



EL SALVADOR

El Salvador is one of the most disaster-vulnerable countries in the world, with 95 percent of its population residing in areas at risk for flood, earthquakes, volcanic eruption, hurricanes and landslides. As the 14th most exposed country to climate change worldwide, El Salvador is experiencing increasingly unpredictable and severe weather patterns, including drought every year since 2011. There is significant need for improved disaster preparedness and risk reduction to enable rapid recovery of rural livelihoods and make disasters less costly. The country's diminishing annual water supply per capita is leaving thousands without access to drinking water, and many more with limited or intermittent access. Climate change is exacerbating poverty and worsening food security and viability for rural livelihoods, especially among youth and women. The lack of economic opportunities combined with heightened levels of violence in El Salvador are fueling migration.

Lutheran World Relief has worked in Central America since 1972 to promote sustainable livelihoods for rural farmers. In El Salvador, Lutheran World Relief works with local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), farming cooperatives, international agencies, and foundations to strengthen local capacity for the advancement of rural economies and disaster risk reduction. We support El Salvador in climate-smart agriculture efforts to strengthen cocoa production, promoting private and public sector investment in the value chain and improving food security.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

In concert with Corus International

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OUR GLOBAL APPROACHES

Rural Economies and Agricultural Livelihoods

Lutheran World Relief works with smallholder farmers to increase their food security and their participation in and income from agriculture value chains, like cocoa and coffee. We train farmers in climate smart agricultural practices, post-harvest processing and storage as well as in other value-adding skills. We strengthen the capacity of cooperatives and unions that serve these farmers through training in governance and financial management, facilitating joint negotiation of credit and other services and boosting collective marketing and sales.

Climate Resilience

Lutheran World Relief works with rural communities to adapt to and mitigate the effects of a changing climate on their agriculture-based livelihoods. We emphasize environmental rehabilitation through the implementation of soil and water conservation works and watershed management on community land, as well as tree seedling production for community-led reforestation.

Humanitarian Assistance

Lutheran World Relief meets the immediate needs of households, IDPs, and refugees affected by conflict, natural disasters, and food and water crises through food, material resource, and cash assistance as well as shelter and WASH support. As immediate needs are met, we seamlessly transition to providing the knowledge and resources they need to start, diversify, and strengthen livelihoods and reduce their vulnerabilities in the future.

Project Examples

Support for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Eastern Region of El Salvador

Utilizing USAID's Positive Youth Development framework, Lutheran World Relief supports youth between the ages of 18 and 30 in the eastern region of El Salvador to improve their income as entrepreneurs. Partnering with the Universidad de Oriente (UNIVO), Lutheran World Relief creates an enabling and inclusive environment for youth entrepreneurs by ensuring access to seed capital and fostering market linkages.

Strengthening of Community-Based Structures (SOS) for Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation

The SOS project is a 3-year, \$2.5 million project funded by the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation that works to strengthen the capacity of vulnerable rural communities across 10 municipalities in the departments of Usulután and Morazán to prepare for and recover from natural disasters. The project helps local communities elect inclusive and representative Community Civil Protection Commissions that by law are the principal local bodies responsible for preparing for and responding to disasters. Through leadership training community-based disaster preparedness and response structures, municipal government employees, women, youth volunteers, and other community members are better equipped to save lives and livelihoods, ensuring community resilience by allowing future disaster recovery to be faster, less expensive and more sustainable.

Under the SOS project framework, Lutheran World Relief also supported communities gain access to potable water. With technical assistance, training and material resource provision, communities established reservoirs for water storage and families acquired the infrastructure necessary for rainwater collection as part of a drought mitigation plan.

Cacao Alliance

Lutheran World Relief, in partnership with a consortium led by Catholic Relief Services, worked to address critical economic and environmental challenges in El Salvador by establishing cacao agroforestry systems that restore and conserve biodiversity for sustainable rural development to increase income and employment opportunities for smallholder farmers and cooperatives. The project strengthened the organizational capacity of cacao cooperatives, funded innovative small business initiatives of youth and women, improved producers' access to financial services and trained 2,000 producers on sustainable farming. Lutheran World Relief also partnered with the Universidad de Oriente (UNIVO) to offer a training program for at-risk youth to become community-based extension workers in the cacao value chain, providing hope and opportunity for young men and women within El Salvador's borders.

Maximizing Opportunities in Cacao and Coffee in the Americas (MOCCA)

MOCCA is a multi-country initiative led by Technoserve and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that helps Latin American farmers overcome the barriers to effectively rehabilitate and renovate their coffee and cocoa plants – increasing their productivity while improving their marketing capacity, incomes and livelihoods.

Food Security through Small-scale Agriculture

Lutheran World Relief worked with vulnerable populations in rural municipalities of the San Salvador department to increase food production and household income with an emphasis on expanding organic production, improving quality of food storage, improving seed access, and strengthening entrepreneurial opportunities. By working with local partners that included the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry of El Salvador and the National Center for Agricultural and Forestry Technology (CENTA), Lutheran World Relief advanced livelihoods for smallholder women farmers and supported toolkits for at-risk youth to avoid gangs and prevent migration.

The Corus Effect

Lutheran World Relief is a part of Corus International, an ensemble of global leaders in international development and humanitarian assistance. In addition to Lutheran World Relief, the Corus family of organizations includes global public health agency IMA World Health, U.K.-based technology for development company CGA Technologies, impact investing group Ground Up Investing, and direct trade company Farmers Market Brands.

We operate as permanent partners, integrating expertise, disciplines, approaches and resources to overcome global health challenges, develop productive and stable economies, improve resilience in the face of climate change, and respond to natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

With the support of our family's diverse set of partners and funding – from multi- and bilateral institutions and foundations to the private sector and individuals – we invest in solutions that are innovative, scalable, holistic and move the needle towards transformational change.

