



El Rosario

A community of leaders with values







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The community of El Rosario is like a second home to us, where part of our family of the heart lives. This enthusiastic community in Chimaltenango is a worthy representative of the spirit of improvement of Guatemalans, who are willing to work hard to enjoy a full life, with a better income, health, and education

From our first approach in 2015, we have accompanied the community in an impressive transformation process that began with a change of thought, focus, and motivation in each person through the development of their leadership with values. Starting from that individual awakening, they have been able to strengthen their identity and commitment as community members which has made a way for planning and developing high impact projects that have improved the health, education, and economic indicators.

The El Rosario families are an example of community development which is possible when we are intentional to discover resources in our reach and when we work with the support of allies such as the Zag Group and the John C. Maxwell Leadership Foundation.

We are convinced that moving forward as a prosperous country is possible through strengthening the values of respect, responsibility, honesty, solidarity, and the common good in each person, family, and community.









*For Guatemala Próspera
the first step is always
to motivate personal
transformation that
strengthens thoughts,
attitudes, and values.
We believe that the
right foundation in the
mind and heart of each
person guarantees the
construction of a strong
community that works
for the benefit of all.*

Every morning, the sun finds Yomila, Cristina, Yasmin, Lucia, Lucrecia, Maria Marta, Angelica, Rosa, and Sergio already active. They are part of El Rosario, an enterprising and enthusiastic community whose heart beats to the rhythm of their dreams of a future filled with hope.

The 400 families that comprise the community have experienced a powerful transformation that allows them to move forward with greater confidence. Of course, back in 1975 when the grandfathers and grandmothers settled in this sinuous valley by the side of the road to San Martin Jilotepeque, in the department of Chimaltenango, the group was smaller. But from the moment they decided to break apart from the neighboring plantation and expand their productive activities, it has been growing steadily and continues getting stronger. It has been difficult, we cannot deny it, but they now look at life with a new perspective.

Between these blessed Chimaltenango's hills, a mere sixty-two kilometers from Guatemala City, at 5,800 feet above sea level, specifically 14.9° in latitude and 90.8° longitude, the "Rosarians", courageous men and women of Kaqchikel ethnicity bear testimony that Guatemalans do not know the word defeat.

New Friends

Our team from Guatemala Próspera visited the community for the first time in 2015 when we developed the initiative of implementing a sustainable development model, a model that is aligned with the three pillars upon which our work is founded: service, influence, and leadership.

While in conversation with the community members, we identified the many opportunities they could take advantage of, and together, we agreed to get down to business with projects that would translate into a better life quality for all.

For us in Guatemala Próspera, the first step is always to motivate personal transformation that strengthens thoughts, attitudes, and values. We believe that the right foundation in the mind and heart of each person guarantees the construction of a strong community that works for the benefit of all. In other words, personal transformation is the basis for community transformation; the transformation of leadership built upon service, and economic transformation built upon entrepreneurship with purpose.



**Economic
Transformation**

**Servant Leadership
Transformation**

**Community
Transformation**

**Personal
Transformation**

“

The **TRANSFORMATION** of Guatemala **IS POSSIBLE** one Guatemalan and one community at a time. El Rosario is experiencing this transformation starting with being intentional in strengthening the servant leadership attitudes in each person, this feeds the initiative and has a positive impact in community development.

”





Transformation is in me



Yomila Cos

“I used to feel terribly afraid of meeting new people and experiencing new things.”

I am married and have two boys, they are 1 and 8 years old. I always felt drawn to work and earn money. When I was sixteen, I started to sell popsicles and slushies at home; I also learned how to weave on the loom and I would sell my creations. In 2015, I decided to work for a few hours at the community health center. I would help to weigh and measure children under the age of five who came for consultation.

When Guatemala Próspera came to our community, I was quick to volunteer at the soup kitchen they installed to help feed underweight children. By that time the roundtables were just starting, and I dared to join one and participate in *Transformation is in me*.

I liked so much what I started to discover about me, that I became a facilitator of that program for other women in the community. Without even realizing it, I was already finding ways to motivate my friends and neighbors to join the program so that we could talk about what each one was going through, support each other and collaborate with ourselves and the community.

It has been amazing to participate in something that makes many people happy. I am part of the Guatemala Próspera's community team and together, we have enrolled more than 114 women from the community and surrounding communities in the roundtables. We have also helped with the creation of saving groups and other projects that have improved our economy and situation as a whole.



“As difficult as it may seem, we will always be able to overcome.”

Cristina Guerra

In 2016, I heard that Guatemala Próspera was going to hold a sewing course and I agreed to participate. I learned a great deal in 6 months. I loved sewing clothes for me and my children! A little while after that, they invited me to join the saving box that the sewing group started. With great effort, I saved every week and in the following year, 2017, I was able to enroll my five children in school with the money I had saved, three of them in elementary and two in junior high.

One day, I could not go to drop off the money to the saving box, so I asked my 13-year-old daughter to do it for me, and to my surprise, she enrolled as well! I was very glad because she told me, “Mom, it was really nice to see that the lady had written down everything you have saved. That is why I want to save too.”

The following year I was not feeling well, I was always tired and that is not who I am. When I went to the doctor, he sent me to another clinic and they told me I was suffering from leukemia. It was a very hard blow because I knew I could die, but I did not give up. I was not willing to leave my children orphaned because they need me. The treatment is tremendously difficult, it makes me feel very sick and I have to travel to Guatemala City to get it, but with God’s help, I will overcome.

I was doing all that when Guatemala Próspera announced that they were teaching another course. This time it was to show us how to start our own business; it was called One plus One and I enrolled again. With the skills I learned about seeing what I have, looking for opportunities, and managing what I produce, I realized that I could make some money by sewing. So, I started, and I also started selling chicken.

They had always invited me to participate in what they call roundtables, but it was until 2019 that I joined one.

What an important thing to do! Through the readings and our conversations in the Transformation is in me roundtable I have discovered that I can get ahead if I set mind to it and that I can be of tremendous help. That same year I had the blessing of participating in a John Maxwell seminar, something I never imagined.



