Nacional del Juego “Juguemos Juntos”. Véase en: <https://crecerjuntos.gob.sv/dist/documents/juguemos-juntos-documento.pdf>.
- <sup>27</sup> Lineamientos Técnicos para la implementación del Modelo de Atención Integral a la Primera Infancia. Véase en: <https://crecerjuntos.gob.sv/dist/documents/modelo-de-atencion-integral-a-la-primera-infancia.pdf>.
- <sup>28</sup> Política Pública para los Pueblos Indígenas de El Salvador, 2017. Disponible en: <https://derechodelacultura.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Pol%C3%ADtica-para-Pueblos-Ind%C3%ADgenas-MICULTURA.pdf?view=download>.
- <sup>29</sup> Recetario Ancestral, Herencia Indígena y Afrodescendientes: Alimentos Nutritivos y Fáciles de Preparar, 2023. <https://www.cultura.gob.sv/lanzan-recetario-ancestral/>.
- <sup>30</sup> Documento Constitutivo de la Mesa Permanente de la Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos sobre Derechos Humanos sobre Derechos de Pueblos Indígenas, 2018, Disponible en: <https://www.pddh.gob.sv/portal/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/documento-constitutivo-pueblos-indigenas.pdf>.
- <sup>31</sup> Consejo Nacional para la Inclusión de las Personas con Discapacidad (CONAIPD). Ley Especial de Inclusión de las Personas con Discapacidad. Véase en: <https://conaipd.gob.sv/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Ley-Especial-de-Inclusi%C3%B3n-de-las-Personas-con-Discapacidad.pdf>.
- <sup>32</sup> <https://conaipd.gob.sv/2021/12/03/dia-nacional-e-internacional-de-las-personas-con-discapacidad/>.
- <sup>33</sup> Reglamento Interno del Órgano Ejecutivo, art. 32 Competencias del Ministerio literales 23 al 29. Véase en: <https://www.transparencia.gob.sv/institutions/capres/documents/74663/download>.