

OVERVIEW OF

Guatemala

Overview of Guatemala



YEAR OF
1821

INDEPENDENCE



53%
Population
BELOW
poverty line

Languages

Spanish, Amerindian languages - note: there are 23 officially recognized Amerindian languages, including Quiche, Cakchiquel, Kekchi, Mam, Garifuna, and Xinca.

Malnutrition is a huge problem in Guatemala. 49% of children under 5 suffered malnutrition according to UNDP

Under-five Mortality Rate: 32 per 1,000 live births. Guatemala ranks 71 in the world.

Human Development Index (HDI) for 2013: 0.628 (ranked 125 out of 187, indicating medium human development).

Gini (Inequality) Index .053

Brief History of ChildFund in Guatemala

ChildFund came to Guatemala: 1964

Number of states/provinces: 13

Number of enrolled children FY14: 17,604

Number of participants FY14: 55,176

ChildFund began operations in 1964 under the Mexico Program. It was officially established in the country in 1974, serving 500 children in urban areas. In 1997 it expanded its reach through partnerships and agreements with local government institutions, which permitted implementation of programs in support of children and youth.

Today ChildFund International Guatemala projects cover 40,854 children and youth, in addition to 14,322 midwives, teachers, community leaders and civil servants. ChildFund works in regions with high concentration of indigenous peoples where poverty rates are high and public investment low.

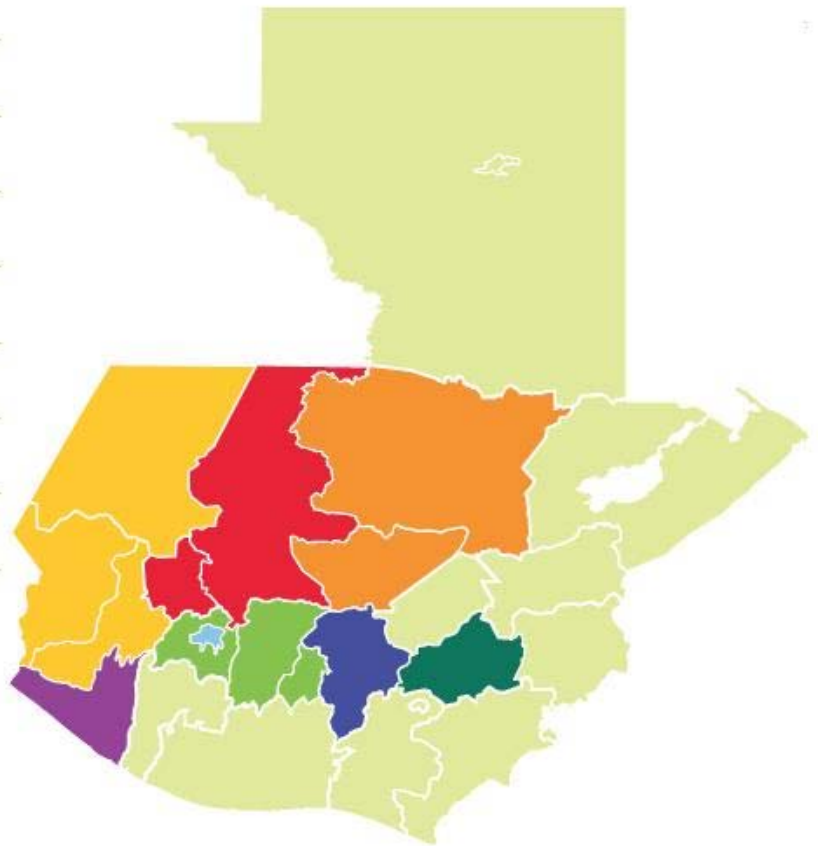
Brief Program Overview



In all, ChildFund works in 235 communities in 58 municipalities in 13 departments with the support of 7 partner organizations. The map below shows the departments or provinces of project implementation during 2014.

Where We Work

Organization	Area of Influence (department)
Tierra Nueva	Huehuetenango, Quetzaltenango, San Marcos
Asociación de Amigos del Desarrollo y la Paz (ADP)	Alta y Baja Verapaz
Renacimiento	Sacatepéquez, Chimaltenango, Sololá
Ajkemab'	Quiché, Totonicapán
Estrella del Mar	Retalhuleu
Sueño Infantil	Guatemala
Cactus	Jalapa



2014 Program Achievements

Healthy and Secure Infants

The Healthy and Secure Infants program for 0 to 5 year olds builds a coalition of midwives, families, community leaders and doctors to reduce maternal mortality and support young women to choose preventing, delaying or achieving pregnancy.