When the COVID pandemic started, some of the women from the sewing group and I decided that we wanted to manufacture 6000 facemasks for 4 communities, and with the help of Guatemala Próspera, we did it. After that, I decided that I wanted to continue the project so that the Tonajuyú community could also have facemasks. My life has changed after I learned to better myself and help others.



2016 FINDINGS

- Notable economic dependence of family mothers on their husbands.
- Family mothers dedicated 100% to housework. And taking care of their children.



GUATEMALA PRÓSPERA'S ACTIONS

- 2016 We started with the first generation of *Transformation is in me* with a group of 18 participants that included teachers from the public school, health staff, and 3 community ladies.



IMPACT INDICATORS

- 114 people have finished *Transformation is in me*.
- Improvement in self-esteem, positive attitude, and participation of women from the community.
- Increase of community interaction and commitment through trust and communication bonds.

- Individual feelings prevail over the sense of community.
- Little community interaction and group cohesion.
- A high degree of dependency on social aid or help from third parties
- Passive attitude regarding community development.
- Resistance to participating in transformation roundtables because they felt insecure regarding their skills for reading, writing, and communication of reflective thinking.

- 2017 We started with the first generation of *Intentional Living* with 5 roundtables of 5 members each, facilitated by staff from the health center.
- 2018 We increased coverage of the leadership with values programs through referrals of the ladies who had finished them and who became facilitators for more than 23 more people.
- 2019 We began to offer our leadership with values programs to the neighboring communities: Cerro Alto, Bola de Oro, Labor de Falla, Santa Isabel, and Itzapa where 48 people decided to join.
- The participation in roundtables within the community provides a sense of inclusion, by integrating people with different capacities to participate in the *Transformation is in me* program.

- Increase of commitment with personal, family, and community growth and development, through the saving and entrepreneurship programs.
- Improvement of empathy and generosity of community members who now care more about supporting each other, besides helping the less fortunate, and taking care of the elderly.
- Active integration of community members for the execution of mutual benefit programs.
- In 2019 the community contributed 15% of the cost and manpower for the construction of the first health clinic and Community Transformation Center -CTC-.



From 2017 onwards, when we started the *Transformation is in me* program, the values of responsibility, solidarity, cooperation, honesty, and generosity have strengthened for the benefit of all.

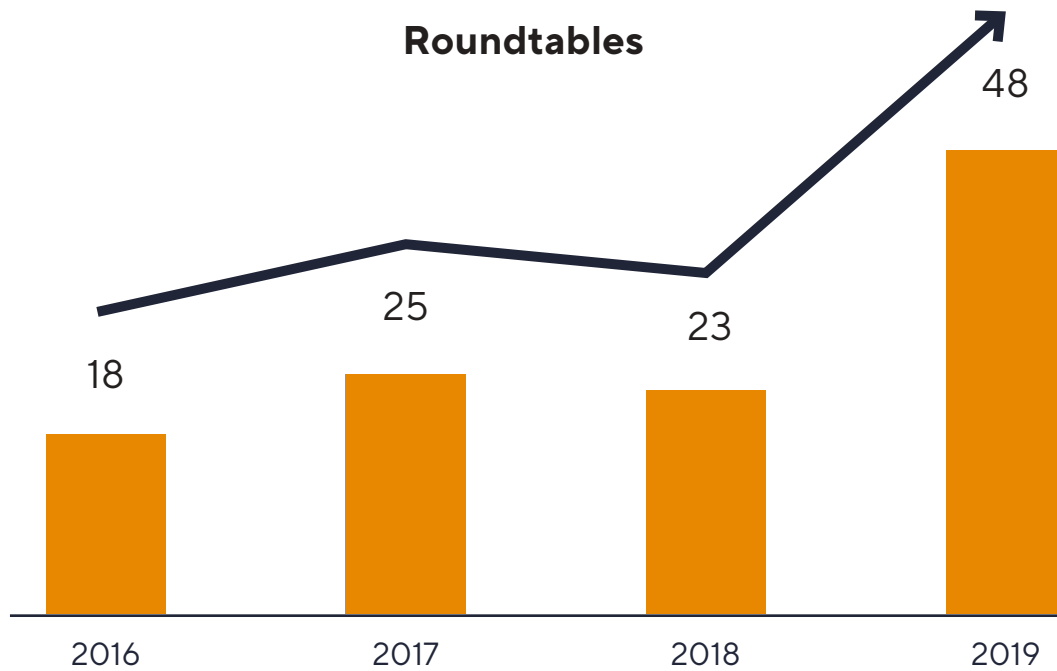
Servant leadership has made a positive impact on the El Rosario community.



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Personal GROWTH and **TRANSFORMATION** are the starting point for community development and El Rosario is the proof of that.

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EDUCATION



Yasmin Sánchez

*“The opportunities
for El Rosario
came from the
hand of education.”*

Being a teacher is my passion and El Rosario is where I get to make a reality my dream of teaching even if the school has been challenging since the facilities were not adequate. The building's conditions did not help much. The strong wind, the rain, the dust, and noise were inevitable. It was uncomfortable and not functional because we would try to accommodate the desks, table, and blackboard as best as we could in the space, we had but it was always a problem. Also, being there was unsafe because the structure was brittle and by the end of the day we had to bring all the supplies to the Principal's office because if we did not, it was like leaving everything outdoors.

It was a real challenge to get the children's attention; we did not have enough room to do group activities, and everything proved to be an excuse for distraction. I remember that I had three older students in class with whom I had to make an extra effort because they showed little interest in learning and they cut school frequently.

Everything improved when the new classrooms were built. The dynamic in the classroom was different because the environment facilitated didactic dynamics and the children were more comfortable. Everyone wanted to receive classes at the new facilities! Even some older students who barely used to attend came back and got involved in the school garden project and taught the younger ones how to prepare the ground to sow.

The school improvement was a real blessing because both teachers and students had a more positive and propositional attitude.



*“Now children
have new
dreams and
more enthusiasm
to learn.”*

Lucía Carcuz Morataya

I am a teacher at the school in El Rosario since 2009. I have always been aware that nutritional deficiencies are a stumbling block. Children get sick, they fall asleep, and they cannot remain attentive. You can see some sort of listlessness despite the fact that we always followed the guidelines from the Ministry of Education. In 2014 we began the school garden project. We started planting but we were not constant, and the truth is that the plants died, so that was a lesson we learned on how not to harvest.

