



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

EL SALVADOR

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR) has worked in Central America since 1972 to promote sustainable livelihoods for rural farmers. In El Salvador, LWR works with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), farming cooperatives, international agencies and international foundations to advance rural development and build the capacity of communities to benefit from agricultural opportunities. El Salvador is currently experiencing heightened violence and a lack of gender- and age-inclusive agricultural policies. Poor public agriculture policy and disappointing economic prospects cause individuals in rural areas to emigrate to wealthier countries for safety, jobs and education. This emigration degrades the socio-economic fiber of smallholder farmer livelihoods.

LWR's El Salvador program emphasizes environmentally sound agricultural practices to sustain yields, provides additional income for farmers, and protect natural resources. LWR's investments for agriculture value chains and food security initiatives strategically build partners' capacity to engage with and benefit from the El Salvador government's renewed commitment to and investments in small-scale agricultural production, including the Family Agriculture Plan. LWR also integrates programs for youth and entrepreneurship to help communities access and maximize existing resources by building strong community-based organizations and providing opportunities for future generations.

AGRICULTURE VALUE CHAINS: COCOA

LWR is supporting El Salvador's efforts to generate a rebirth of cocoa and stimulate private and public sector investment in the value chain. Grown on a national scale, cocoa has the potential to increase the country's biodiversity, restore degraded ecosystems, improve the quality of soil and water resources, and provide sustainable agriculture-based livelihoods for large numbers of rural Salvadorans.

LWR is participating with CRS and CLUSA El Salvador in an alliance funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Howard G. Buffet Foundation. The alliance increases income and employment opportunities

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3^a. Calle oriente y 3^a avenida sur,
Barrio Santa Lucía, Alegría Usulután, El Salvador

Visit lwr.org/contact for contact information
for LWR's El Salvador country office.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Lutheran World Relief works to improve the lives of millions of smallholder farmers and people experiencing poverty in Africa, Asia and Latin America, both in times of emergencies and for the long term. LWR builds and maximizes community assets to develop strong local economies and resilient communities, toward our mission of an end to poverty, injustice and human suffering.

by working with local and international research institutions to establish and maintain cocoa agroforestry systems that conserve biodiversity for sustainable rural development. This project provides the opportunity for farmers and producer organizations in the cocoa value chain to participate in export-oriented value chains and promotes investment for further cocoa sector development in El Salvador.

Additionally, LWR and the World Environment Center, with financing from the US Department of State, are implementing a regional program in Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua to strengthen small cocoa farm enterprises. In El Salvador, small cocoa farm enterprises struggle to enter high-value export value chains due to limited market information and knowledge which leads to poor tree care and poor pre- and post-processing handling which ultimately limits production quantity and quality. This program is slated to benefit thousands of farmers by providing mobile-based and online access to LWR's Cocoa Toolkit, a resource that provides a wide range of production, processing and marketing information for small-scale cocoa farmers.



Maria del Cid, a community leader in Las Marias, Usulután. Maria's coffee crop has been destroyed by 'La Roya' or leaf rust., a fungus that thrives on the hot and humid environment that has come with climate change to the Central American region. LWR has supported FUNDES, a local organization, to provide technical assistance to help people like Maria diversify and recover from this ongoing blight on coffee and the rural economy of the region. With LWR, Maria is planting cocoa between her coffee plants because it withstands higher temperature and humidity.

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AND CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

LWR supports climate-smart agriculture projects that diversify farmers' production capabilities, improve the soil, conserve water resources, and increase a farmer's resilience to adverse weather events.

Currently, LWR is working with rural populations in the 14 municipalities of the Sierra Tecapa Chinameca (STCH) – among the most impoverished in El Salvador – to develop environmentally sustainable economic alternatives and promote a peaceful and more inclusive society. LWR is working against economic developments in the STCH that actively exclude poverty-stricken groups. Reduced rural community participation in development planning and policy decisions, and the lack of opportunities for women and youth are contributing to economic livelihoods that are neither socially nor environmentally sustainable.

To subvert this, LWR is improving territorial governance by promoting a greater level of institutional and social inclusion, diversifying economic strategies by encouraging the use of agroforestry systems, and reducing violence and emigration by offering job training and educational opportunities for both women and youth. Through this project the rural population will be able to participate in local development planning as a result of good governance practices implemented by local authorities, furthermore, this work will allow youth and women access to new jobs in environmentally-friendly economic sectors.

AGRICULTURE: FOOD SECURITY

El Salvador, LWR is working with vulnerable populations in rural municipalities of Suchitoto, El Paisnal, La Nueva Concepción, Guazapa and Tonacatepeque in the San Salvador Department to increase food production and household income with emphasis on expanding organic production, improving quality of food storage, improving seed access, and strengthening potential for entrepreneurship. Adults and youth benefit from basic grain and seed storage credits and production technologies from LWR and the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry of El Salvador working alongside the National Center of Agriculture, Livestock, and Forestry Technology (CENTA). As a result, it is primarily smallholder women farmers growing organic gardens and maximizing their profits while at-risk youngsters are provided toolkits to develop themselves professionally and avoid gangs and emigration.



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