

# Los Ramirez, Canton Las Minas, Chalatenango, El Salvador



The community Los Ramirez is located 9 kilometers away from the city of Chalatenango, in the town of Las Minas, in the municipality of Chalatenango (see map above).

## History of the community:

Our ancestors call this territory Las Delicias. With time, as the community grew, it was divided into two sectors called Los Ayala and Los Ramirez, based on the two most popular last names in the community. When the war started, we were displaced from the area because it was very dangerous to stay. The armed forces came into the communities to kill people, stating that the civilian population was participating in the guerrilla. Some people migrated to other parts of the country and others fled to Honduras, where they were refugees in Mesa Grande. They lived there for the rest of the armed conflict.

After the peace agreement was signed, ending the civil war, most people returned to El Salvador to repopulate the area. The repopulation of Los Ramirez started with two families and, little by little, the community has grown. There are currently 30 families and about 90 people, including children, youth and adults. There are 34 women, 31 men, 11 girls and 14 boys.

## Religion, faith and cultural celebrations:

The vast majority in the community is Catholic. The main religious holidays we celebrate are: the Feast Day for our patron saint, Holy Week (including the Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent, the adoration of the cross on Good Friday and an Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday). On Christmas, we gather as one big family to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We also organize [posadas](#) and Nativity plays.

Traditionally, we hold cultural events, food festivals, and an annual corn festival as community fundraisers and events.

### **Legal status:**

The community has legal status under the name “Los Ramirez”. The community is small but has a very strong level of organization, as shown by our numerous committees, including a youth committee, a women’s committee, a water committee, and a women’s rights committee. Each of the committees is part of the community board structure, which is currently led by a woman.

### **Livelihood:**

The principal economic activity in the community is agriculture. This is the source of life for every family in the community and all family members participate in agricultural work. There is more work in the fields during the rainy season (roughly May – October).

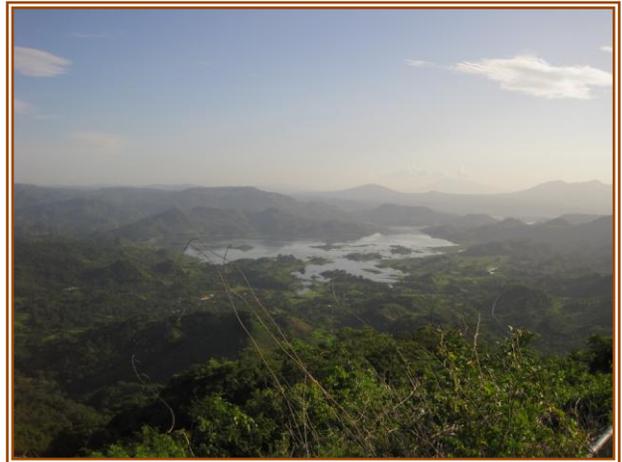
### **Other institutions and organizations working with the community:**

The only institution or organization present is the community board and the community itself.

### **Living conditions in the community:**

Most of the families live in adobe houses. We have electricity and potable water. We do not have any other public services, since access to the community is difficult. There is no public transportation available. A truck that belongs to a neighboring community brings people to the city once a week to buy the supplies they need. On other days, we walk for 20 minutes to take a bus to get to the city.

We have a number of beautiful natural sites that can be visited at any time. Members of the community and visitors can enjoy the natural beauty.



The view of a dam reservoir at El Alto in Chalatenango.

### **Community concerns and opportunities:**

The community belongs to the municipality of Chalatenango, governed by the right-wing ARENA party. The Mayor does not support us, in part, because he believes that community members belong to an ex-guerrilla structure. We have organized to meet our needs.

We hope to link with a northern church and/or faith community to exchange histories, life experiences, cultural traditions and faith.