

EL SALVADOR

Protect TPS

Today there are approximately 260,000 Salvadoran nationals living and working in the United States with TPS. Conditions in El Salvador have remained challenging since the earthquakes in January and February of 2001 that triggered the TPS designation by President George Bush. TPS has been renewed for El Salvador eleven times under Republican and Democratic administrations since then*. El Salvador is more unsafe today than it was in 2001 partially due to the country's inability to fully recover from natural disasters that followed the 2001 earthquake. Failed El Salvador and United States government policies from the 1980s, 1990s, 2000s, and 2010s are also to blame for the continued insecurity and economic underdevelopment in the country.

WHY DOES EL SALVADOR STILL NEED TPS?

NATURAL DISASTERS HAVE PUMMELED EL SALVADOR SINCE THE 2001 EARTHQUAKE

2005: Hurricanes

Adrian and Stan

caused at least 67

people to be killed. Officials said nearly 54,000 others had to reach 370 shelters throughout the country.

2010: Tropical Storm

Agatha

caused the government to shut down schools, open shelters and led to nine deaths

2012: 7.4 Magnitude

Earthquake

was off the shore of El Salvador and caused a tsunami warning to be issued

2016: Drought

Emergency

caused severe water shortages which led the Salvadoran government to issue a water shortage emergency for the first time

2009: Massive

Flooding

killed 130 people and caused 13,680 more to be displaced.

2011: Heavy Rains

and Flooding

caused the country to declare a state of emergency. At least 32 people were killed and mandatory evacuations were ordered.

2013: Eruption of

Chaparrastique

Volcano

caused thousands to evacuate the coffee-producing region.

U.S. POLICIES HAVE LEFT A LASTING EFFECT IN EL SALVADOR

- The U.S. funded military led governments in El Salvador for much of the 20th century, including through the 1980's. This fueled a civil war in which over 75,000 people were killed, which was the largest counter-insurgency war involving the U.S. since Vietnam. A peace deal was negotiated by the UN after years of civil war.^^ By then the country had sustained significant and lasting damage. Some Salvadoran TPS beneficiaries fled violence in El Salvador before the end of the civil war, but were not recognized as refugees.
- The majority of Salvadoran TPS recipients arrived in the U.S. during the 1990s, during a time when the Salvadoran government followed U.S. promoted policies known collectively as the "Washington Consensus."
- The gangs like MS-13 and 18th Street that are ravaging Salvadoran families, including those of TPS beneficiaries, were created in the U.S.
- The majority of firearms found in El Salvador are illegally bought and smuggled from the U.S.
- U.S. security policies, including those implemented under the rubric of the "War on Drugs" have not decreased the supply of drugs in the U.S., but have contributed to making El Salvador one of the most violent nations in the world



SEVERE LIVING CONDITIONS STILL REMAIN AS A RESULT OF THE 2001 EARTHQUAKE



The homicide rate in El Salvador has significantly increased since 2001. In 2001 the homicide rate was 34.79 per every 100,000 people** but by 2016 the homicide rate had jumped to 80.40 per every 100,000, ^ which the government has been unable to respond to in part due to the instability brought on by the 2001 earthquake. *



Salvadorans paid \$756 million in extortion money to gangs totaling to 3% of the national GDP. The lost income from people deterred from working is nearly 16% of the GDP. ^^



As of July 2016, the U.S. government stated that El Salvador faces a severe housing shortage of up to 630,000 homes created in part by the 340,000 homes destroyed in the 2001 earthquake. * Currently six out of ten families live in inadequate housing.****

*Federal Register, July 8, 2016

** World Bank, Homicide Rate Dataset

*** UNHCR Statistics

**** Habitat for Humanity, El Salvador

^ Overseas Security Advisory Council, El Salvador 2017 Crime and Safety Report

^^ The Economist, "The gangs that cost 16% of GDP"

^^^ The Nation, "Time for a US Apology to El Salvador"