

SCIAF in El Salvador

El Salvador (or *República de El Salvador* in Spanish which literally means "Republic of The Savior") is a country in Central America, bordering the North Pacific Ocean, between Guatemala and Honduras.

For much of the 20th century El Salvador suffered from violence caused by military upheavals and the actions of dictatorial leaders.

El Salvador experienced a brutal, 12-year civil war which cost 75,000 lives. It began in 1979 and ended in 1992. The country now has a democratically elected government.

Poor communities in El Salvador often face violence and the country has one of the world's highest murder rates. Violence has grown in the past decade as gangs and cartels expand their influence.

SCIAF works with poor communities to help them grow more food so they can feed their families. We also provide support to people who have suffered debilitating injuries during civil war.

We are inspired by our Patron, St Oscar Romero, to speak out against injustice in the world. We believe in giving people in need a hand up, not a hand out. We're part of Caritas, the Catholic Church's global network of international development charities.

Together, we can end poverty.

Population: 6.1 million people. El Salvador is the smallest and most densely populated country in Central America

Language: Spanish

Capital: San Salvador

Flag: the blue bands symbolize the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, while the white band represents the land between the two bodies of water, as well as peace and prosperity