In 2017, with the support of Guatemala Próspera, we received the structure to build the garden and committed to caring for it. Teachers and sixth-grade students took on the challenge of seeking seeds and fertilizer; besides, we agreed on a schedule to care for the garden. That is how we managed to harvest cabbage, potatoes, and some national legumes (“quilete” and “berro”). The next challenge was preparing tasty meals that the children would want to eat.

The project has been rewarding because the garden helped us integrate the assignments experientially. Children learned about measurements and calculus in math, improved their vocabulary with new words and meanings in language and communication; and of course, they discovered different kinds of plants in science.

The garden has been a blessing! Besides, Guatemala Próspera gave us vitamins that we added to the food and beverages to help children grow a little more. They needed vitamins urgently because the deficiency was evident. You could notice white spots in their skin, general weakness, and a deficient immune system because they were getting sick constantly. Now, we are very happy about their weight and height records because our children have grown, they have gotten strong and are more eager to learn.



2016 FINDINGS

- School without resources.
- Insufficient supplies from the government for the school menu.

2016 GUATEMALA PRÓSPERA'S ACTIONS

- We developed a feeding program with the help of a nutritionist who prepared menus with high-nutritional value for the 350 students.
- We started the school's health program which included better food options and eliminating junk food from the school's store.
- We started the education for work campaign, intending to promote education for children from five years of age.

IMPACT INDICATORS

- Improvement of infrastructure and education conditions for children from 5 to 7 years of age.
- Reduction of the incidence of child labor.



- Polluted water for human consumption which generates constant gastrointestinal diseases.
- Deficient lighting in classrooms, which affects visibility and the degree of attention and interaction.
- In general, girls only get to fourth grade and boys to sixth grade.
- Five classrooms with wood structure; two of them partially built with concrete blocks, the three remaining were covered with recycled sheet metal.

2017 GUATEMALA PRÓSPERA'S ACTIONS

- We conducted bimonthly check-ups of students' weight and height. Teachers would do measure them and register the data on each child's record to submit it to the nutritionist who would suggest specific action steps.
- We arranged the donation of 700 pounds of Incaparina (a highly nutritional drink), which they prepare first thing in the morning thus improving the nutrition, attention, and concentration of children.
- We implemented the school garden to improve students' nutrition. This also provided training opportunities for fifth and sixth-grade students in basic assignments as well as leadership values such as responsibility, discipline, and teamwork. One can only enter the garden with authorization, and they keep good control of all processes.
- We installed water purifying filters in each classroom.
- We organized the school refurbishing project in collaboration with the COCODE (Community Development Council), the Parents Committee, and the FODE (Social Development Fund).
- We demolished five classrooms that were poorly built with sheet metal.
- We built four classrooms and expanded another one that ended up with an area of 990 square feet built with concrete blocks and concrete floor.
- We retrofitted the facilities with electric materials, balconies and doors.
- We renewed furniture and equipment, desks for students and computers for teachers.
- We remodeled the bathrooms.
- We arranged the donation of 700 trees that the students and teachers planted in areas near the school to reforest and strengthen the environmental awareness.
- From 2017 to this day, the school receives vitamins to contribute with the nutritional recovery of children, strengthen their immune system, and improve their performance in school.
- Beginning of systematic education from 5 years of age. In 2016, 23 children of that age enrolled.
- From 2017 to 2019, we witnessed a positive impact on nutrition in children. The community mothers in cooperation with the Ministry of Education received 176,040 menus that included legumes and protein.
- Strengthening of the teachers and students' sense of responsibility by developing the school garden.
- Improvement of the children's school performance and general health by combatting malnutrition.
- Better facilities to favor pre-school and primary education of about 300 children between 5 and 15 years of age.



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Education is one of the fundamental pillars to transform a society.

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At the school, the level of education, the development of values, and nutrition have improved exponentially thanks to the effort of all the community.

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Description	2017	2018	2019	2020
Student population	326	325	324	329



“In El Rosario, we have learned to do teamwork and we are happy with the results.”

Enrique Jolón

Principal of the El Rosario Rural School

Since January 2, 2000, I have been a part of the educational community in El Rosario which has become stronger in time.

When Guatemala Próspera became our ally, they helped us see with different eyes what we had and what we could do. Now, we put together projects and know how to look for support, but we always take into account what we can contribute.

These have been years of learning. The school has its classrooms, better furniture, and equipment, we are learning about gardens and resource management.

We feel like we have made great advances with the Community Transformation Center (CTC). It was a project that brought us together, challenged us, and made us feel proud.

Guatemala Próspera, Zag Group, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education, the COCODE, and the Municipality have helped us; everything has been in collaboration. That gives us hope because we see that it is possible to do things together.

We understand that the common good is important and everything works better when we can help our neighbor.

“The school attendance rate has been constant. That is quite an accomplishment!”







Health





Lucrecia de Sotz

“Taking care of people’s health is my responsibility and passion.”

I have been an auxiliary nurse (PSA) in the community since 2012, I am in charge of educating mothers, whether pregnant or with kids, so that they care for the healthy development of their children. We provide follow-up for them to bring their children periodically to keep record of their weight and height. For me, responsibility is a fundamental value since I must be the first one to set a good example for mothers to make them more aware of the care of their health and that of their children.

The Ministry of Health recommends follow up to food security and nutrition programs, sexual and reproductive health, dogs’ immunization, maternal and neonatal health, besides school supplementation to children and teenagers. I love my job because I like helping people to value and care for their well-being

María Marta Patzán

“It is a blessing to have a way to take care of our health.”

I have learned to be mindful of my health and my family’s health because life gets difficult if we are sick and we cannot move forward. Since January 2016, I visit the clinic to learn how to take care of myself and my children; we have also learned how important it is to plan how many children we want to have so that we can give them a decent life, because we are responsible of their healthy growth.