The program's results this year were: 5,000 people trained to identify alert signals during pregnancy, labor and post partum periods; 2,500 young men and women learned about reproductive health; 2,427 caretakers reported children had adequate weight and height for their age; and newborns were breastfed during their first six months.

Total population benefited by Safe and Healthy Infants

Infants 0-5	7,210
Caretakers	12,892
Guide Mothers	150
Midwives	406
Total	20,658

The projects under this program are Maternal Health and Play with Me.

Maternal Health

This project targets women, men and families to increase their knowledge about health issues during and after pregnancy, along with family planning. It helps participants identify possible problems during pregnancy, childbirth and post partum and encourages them to seek attention from health professionals. Also, men and women in 37 communities receive family planning information.

Since the project's implementation, almost 5,000 participants have learned to identify alert signals during pregnancy, labor and post partum periods, but more importantly, no maternal deaths have been reported in participating communities. This is due in large part to the work of midwives trained by the project who know when to refer mothers to health clinics. Further, 2,500 young men and women in 32 communities learned about reproductive health and there is more coordination between community and the national health system.

Play with Me

Our Play with Me Project includes components of healthy maternity, nutrition and early stimulation and school readiness. Our technical team and partners build the capacity of volunteer guide mothers who teach parenting techniques. Guide mothers also talk with parents and caregivers about childrearing patterns and nutrition. Each week infants under five also receive sensory stimulation to help them develop fine and gross motor abilities, cognitive- sensory capacities, and social-language skills.

2014 Program Achievements (continued)

During FY14, out of 2,427 caretakers consulted, 90% reported their babies had adequate weight and height for their age and were breastfed during the first 6 months of life. Their eating habits had also improved, with families reporting eating less junk food and more locally produced foods.

With the help of 150 guide mothers 1,348 infants were evaluated, with all infants demonstrating improved fine and gross motor, cognitive- sensory and social-language skills.

Other results of the project include the creation of a coalition of people interested in the protection of children's rights. Approximately 1,391 leaders and 153 civil servants learned about children's rights and expressed interest in forming part of and strengthening child protection systems. As a result, there are four active municipal committees on the protection of infants.

Educated and Confident Children

The Educated and Confident Children program, for 6 to 14 year olds encourages parents and teachers to adopt new ideas to promote healthier environments for children's development and improve their quality of education. It also inspires students' self-confidence and improves performance in math, reading and comprehension.

The results were 2,714 children showed improved communication and language skills, while 2,906 achieved above average math scores. Also, 372 said they received more support from their parents for their education; 531 showed they had a healthy self-esteem; and 495 were more knowledgeable of their rights. Further, 1,790 children were trained and conducted community research to present proposals to improve their communities.

Total benefited population by Educated and Confident Children

I'm learning project	9,281
Seeds of change project	3,141
Let me tell you project	12,935
Teachers	874
Total	26,231

For children ages 6 to 14, we currently have three projects: I'm Learning, Seeds of Change and Let me Tell You.

I'm Learning

This project targets children ages 7 to 10 and aims to address some of the shortcomings of the education system by developing the habit of reading, writing skills and a positive attitude towards learning math.

ChildFund has created innovative methodologies for this project, which are used by the Ministry of Education, to enrich reading, writing and math competencies as outlined in the national education curriculum.

A total of 874 teachers were trained in these methodologies. Parents were also trained in complementary activities to further learning outside the classroom and were taught the importance of formal education as a way for a better future. This project also equips schools with math resources and mini-libraries.

2014 Program Achievements (continued)



During FY14, out of the 9,281 children who participated in the project 2,714 (29%) were assessed and showed improved communication and language skills. The children's reading comprehension also improved by using stories they themselves write and share. The math scores of 2,906 were also monitored and 1,423 (49%) of them achieved above average results.

Another component of the project is to educate parents on the importance of education and techniques to help their children with school. About 50% of the children who were assessed indicated they received better support from their parents in learning to read, write and do math.

Seeds of Change

This project is designed for school aged children in the formal education system to learn about practical planning, saving money and business skills. Children in this project plan and carry out their own initiatives, which motivates them to take an active role and learn about their rights and responsibilities, while raising their self-confidence. Participants are motivated to become agents of change in their communities.

In FY14, the project provided workshops to teach participants the importance of saving money, budgeting, financial planning and business principles. A total of 1,733 or 55% of participants in the project are saving money in a club, school group or bank as a result of this new knowledge. The average savings amount is US\$10.

Further, a sample of 718 of participants were selected to take the Rosenberg self-esteem test, which showed that 74% had a healthy self-esteem, while 68% were knowledgeable of their rights.

