

December 2023

Dear Friends,

It is an honor to write to you at this time of year to extend our most sincere wishes for a holiday season filled with serenity and joy.

The past year has been filled with notable achievements in our programs and projects in El Salvador. Among them, together with our U.S. and Salvadoran partners we:

- Strengthened leadership capacity in the communities of Los Calix and La Canoita, two of our newest partners. [Watch the video](#)
- Promoted environmental awareness through workshops, community events and the “Bitter Sugar” campaign addressing the harmful impacts of sugarcane monoculture.
- Made infrastructure improvements to the casa comunal in El Presidio Liberado and to the Isla de Monte Cristo school. [Watch the video](#)
- Funded the Women’s Network of Morazan’s empowering program for girls and young women, providing sexual and reproductive health education from a women’s rights perspective.



These achievements have been possible thanks to the active participation of our partners in El Salvador, the untiring dedication of our team and, above all, to the trust and support of persons like you. **We are sincerely grateful for your generosity.**



Our work this year has also brought us new and significant challenges, the result of an ongoing economic crisis and increasingly erratic weather patterns linked to climate change. The Bajo Lempa region, especially the smaller communities where we have begun to work, have been hard hit by both recurrent flooding and extended droughts, leading to the loss of animals and crops.

Thus, I write **to ask for your financial support** as we seek to respond to a growing crisis of food insecurity in these communities. In June and July, our field team conducted a survey in the El Presidio Liberado community; the results were sobering.



Of the 53 families that reside there, nearly half reported monthly incomes of less than \$100 - a situation of extreme poverty. Over 60% of families surveyed have reduced the quantity of food they consume daily, and more than one-third have eliminated one of their daily meals. The situation is surely similar in other small communities including our partners Los Calix and La Canoita, where poverty is clearly evident.

In response, a key objective for Voices in 2024 is to provide those families most in need with technical assistance and material resources so that they can establish climate-resilient family gardens. By producing fresh and nutritious food using sustainable cultivation methods that enrich the soil and plant varieties that are resistant to flooding and drought, food security will be enhanced in these communities.



At the same time we will continue our work with elected community boards to strengthen leadership capacity and organizational skills, to help ensure the success of this project and to enhance their ability to find solutions to the other challenges they face.

We invite you to join us in supporting this important project and our other ongoing work. Your generosity has the power to change lives in communities like El Presidio, Los Calix, and La Canoita. Please consider making a contribution so that together we can take a step forward to ensure food security for all. **If you have already contributed on Giving Tuesday, we extend our heartfelt gratitude.**

Thank you again for all of your support. May your holiday season be filled with inspiration, and may we continue to work hand in hand in the coming year for a world with justice and equity.

With gratitude and renewed hope,



José Acosta
Executive Director

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