

PROYECTO GENESIS



CarePoint Director: Oscar Ricardo Armas Castellanos
 CarePoint Ministry Type: Drop-In Center
 Location: Chimaltenango, Guatemala

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Proyecto Genesis, founded in 2012, exists to be a safe place for children to come, do homework, have tutoring and a place to play. It provides space where they can spend their time and be prevented from getting involved in bad activities. One of their main goals as a ministry is to create a brotherhood amongst the community to model the concept that anything is possible to achieve. There is always the dream for more, including skills training shops, artistic skills development and others.

Nutritional Status:

In order to improve health through better nutrition, we want to provide a daily meal, vitamin supplements, and donate vegetables and food baskets to the families. There is no variety in food at the homes. Because of financial problems most families can't afford to provide nutritious meals to their children. There is a gap in training for families to learn how to provide nutrition at a low cost. Typically, children will have a cup of coffee and a piece of bread for dinner at home every day.

Medical Status:

There is no clinic or health center in the community. The closest public hospital is 5 miles away, but there is also a culture of not going to see doctors or receiving health support from other places. Self-medication is a very common practice, as well as getting advice from people in the community for alternative medicine. Their economic situation doesn't allow them to use private health services.

Economic Status:

The obstacles in the community are a lack of human resources, low academic levels amongst the children and lack of financial resources. Most of the men in the family do not work because of various reasons. Many of them live off of agriculture and informal economy (vendors on streets: food, candies, and other items), so they usually make enough to provide some meals at home. These men have no formal jobs, therefore their income is not the same every week. The moms take care of their children and some others have an informal job as well.

Educational Status:

The education is very poor in this area. There is a public school for 1,000 children in the community. It's very common to find one teacher for two grades at the school, having around 60 children each grade. This really forces the family to take one of a few options:

1. Try to register their children at a public school in Chimaltenango (30 minutes away), but the risk is high for children at public schools to be forced to join gangs or participate in extortion activities to local businesses.
2. Take turns with their siblings to attend school. For example, if there is a family with four kids, it is common to see two children attending school and the next year they send the other two, alternating every year.
3. Not attend school, and instead help their parents or grandparents in their informal jobs or agriculture activities.



GUATEMALA is located in Central America, bordered by Mexico to the west and Belize to the east. Honduras and El Salvador are immediately to the south of Guatemala. Guatemala is slightly smaller than Pennsylvania.

Estimated population as of July 2016 is 15 million. The largest city in Guatemala is the capital, Guatemala City, with a population of 2.9 million.



THE MISSION of HopeChest

Guatemala is to link communities through its Community-to-Community partnerships, providing opportunities for North American communities to connect with and come alongside the work of the local CarePoints and their communities. This partnership empowers dedicated CarePoint staff as they work with vulnerable children and their communities to thrive and succeed in life. Through these partnerships, children experience God's love, provision, and hope for their lives, while their communities receive a greater sense of dignity and desire for sustainable life transformation.