Let me tell you

This project aims to empower children to express themselves and overcome the challenges youth face on a daily basis. It uses six guides to train children ages 6 to 14 in effective communication and research skills to examine their social context. This enables children to learn about the reality of the communities where they live through community research. Children who received training shared new knowledge, presented findings and proposals to peers, parents, teachers, municipal authorities and community leaders, using different media like plays, songs, posters and murals.

Out of a total of 12,935 project participants, 3,379 received training on age and context appropriate ways of using media to express themselves. A total of 1,790 (53%) of them conducted community research and presented proposals for their communities and 2,907 (22%) reported having a positive self-image.

As a result parents and authorities listen to children's proposals and provide spaces for their participation. This space gives them a chance to exercise their rights and express themselves, which in turn raises their self-esteem and sense of belonging to their communities.

2014 Program Achievements (continued)

Skilled and Involved Youth

The program targets 15-24 year olds and supports young people to become agents of positive change in their communities and earn the respect of adults in a society where youth face many challenges, including violence and lack of opportunities.

The projects in this program reported 906 youth were taking steps to prevent pregnancy before the age of twenty; 1,411 young men and women said they were aware of high risk behavior; and 4,477 conducted research about teen pregnancy, sex education at home and dating. In another project, 387 youth demonstrated leadership and advocacy skills while 28 of them joined social and political forums in their communities. Finally, 385 youth shared that they had obtained higher self-esteem and expectations about their future and 180 were starting-up their own businesses.

Total benefited by Skilled and Involved Youth 15-24 program

I respect and protect myself project	2,627
Youth in action project	3,765
My Chance project	1,895
Total	8287

Under this program ChildFund funds the projects I Respect Myself - I Protect Myself, Youth in Action and My Chance.

I respect myself - I protect myself

This project aims to empower both young women and men to take charge of their sexual and reproductive health by learning their rights and creating a supportive network. It also seeks to reduce the number of teenage unwanted pregnancies, and knowledge of STDs and HIV in adolescents and youth.

They receive training on sexual and reproductive rights, women's rights, human rights and the pertinent legal framework. They are also certified as promoters of sexual and reproductive health to help other young people better understand these rights, including HIV prevention. Another component of the project is a culturally appropriate media campaign directed toward youth on the subject of sexual and reproductive health.

Community events are held to promote protocols and committees to protect women and youth against physical and sexual violence. Youth also serve as volunteers in "youth friendly spaces" to ensure that services related to sexual and reproductive health are carried out in a sensitive and comfortable manner in health centers or other community spaces.

Out of 1,066 participants who were consulted, 906 (34% of all project participants) are taking steps to prevent pregnancy before the age of twenty. Further, 1,411 (53%) young men and women who participate in the project said they were aware of high-risk behavior and the importance of using contraceptive methods if sexually active. In addition, 447 youth conducted studies on teen pregnancy, sex education at home and dating and who later presented their findings to parents and community leaders.

Reproductive health rights promoters also conducted workshops in schools and lobbied health officials to monitor and ensure that sex education topics are taught in public schools.

2014 Program Achievements (continued)

As a result, more than 6,000 adolescents and youth received sex education topics from teachers in public schools. This project is also promoting an intergenerational discussion, with parents and youth, on topics related to sex education and reproductive health.

Youth in action

Our Youth in Action project equips adolescents and youth with competencies to be positive and active leaders in the development of their communities. This project trains youth on human rights with an emphasis on gender equality, sexual health and reproductive rights. Adolescents and youth participate in a leadership and advocacy certificate course which teaches them advocacy skills and how to analyze and interpret the context in which they live.

Youth conduct research, analyze, and document the situation of young people in the local, national and global context. Project participants create written proposals and host events where they express ideas related to their research and propose solutions to identified problems. Participants of Youth in Action implement development initiatives in their communities to address problems that affect them. As a result we find youth participating in formal and informal political, cultural or traditional forum.

This year, out of 1,680 youth that were under observation by project coordinators, 487 showed leadership and advocacy skills by interacting with local authorities on a variety of topics and 28 of them, have joined several social and political forums where they form and carryout proposals for positive change in their communities.

Also, youth volunteers practiced the skills learned by guiding their peers, from our Educated and Confident Children program, in creating strategic development plans for their communities. A total of 240 of them are participating in community meetings where local development plans are debated.

My chance

The My Chance project works with youth to change their life expectations by improving their socio-economic situation in a sustainable manner. Participants attend sessions on self-esteem, write life plans, develop of technical skills for self-employment at training centers, and learn to develop business plans that comply with the basic principles of socially responsible business practices. Events are held to involve parents, community leaders and local authorities to promote the importance of education and provide support to the adolescents and youth involved in the different project activities.