I always bring my children to their weight and height controls because I want them to grow up strong. We are very happy in the community because with the effort of everyone and the support of Guatemala Próspera, we now have a nice health center that is much better than where the nurse used to be. There is more room, more light, and more air at that community center. It is more comfortable to have checkups there and also to receive advice.

Children are happy because they like being in such a beautiful place, where they know that people care for their well-being.



FINDINGS

- High health risks due to an insufficient potable water pipe network and water provision for human consumption from the polluted river.
- Since 2013, there is support from the Ministry of Health through an auxiliary nurse.
- The community pays the salary of a community facilitator who keeps records of the height and weight of children under the age of five. She provides vitamin supplements, vaccines, and attention to child malnutrition cases as well as medicines for common illnesses in adults.

GUATEMALA PRÓSPERA'S ACTIONS

- **2015:** We installed water pipelines to improve its distribution. Hundreds of neighbors got organized to dig 2.5 kilometres of ditches and place the new pipes.
- **2016:** We implemented the nutritional recovery program with the advice of professionals. 28 children have received highly-nutritional and energetic food prepared by community mothers at the school.
- We arranged better facilities for the health center. One family gave their home at no cost for 36 months asking for improvements to the house in return.
- We delivered medical equipment: an adult scale, a fetoscope, and minor surgery equipment; as well as a refrigerator to keep the supply of vaccines provided by the National Immunization Program.
- **2017:** We arranged the help of a resident medical student from Mariano Galvez University to provide general medical and emergency care, in addition to pre and postnatal care.



- In 2015, 72 % of children (162 out of 225) suffered from chronic malnutrition.
- Two midwives attend births of second children at an approximate cost of \$34. They are the greatest source of illness-related consults.
- The most complex cases are sent to the departmental hospital of Chimaltenango.
- The bus fare to the hospital is \$ 0.70, and the cost if traveling in a car is approximately \$12.
- Chimaltenango is a department with high nutritional vulnerability. In 2015, San Martin Jilotepeque registered 46.9% malnutrition therefore, it is in the list of the 166 municipalities in the Zero Hunger Plan of the State.
- A high percentage of respiratory diseases is due to the smoke of firewood.
- A high percentage of gastrointestinal diseases is due to the lack of potable water and information regarding hygienic practices.
- Community members treat these illnesses with medicinal herbs and flu medication.
- The lack of information regarding hygiene and nutrition has an enormous impact on the health of the population.

- We opened the first water purifier in the community.
- **From November 2018 to June 2019:** We joined efforts with United Way Guatemala for the Clean Water project that consisted of distributing sachets that contained a water purifying formula that made water apt for consumption. 120 families from El Rosario and Cerro Alto were benefited from this program by obtaining 150 quarts of potable water per month. Our community team supervised the water purification process with each family.

- **2019:** We built the Community Transformation Center (CTC). ZAG Group, as a social investor, invested 75% of the construction budget. The community group provided 13% of the investment through cash, manpower, and materials. The municipality contributed 12% of the cost by providing materials and machinery for groundwork.

COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION CENTER (CTC) CONSTRUCTION



● Community
 ● Municipality
 ● ZAG Group

2019 and 2020: We joined efforts with a Christian organization to install improved stoves in 30 homes, which eliminates the open fire stoves that produce contamination by smoke.

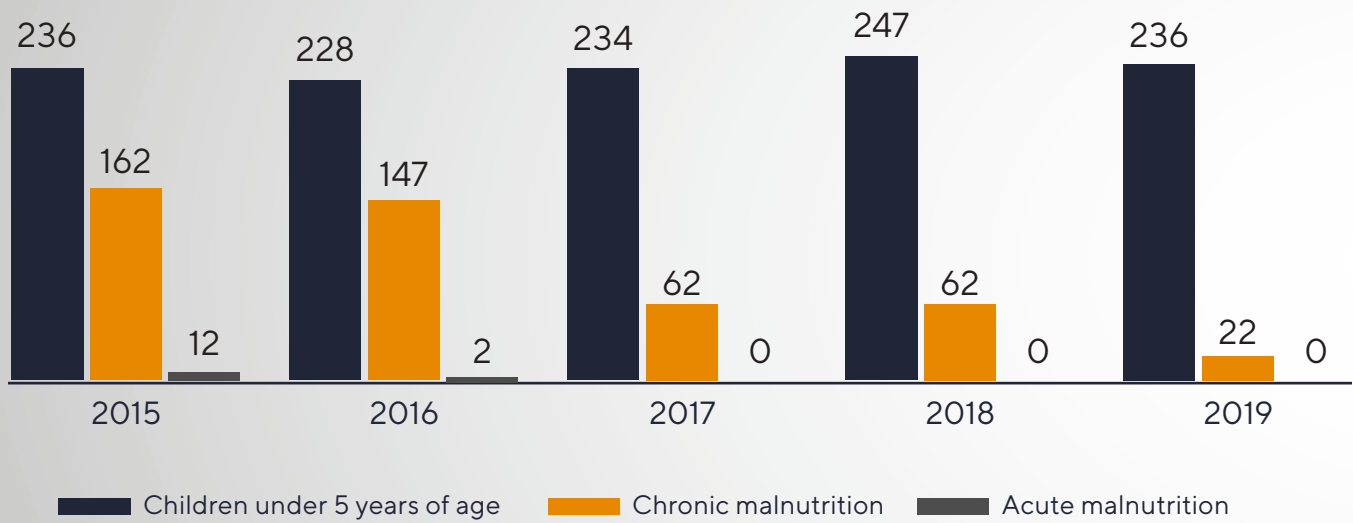
2020: We joined efforts with Droguería COIDE, S. A. to deliver 460 medicine kits that treat mild COVID-19 symptoms. The kit includes medications recommended by the Ministry of Health and Public Assistance: vitamin C, vitamin D, acetaminophen, aspirin, ivermectine, and loratadine.



IMPACT INDICATORS

- More than 1500 inhabitants have potable water.
- 300 families benefited from the installation of a new potable water pipeline.
- High impact on the eradication of child malnutrition.

Eradication of Child Malnutrition



Increase in preventive care at the health center, thus decreasing the need of going to the general hospital in Chimaltenango.

