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## The Difference You Make Advocates For World Health



Guatemala

## Guatemala

The largest country in Central America, Guatemala is home to more than 17 million people. An estimated 59.3 percent of Guatemalans live below the poverty line. A sad result of this widespread poverty is that Guatemala has one of the highest rates of chronic child malnutrition in the world. Poverty among indigenous groups, which make up over 40 percent of the population, averages 79 percent.

Less than half of all rural Guatemalans have access to running water, only a quarter have access to electricity and only about 1 in 10 have access to modern sanitation facilities. Guatemala's severe food insecurity and lack of accessible, affordable medical care has led to high infant, child and maternal mortality rates.

Nearly one-half of Guatemala's children younger than 5 are chronically malnourished, one of the highest malnutrition rates in the world, according to the CIA World Factbook.

In fact, the Guatemalan government spends very little money on health care and for those living in rural areas, access to care is often nonexistent.

## Donation of Medical Equipment Helps Guatemalan Women

VIMUGUA - Vida Mujer Guatemala (Life of Guatemalan Women) - is a nongovernmental organization with the mission to provide assistance to women, teens and children in need. Food For The Poor's in-country partner tells us that there are many single women, without families, who seek housing and medical assistance.

The organization's focus is women empowerment.

"We are so happy that we were able to provide medical equipment to this giving organization that helps so many Guatemalan women," said Mónica González, FFTP's in-country partner representative.

"The Life of Guatemalan Women NGO works on the implementation of intervention projects in the different areas of social, economic and cultural participation, with the aim of making equal opportunities real and effective," Mónica said.

"With the support of donations like this one received from FFTP's donor [Advocates for World Health], VIMUGUA has managed to be a support not only for Guatemalan women but also for older adults, youth and children, thanks to the different programs they have, such as Medical Days, My Pharmacy, the Women's Festival, Food and Nutrition, and more.

“We thank you for the many medical equipment we received – from the crutches to the walkers, I.V. poles, canes, commodes, overhead tables and all the medical supplies received,” Mónica said. “These are of utmost importance to the VIMUGUA institution because these items are the means by which they are able to provide much-needed assistance so that more people have what they need to have a decent life.”

## **Food For The Poor**

Food For The Poor, one of the largest international relief and development organizations in the nation, does much more than feed millions of the hungry children and families living in poverty primarily in 17 countries of the Caribbean and Latin America. This interdenominational Christian ministry provides emergency relief assistance, clean water, medicine, educational materials, homes, support for vulnerable children, care for the aged, skills training and micro-enterprise development assistance. For more information, please visit [www.FoodForThePoor.org](http://www.FoodForThePoor.org).