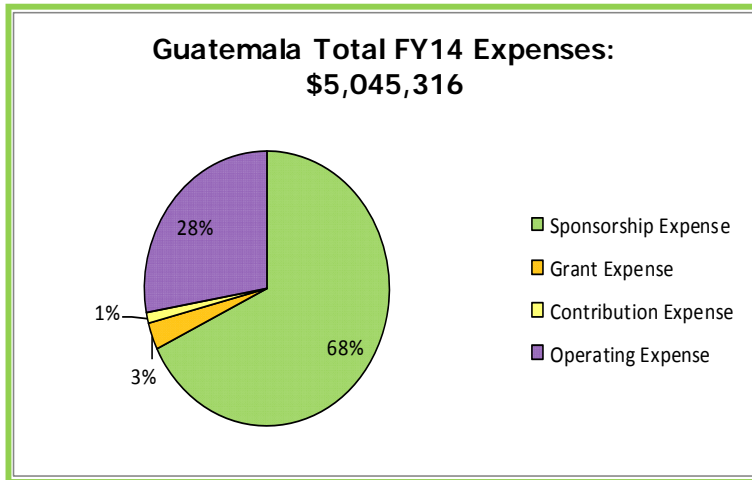
Given the challenges facing youth, we are pleased to say that project participants define themselves as people with high self-esteem and a potential for success. The project measured the self-esteem – using Cooper-smith and Rosenberg tests – and reviewed the life plans of a sample of 501 young adults and data showed that 76% of them have a high self-esteem and high expectations about their future.

In addition, 180 participants, part of a 470 follow- up group, are starting-up their own business using socially responsible principles.

A greater number of youth are also applying for jobs or continuing their formal education. Out of 538 project participants, 10% reported to be applying for jobs in the formal sector, an important achievement for young people in the communities where we work.

Further, 70% of interviewed project participants said their families now value formal and informal education as an investment.

Financial Report



Guatemala FY14

Sponsorship Expense	3,418,902	68%
Grant Expense	159,605	3%
Contribution Expense	63,595	1%
Operating Expense	1,403,215	28%
Total Expense	5,045,316	100%

ChildFund Alliance

Sponsorship: At the end of FY14, ChildFund Guatemala had **14,103 active sponsorships** from the following Alliance members: ChildFund International (9,127); Taiwan Fund for Children & Families (1,722); ChildFund Australia (1,059); Barnfonden (745); BORNEfonden (559); ChildFund New Zealand (360); (7) ChildFund Deutschland (255); ChildFund Ireland (141); and Un Enfant par la Main (135).

Why Sponsorship Is Important

Guatemala's central highlands are home to the country's indigenous minority and where much of its poverty is concentrated. Access to public services such as health, education, clean water and electricity is scant. This is where Catarina was born in 1997. When she was twelve she became a sponsored child.

Thanks to sponsorship, Catarina participates in ChildFund projects in her community, specifically in Youth in action, which builds the competencies of young people to be positive and active leaders in the development of their communities. This project trains youth on human rights, with an emphasis on gender equality, sexual health and reproductive rights. Without the program, Catarina would be limited by her community's isolation and few chances to learn beyond basic education.

"Barabara is my sponsor," says Catarina, "she lives far away in another country and now we have become friends. Every so often she sends me gifts and pictures of her and her family and booklets to write on." Catarina is also happy that she has met other girls her age and now is attending high school.

"Barbara encourages me to reach my goals in life. Now I plan to open my own traditional weaving business. I am very happy to have such a friend."



Why Sponsorship is Important (continued)

Candelaria is fourteen years old and has been sponsored for the last seven years. She says she likes having a sponsor, and even though he is far away, distance is not an obstacle to keep in touch. "My sponsor is a great friend. He sends me letters, cards and pictures. I am always wondering how he is, his adventures and I learn new things about him."

She writes to him to tell him her own stories. "I like what he writes to me, so I like writing him back with my own stories. He makes me see life and the world in a different light and now I want to be successful and find happiness in life."

Candelaria lives in the northern highlands of Guatemala, and belongs to one of the many Mayan ethnic groups that make up the country's population. Public investment is traditionally low where she lives resulting in inadequate education and health services trapping children in poverty cycles. As a sponsored youth, Candelaria participates in the Skilled and Involved Youth program to gain knowledge and technical skills to attain her educational and economic goals. Candelaria is thankful for the moral support she gets from her sponsor. "He is a great person," she says, and now she wants to become a teacher "so I teach other kids what I have learned [in ChildFund programs]."