Increase in prenatal care. The mothers decide to have their deliveries at the general hospital in Chimaltenango to reduce the risks of possible complications.

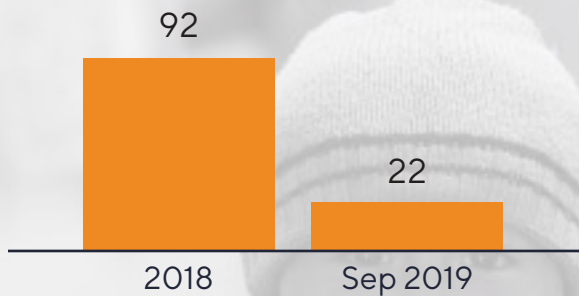
Pregnancies	2017	2018	2019
Pregnant women population	37	43	33
Deliveries in hospital	28	39	31



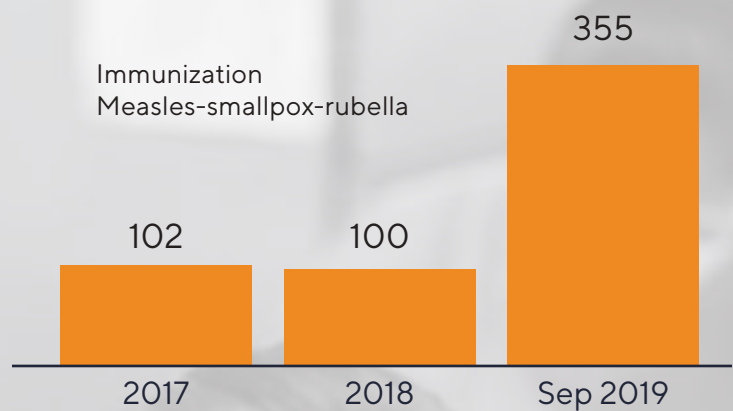
THE COMMUNITY

- Is highly involved in health care.
- Joins efforts with the Ministry of Health and Public Assistance that provides an auxiliary nurse, a health teacher, and medicines.
- Takes on the CTC management:
 - Pays a community facilitator and a security guard.
 - Participates in maintenance work.
 - Continues fundraising for the next construction phases.

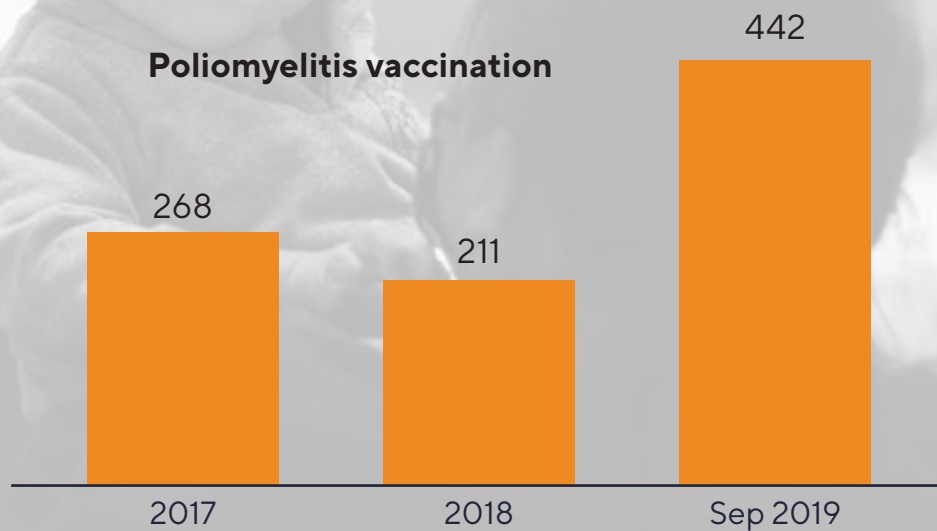
**Reduction of
gastrointestinal diseases**

