

# People in El Salvador

Marlon is 9 and he lives with his family in the north of El Salvador. Marlon goes to school from 7:30am to 12:30pm. After school, he has lunch (usually chicken soup) and completes his homework.

In the afternoon, Marlon helps his mother, who works drying fruits to sell. The fruit harvests are not reliable, though. Too much rain or too much heat can mean the fruits are not suitable for drying. If the harvests fail, Marlon's mother struggles to earn money to support her family.

In the evening, Marlon eats dinner with his family (usually tortillas, beans, eggs and soft cheese) before going to bed at 8:30pm.

Diego is 10 years old. He lives in the west of El Salvador, near to the border with Guatemala. This is one of the poorest regions of El Salvador. Diego's family get up at 4:00am. They have to feed and clean the animals on their farm before breakfast (coffee, tortillas, beans, eggs and cream).

Diego goes to school in the morning and then he helps on the farm in the afternoon. His family grows corn and beans, but the rocky, steep landscape makes farming difficult. Growing the same crops every year means that diseases can spread more easily, and lead to a poor harvest.

In December and January, Diego's father finds extra work picking coffee on the plantations in the area.

Luisa lives in western El Salvador. She is 11 years old. Luisa usually wakes at 6:30am and has her breakfast (usually fruit, or rice and eggs). Luisa goes to school from 7:00am until 12:30pm and then goes home for her lunch of beans and cheese.

In the afternoon, Luisa helps in the garden at home, where they grow food for their family. The ground is rocky and steep, making farming very difficult. In the dry season, water is only supplied to Luisa's house for 2 hours every few days. If the family runs out of water, Luisa and her mother have to walk to a well about 20 minutes from their house. This can mean that they don't have enough water to water the plants they grow.

Luisa also helps her mother in the shop they have set up at home, selling some of their spare produce to other people living nearby.