

CARE Proposal #1 for Multiple District 19 Lions



Country: Guatemala

Project Location: Santa María Chiquimula, Totonicapán

Project Name: A Future Without Hunger

Requested Amount: \$40,000 Goal for Year 1 (\$80,000 goal for 2 years)

Fundraising Period: July 2023 - June 2025

Project Implementation: Jan. 2025 - Dec. 2026

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Introduction

Guatemala was one of the Latin American countries with the best macroeconomic performance during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, people living in poverty, in particular women, are struggling to recover their previous income and working conditions. Marginalized populations, especially indigenous Mayan women small-scale farmers and their families, face tremendous barriers to improving their livelihoods and achieving gender equity. These barriers have been compounded by the food crisis brought on by war in Ukraine, the pandemic, the economic crisis, human mobility and disasters including recent hurricanes and flooding. This is exacerbated by a weakness in the political and institutional framework for disaster prevention and response, and a gap in women's participation in the labor market. Women make up only 37% of the workforce and have a median income of less than \$240 per year.

Guatemala is experiencing a complex humanitarian crisis affecting almost a third of the population: 6.4 million people are vulnerable, and 5 million people require humanitarian support.¹ Food and nutrition needs reached a historic high in 2022, with 35% more people than the previous year – mainly subsistence and semi-subsistence farming families and households with minimal or no income – requiring immediate assistance.



As we seek to address hunger, CARE has focused interventions in the department of Totonicapán. We currently implement the project *Building Resilience through Farmer Support*, supporting families in the

¹ U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Humanitarian Needs Assessment for 2023.

municipality of Santa María Chiquimula, which is among the municipalities with the highest levels of poverty: 84.3%.² The project is financed directly by CARE USA through funds from the Global Hunger Crisis campaign, with the objective “to improve the food and nutritional security of women, their families and communities in the department of Totonicapán.”

Proposed Intervention

In order to expand our response to the hunger crisis faced by Guatemalan families, CARE proposes the project *A Future Without Hunger*, with support from MD19 Lions. We intend to complement and expand our model strengthening food systems through improved agricultural production and climate resilience in Santa María Chiquimula.

The project is expected to contribute to strengthening the production and food systems of families vulnerable to the food crisis. The intended result is good food production practices implemented as a measure of adaptation to food and nutrition insecurity caused by adverse climatic effects.

Population

- Year 1: 200 families
- Year 2: 200 families
- Total: 400 families

Activities

1.1. Capacity-building in health and nutrition practices and reorganization of activities within the home (healthy households): Through the learning-by-doing methodology, activities will be developed for the reorganization of the household and application of hygiene practices. This will facilitate a change in families’ behavior, which will have an impact on their food security.

1.2 Training and direct technical assistance to women producers through [Farmer Field and Business Schools](#) (FFBS), CARE’s proven, women-focused agricultural skills-building approach: In order to promote changes in traditional production practices, the project will develop training processes on good agricultural practices and conservation of natural resources, which will increase agricultural production of foods of high nutritional value. Likewise, CARE will promote a food sovereignty³ approach for the reduction in the use of chemical fertilizers that increase the production of greenhouse gases.

1.3 Backyard family gardens: plans to improve production: In order to reorganize food production models in small spaces and optimize land use, the project will work on planning the yards of participating families. This will allow us to conceive an integral model of backyard production in the future that will allow permanent availability of food of high nutritional value.

1.4 Backyard family gardens: use of native plants: Leveraging training and technical assistance provided in the FFBS, we will promote the production of native foods from the area, that are adapted to the climate and soil conditions of the territory and allow the stable production of foods of high

² Official poverty maps, 2018.

³ Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. <http://usfoodsovereigntyalliance.org/>

nutritional value. The intended result is improved resilience in the face of the seasonal hunger crisis faced by families in the dry season.

Conclusion

Guatemala faces an unprecedented food security crisis, affecting some of the country's most vulnerable people. Addressing the root causes of the crisis requires first and foremost a focus on the small-scale farmers, above all indigenous women, who are the backbone of rural food production. With support from Multiple District 19 Lions, CARE seeks to leverage our extensive experience to provide the women of Santa María Chiquimula training in farming and nutritional practices, including sustainable backyard gardening. We are confident that they will be better equipped over the long term to weather the effects of climate change and provide their families with healthy, nutritious food. Thank you for your consideration.

June 2023