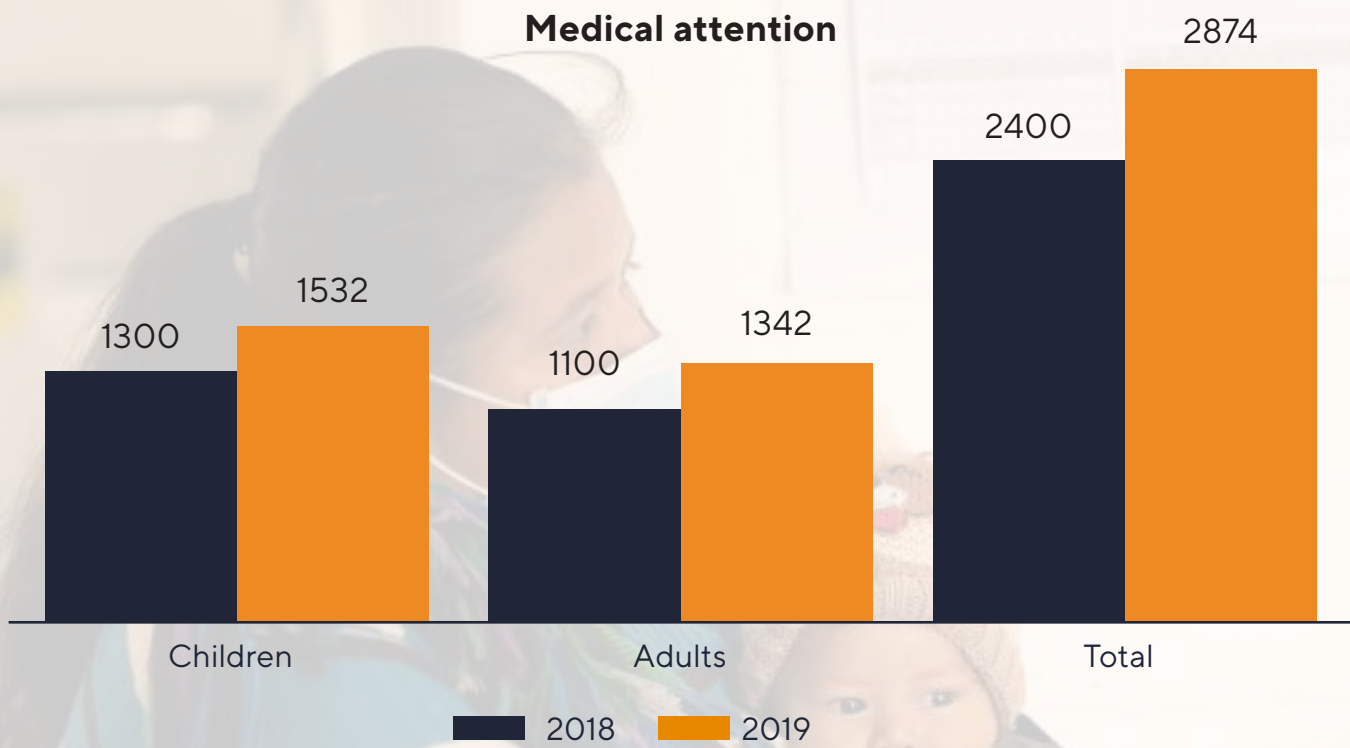


**Increase in disease
prevention**



Poliomyelitis vaccination





Family gardens

Angélica Set

*“All of us can share
our harvest because
we are from the same
community.”*

Before the COVID pandemic, I received beet seedlings to plant in my garden and feed my family. Suddenly, the pandemic hit, and many of my neighbors started losing their jobs. The situation got difficult for everyone, but we have helped each other however we can.

As the months went by, my beets were ready for the harvest so I decided to give them away to my neighbors. “How much do you sell them for?” they would ask, but I replied, “They are a gift. I cannot sell them if I got them as a gift as well.”



FINDINGS

A 2015 census revealed:

- More than 65 % of the population worked in farming.
- Most of them work at the neighboring farms.
- The average amount of work hours is 45 per week.
- The monthly average income is \$ 205. Meaning \$1.13/hour.

The lack of information regarding balanced nutrition and poor access to legumes contribute to malnutrition.

Poor family planning limits development opportunities for women who must stay at home to take care of their children with the resources provided by their husbands.

GUATEMALA PRÓSPERA'S ACTIONS

2017: We implemented holistic programs of nutritional education and farming methods.

We managed a pilot plan with 20 families to start with the gardens which they would later expand to the community.

We provided trainings on planting and harvest for six months.

We followed up on the families who built and fixed their gardens, and we also selected the legumes they would plant.

We joined efforts with the Spanish Cooperation to provide literacy courses and agricultural reinforcing to the women who manage a garden.

May to July 2020: We joined efforts with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food to start a food security program, supervision and technical advisory where we trained:

- COCODE authorities
- Local representatives of the Ministry of Health
- School teachers
- Families that grow gardens

As part of this program, the Ministry of Agriculture delivered more than 7000 seedlings of different legumes that benefitted 54 families.

IMPACT INDICATORS

- Improvement in nutrition and strengthening of work in favor of common good through 9 gardens that produce legumes for family consumption.
- Development of sustainability mechanisms to produce compost with natural products that help in the harvest of legumes.
- Better income for families who also sell part of their harvest.
- More economic independence through sustainable methods.
- Better utilization of local resources, because the clinic has a medicinal garden to treat common diseases' symptoms.





Economy



Rosa Tubac

*“Little by little
you start. Selling
my tortillas blessed
my family and the
community.”*

Life has changed for me since I dared to participate in a Transformation is in me roundtable. I am a wife and a mother who takes care of her home and so I did not realize that my attitude could be better for the benefit of my family. I thought that by doing my housework I was all right, but the truth is that I could do much more. When the saving boxes began, I got really excited and took courage to participate even if it was with just a few cents, but that discipline helped me start my business of selling tortillas. It is well said that one begins with little, but if you work hard and keep going, the little becomes much. I know that because in 2018 I enrolled in the *One plus One* program where I learned a great deal to grow my business.

My customers say my tortillas are tasty and that they like that everything seems clean and they can trust me. That makes me happy. With the advice I received from Guatemala Próspera’s facilitators, I made use of the space I had to sell other things that people need such as corn and propane. I was even able to employ a friend when my baby was born, so she took care of my business while I recovered from my delivery. It is nice to see that we can help each other.



*“It has been a good thing to have someone to give us advice
to improve personally and in our economy.”*

Seydeli Marleny Canas

“Sewing has helped me improve our lives.”

I am part of the sewing group created by Guatemala Próspera to teach us how to generate an additional income for our home. Ever since then, I started to sew embroidered necklines in “huipiles” (traditional costumes) when my neighbors asked for them because they said I did a pretty job.

In March 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic hit us all hard, but Guatemala Próspera challenged us to manufacture 6000 facemasks to give away in our community as well as in the neighboring Bola de Oro, Cerro Alto, and Labor de Falla communities. I dared to take on the challenge. We had to design them to be safe and comfortable. We had to cut, sew, and try. At first, I was afraid that we would not make it, but as time went by we got better and better and once we had the pattern done, it was easier. I even got phone calls from other friends asking me to teach them how to make the facemasks.

We had to remain isolated to avoid getting sick. I feel satisfied because I collaborated, and I had the opportunity of earning additional money when many people were losing their jobs. I even had enough money to finish fixing my kitchen. It is true that when you are willing, you can.



*“In the community, we learned to come together to get ahead.
Now we work together in good times and in bad.”*

A photograph of a man, Abdías Tacatic, standing in what appears to be a warehouse or storage area. He is wearing a white hairnet, a dark long-sleeved shirt, and a brown apron. He is holding a large blue plastic water jug with both hands. The background shows wooden shelving units.

Abdías Tacatic

“Without even realizing it, I became a good Samaritan.”

I used to sell chicken at the time when Guatemala Próspera summoned me to take care of the water purifier and I accepted. At first, I would go out and offer the water jugs from door to door; I told each family about the water filtering processes we applied until it was safe for drinking and at a good price. Also, I would explain to them that a percentage of the sales would go to community funds that would be used for activities and projects of the community.

Someone told me once that a couple of elderly people needed a water jug, but they did not have anybody to bring it home, so I went. I felt terribly sad to see them alone and sick, so I helped them cook something and take their medication.

