



Photo: Lago Suchitlan, El Salvador

Country Specific: The **Seattle International Foundation** focuses on the poorest countries in Central America: El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Foundation resources will be used where the need is greatest.

Local Partnerships: SIF supports and partners with NGOs based in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. This grant-making approach has a multiplier effect by building the leadership capacity of local organizations and NGO leaders (with a focus on women leaders); strengthening the overall capacity of civil society in these countries; and providing SIF with up-to-date information about beneficiaries and local conditions.

Priority Issues: Special focus is given to a set of priority issues, developed in consultation with local NGOs, and consistent with the latest research and policy analysis. SIF is currently supporting initiatives to increase economic opportunities for women, enhance judicial independence, prevent violence against women and promote opportunities for young people.

Collaboration: SIF prioritizes support for networks (one sector or multi-sector) working to share best practices, build capacity, and mobilize collective action for a specific social change or reform. Special attention is also placed on helping private philanthropy in the U.S. invest more in the region and collaborate more effectively.

Nonprofits working alone, pursuing different strategies and lacking the clout to influence policy are very unlikely to create the lasting reforms Central American countries urgently need.

In order to create sustainable change on complex issues, it is critical to align the actions of many actors and build support across sectors, including business, government, civil society, media, philanthropy, and religious institutions. SIF seeks to support NGO partners working to build strong networks of key stakeholders in order to achieve lasting social or policy change.

Leverage: The foundation focuses resources on projects and initiatives that have the greatest potential for outside impact. Small foundations can achieve significant impact with modest size grants (i.e. \$25,000-\$75,000) when those grants help build and expand coalitions, leverage new resources or influence public policy.

Examples of Leverage:

- Research used to influence government budgets or public policy
- Advocacy efforts to change public policy (i.e. mandating transparency in government)
- Rule of law initiatives (i.e. non-political selection of judges)
- Youth education campaign to promote critical decision-making
- Leadership training for grassroots NGO leaders, especially women
- Activities to increase donor collaboration and impact