



El Salvador



Introduction to EL SALVADOR

THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR gained international attention for its long-fought civil war, which ended in 1992. Since then, Central America's smallest country has grown economically, though its finances are strongly tied to the United States. In 2001, El Salvador adopted the US dollar as its currency.

The SALVADORIAN people

Total population:	7,185,218
Children under 15:	2,545,225
Average Life Expectancy:	72.33 years
Per capita annual income:	\$6,200
% children in primary school:	93.7%
Average years of education:	12 years
Literacy rate:	80.2%
Internet users:	826,000
Cell phones in use:	6.951 million

Major/official language(s): Spanish

Risk issues impacting children:

- About half of all children live in poverty. Poverty, which affects mostly the rural sector, has a significant impact on children, especially in terms of access to adequate nutrition, water and sanitation.
- El Salvador has the highest murder rates in the region, and many children are exposed to violence (including domestic abuse) at a young age.

More about EL SALVADOR

Capital city:	San Salvador
Type of government:	Republic
Square kilometers:	21,041
General terrain:	Mostly mountains with narrow coastal belt and central plateau
Major industries/jobs:	Food processing, beverages, petroleum, chemicals, fertilizer, textiles, furniture, light metals, coffee
National motto:	"God, Union, Liberty"
Major airport(s):	Aeropuerto Internacional Comalapa, near San Salvador

Reaching EL SALVADOR

Currently classified as World C: Christian

Major religions:

Christian	- 80.2%
None	- 16.8%
Other religions	- 2.3%
Mormon	- 0.7%

Christian groups:

Roman Catholic	- 74.7%
Protestant	- 17.2%
Independent	- 8.1%

Unreached People Groups: 2 (0% of pop)

Average annual Christian growth: 0.018

Average annual baptisms: 132,116

Foreign missionaries: 1,500

Per million: 224.94

National Christian workers/pastors: 2,000

Per million: 299.92

Number of churches/congregations: 9,170

Children's ministry in EL SALVADOR

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for El Salvador. The following information regards general children's ministry in the Central America, and may not all be applicable to this nation.

- Overview:**
- The nations of this region are predominately Christian, mostly of Roman Catholic background. There is also a steadily growing, active Protestant minority.
 - There is a strong missionary presence in many Central American countries, with much of the outreach focused on children. A variety of children's work already exists, with a strong emphasis on Sunday School and Bible memorization.
 - Most of the resources and trainings are centered in the larger cities and bigger church denominations.
 - Ongoing violence in some regions of Central America can hinder the growth of work with children.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
9,170 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
2,545,225 children for Christ