Of course, I did not charge them for the water. Surprisingly, their relatives became my customers and I now sell to them about 15 jugs per week. They would tell me, “It is because you were a Good Samaritan”, but I do not think anyone would have been capable of seeing them and not helping.

After some time, I got a bike that helped me deliver in the community, and later on, the business expanded, and I started to deliver water to five additional communities. I even gave the down payment for a small truck! Now I have employed a young man from the community who helps me and takes care of the business while I make deliveries. I tell him to do a good job, to work hard in everything, and to be a good salesman because we will always need to offer what we do. One never knows when opportunities will come, and we must take advantage of them. I am deeply thankful to Guatemala Próspera for everything they have done here in El Rosario and because they trusted me to be in charge of the purifying company.



2015 FINDINGS

Home economy deficit. In general, expenses surpass income.

Monthly expenses

Firewood	\$34. ⁰⁰
Medicine	\$40. ⁰⁰
Corn (50 pounds)	\$20. ⁵⁰
Potable water (when possible)	\$7. ⁰⁰
Electricity	\$17. ⁰⁰
TOTAL	\$118.⁵⁰

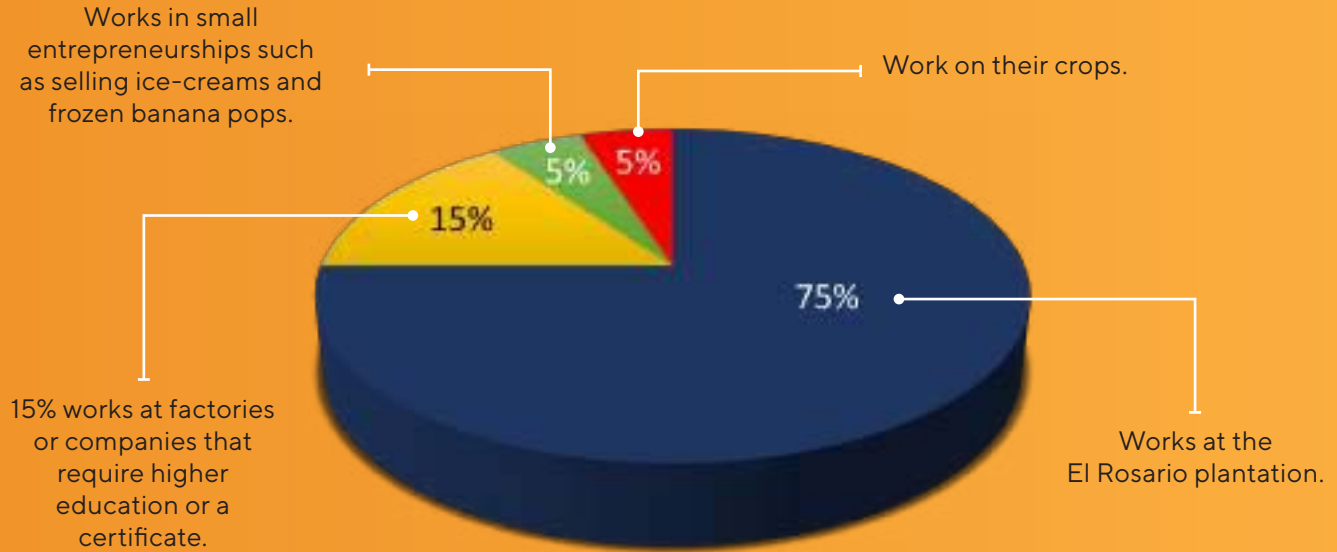
² Many buy freezers as a way of increasing their social status. The problem with this is that the electricity bill can amount to \$55 and families must find an additional source of income to supply for this item.

GUATEMALA PRÓSPERA'S ACTIONS

IMPACT INDICATORS



What do you do for a living in the community?



- To these expenses, they must add food which varies according to the number of family members.
- The lack of financial resources is the main cause of not having potable water since the installation cost is \$545.
- Salaries at the plantation fluctuate around \$81.63 biweekly, despite the excess of work.

- We implemented the sewing program.
- We started the saving boxes program.
- We developed the entrepreneurship training program *One plus One*.
- We proposed and managed the facemasks manufacture project.

- Significant improvement in the local economy.
- Development of the initiative of entrepreneurship and preparation to manage their own business.
- Development of the habit of saving.
- Creation of various new businesses that translate into a better life quality and strengthening the individual and collective self-esteem.

Sewing Program

In 2016, we identified that sewing could be an interesting entrepreneurship option for housewives that would improve the family income. In collaboration with the local government, we developed a program with 4 phases.



Launching of a basic training workshop that required three hours of learning per week.

1
Fase

The modules begin. The first one was basic training. The second one of confectioning garments with regional designs. The third one of design and confectioning of fashionable garments, necklines, and other products such as dolls and regional customs.

3
Fase

Purchase of portable sewing machines and an invitation to women who were interested in the process which was divided into three 90-day modules each.

2
Fase

Market research for products including local fairs and souvenir shops.

4
Fase





IMPACT INDICATORS

- 15 people received 350 hours of training to manufacture garments that were later sold at municipal fairs and special events, such as the dolls that they sold to the international visitors during the 2017 John C. Maxwell conferences.
- The new sewing craftswomen purchased sewing machines. They invested \$884 that represents 70% of the machine cost which they paid in 10 months.
- Diversification in other entrepreneurships. Reinvestment of profits from the sale of sewing products in other businesses such as the charcuterie production that represents a monthly income of \$200 for 4 women and their families.
- \$1,326.26 in profits between 2016 and 2017.

2017

- One group member opened a clothing store where he sold products, he manufactured himself.
- Other groups participated in local fairs organized by the Secretariat of Social Works of the President's Wife (SOSEP) and received an income of \$532.
- Development of a successful sewing product: dolls dressed in regional costumes that were even exported to the United States.

2017 to this day

- Sustained entrepreneurships of clothing, curtains, and tablecloths manufacturing that generate an average income of \$350 per month for 6 women and their families.
- Strengthening of autonomy and self-esteem by becoming economically active people.



