

FFTP FOOD FOR THE POOR

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The Difference You Make Advocates for World Health



Guatemala

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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.

The Blessing of Medical Equipment: Transforming Lives in Rural Guatemala

Efrén never imagined how his life could change in an instant. The sole provider for his wife and four children, he recently suffered an automobile accident that caused the amputation of his right foot.

"For someone in need of durable medical equipment, especially devices required to help the person walk and move around, this is truly a blessing," said Byron Paredes, our in-country partner representative.

"Like Efrén, are many Guatemalans looking for the right medical device that will help improve their living conditions," Byron said. "Wheelchairs, walkers, commodes, and canes are just a few of the equipment that we were able to distribute throughout rural departments [regions] north and west of Guatemala City; most notably, Alta Verapaz, Sololá, Totonicapán and Quiché.

"The equipment has a great impact on their daily living and allows them to live a more dignified life," Byron added. "We are so grateful for this donation. It is because of the continued assistance that we receive from Food For The Poor and its generous donors that we are able to help the people of Guatemala."

Pictured below in his home in rural Guatemala is Efrén with his new walker that was provided by Food For The Poor's caring in-kind donor Advocates for World Health. The use of the walker allows Efrén to walk independently again after the amputation of his right foot.



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.