A photograph of a woman with dark hair, smiling and holding a stack of Mexican pesos. She is wearing a brown cardigan over a red top. The photo is partially obscured by a white geometric shape.

Saving boxes

2015 The Solidarity Foundation conducted a study to determine if the community had economic availability to start a community saving project that would support their comprehensive development.

2016 The saving boxes program was implemented with the participation of 36 women from the community who were organized into groups of ten or more. They decided to save each week for six or twelve months. Many of them were participants of the *Transformation is in me* roundtables that foster personal growth.

2019 As soon as they got organized, the saving boxes grew rapidly to the point of involving 295 members. By then, the program had expanded to the Cerro Alto, Bola de Oro, Labor de Falla, El Durazno, Itzapa, and Cienaga Grande communities. The group members can request loans with this saving program.

IMPACT INDICATORS

2017 The program members achieved financial goals such as acquiring breeding animals for resale and work tools, investing in home improvements and starting micro-businesses.

2018-2019 New work capital to start six businesses: selling slushies, two pig raising micro-businesses, a milk sale, and two mini-gardens.

Social projection and solidarity to share resources that are the product of saving. Various groups have gotten organized to care for the elderly and clean the community.

One plus One Program

This program comprises an 8 steps methodology to develop micro-entrepreneurships and it was implemented for the first time in El Rosario.

2018

- In the first quarter, with our friend Jayson Orvis, we brought the first draft of the program to the community.
- We held the first training in July and by the end of the year, a group of 15 women between 15 and 70 years of age graduated from the program.

2019

- Two pedagogysts reviewed the manual and performed a readjustment to implement new methodologies.
- In July, together with the advisors, we finished the readjustment that linked each one of the steps with a value or principle and a mental and experiential anchor. We developed a manual for the trainer and another one for the participant.
- We invested in a digital platform for follow-up on the businesses that arise once we implemented the methodology and also to have a trend analysis and register success stories.

IMPACT INDICATORS

- 5 new micro-businesses related to food sale and breeding animals.
- 15 businesses strengthened their business management knowledge.

El Rosario Facemasks

In April 2020, due to the COVID-19 contingency, we summoned a group of 5 women who had finished the sewing workshop and proposed to them the facemasks manufacturing project. The goal was to distribute them for the protection of community members for protection during the pandemic.

- We developed the facemask prototype, and the budget included the women's wages.
- We selected and purchased the materials that complied with medical requirements.
- We trained them regarding good hygienic practices at home and workspaces, besides hygienic protocols to clean the tools used in the facemasks production.
- We conducted a communication campaign to raise funds that were invested in facemasks manufacturing.

IMPACT INDICATORS

- Raising \$1,800 to manufacture the facemasks that were donated.
- \$825 income distributed among 5 women and their families.
- Production of 5,700 facemasks for the protection of El Rosario, Cerro Alto, Bola de Oro, and Labor de Falla communities.



Chorizo sausage cooking groups

In 2012, a lady who was part of the sewing group wanted to learn a new skill and gathered a group of women with whom she attended the Technical Training Institute, where they learned to cook chorizo sausages.

The group contributed financially to purchase the necessary ingredients and then shared the profits.

Soon, the distribution which started in the surroundings of the community expanded in such a way that their product has been consolidated and constitutes a steady source of income and prosperity for the community.

“Thanks to God, Guatemala Próspera, and the effort of all, in El Rosario we now believe more in what we can achieve.”





Carlos Alexander Simaj Chan

**Major of
Chimaltenango**

Our direct relationship with the El Rosario community has been through the Community Development Council (COCODE), the teachers, and female leaders for the past 20 years with the blessing of our Creator.

The community got organized very efficiently. Since 1990, we have provided the potable water system and also donated a piece of land for the construction of the pre-school and primary schools and, in the future, the secondary school building. As the years have passed, we have increased electricity coverage and the most recent project is the building of elementary school classrooms, as well as the kitchen where they can prepare the children's snacks. The men and women of the community were in charge of the construction, organized with the support of Guatemala Próspera.

It has been very pleasant to witness the many initiatives they have had, such as the creation and management of women's textiles, improvement in public lighting, construction of the water treatment plant, the first phase of sanitary sewerage, and building the paving stone street of approximately 1600 linear feet.

I know that they will continue with public lighting and street paving, forest management plan, as well as strengthening the family gardens, increasing textile production, and implementing a technological system for teaching English and computer science.

With faith in God, hope, and solidarity we know that the community efforts for development will be successful because we all collaborate: us in the municipality, the government of Guatemala, the COCODE, all the families, and supporting organizations such as Guatemala Próspera.



Genaro Socoy

Ministry of Agriculture,
Livestock, and Food

“It is a great joy to see that the community fights for its dreams and its development.”

For a long time, with the COCODE, we have followed up on the cases of children with acute malnutrition and it has been truly satisfactory to see that in the past few years, parents have a greater sense of responsibility and also a greater interest in the follow up of family gardens.

It makes me happy to see the investment made in changing the water pipeline, building the convergence center, implementing family gardens, residual waters treatment plant, a phase of sanitary sewerage network, school improvement, and providing scholarships for low-income students. It is evident that the community is working hard and has good plans for the future.

It would be worthwhile to consider projects that continue the improvement of food products such as using rainwater for family gardens, besides producing eggs for family consumption.

One can see that the El Rosario community is looking to the future and searching for ways of improvement.

Edgar Barrera

Health Center Director of
Chimaltenango

Ministry of Health and
Public Assistance



*“We can all contribute to the
development of the community.”*

As coordinator of the Chimaltenango district, I am in constant communication with the staff in service of the community and monitoring the work that is done daily.

Since 2016, attention to the population has improved, the staff has made a great effort to provide good care and comply with the rules of the Ministry of Health. Also, it is evident that the community has strengthened because they are looking for ways of improvement. That is how we have managed to train health promoters, besides collaborating in anything we can with the new community center and providing our support in environmental services such as sewage and potable water.

It would be very good to consider projects such as community farms and handicraft cooperatives for groups of women from the locality.

We all must get together to propose projects that we consider priority in the community and support each other in the process of making them a reality.







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