



# February 2023 Featured Project

Improving Access to Reproductive, Maternal, and Newborn  
Healthcare in Rural Guatemala



**TOGETHER WOMEN RISE**

# Introducing Maya Midwifery International

Mission: improve maternal child health outcomes by helping to prepare and sustain local midwives in their communities and helping them to have a voice in local and national policies which affect them.



# About Guatemala

- One of the poorest countries in Latin America
- Health indicators among the worst in the hemisphere
- Highest fertility rate and population growth in Latin America
- Struggles in several areas of health and development, including infant, child, and maternal mortality



# Life Challenges for Women in Guatemala

- Worst maternal and infant mortality rates in Latin America
- Significantly less access to quality health care for rural, indigenous women
- High rates of adolescent pregnancy, chronic malnutrition, problems with child and spousal abuse
- Indigenous individuals, especially women, often mistreated in the health system



# The Project: Improving Access to Reproductive, Maternal, and Newborn Healthcare In Rural Guatemala: ACAM's Mobile Clinics

Mobile clinics provide

- quality evidence-based reproductive, maternal, and newborn health (RMNH) services
- continuing education and learning opportunities for community midwives and other local health workers
- improved referral and transportation linkages between communities and higher-level facilities for complicated pregnancies, deliveries, and newborn care, and emergencies

# The Project

- Listens to local midwives and community members to address issues beyond training and service delivery
- Holistically considers economic and community empowerment, cultural respect and support, and educational attainment
- Provides vital, lifesaving mobile clinics in remote communities
- Relies on highly trained and respected indigenous midwives who speak the local Maya Mam language

**DIRECT IMPACT: 1,111**

**INDIRECT IMPACT: 3,366**

# Budget

Item	Description	Cost
MMI Personnel	Portion of salaries for local executive director, local administrative coordinator, and local stakeholder engagement coordinator	\$7,500
ACAM Personnel	Stipends for midwives for mobile clinic shifts, Community Midwife Training Days, postpartum visits, administrative tasks for mobile clinics, staffing the dispensary, and performing sanitation duties	\$11,350
Additional Personnel	Driver (to transport midwives to and from mobile clinics), general physician	\$9,250
Vehicle Costs and Travel	(For transport to and from mobile clinics) Gas, maintenance, insurance, community midwife transport (to reduce barriers to attendance of trainings), local travel (including transport of medicine and supplies)	\$7,750
Communication	Cell phone plans for communication of midwives and staff	\$2,500
Programming	Birth kits for midwives, medicines, nutritional supplements, supplies to run mobile clinics, outreach and publicity of mobile clinics, trainings to ACAM midwives	\$11,650
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$50,000</b>

# About Maya Midwifery International

- Since 1999, Maya Midwifery International (MMI) (formerly International Mayan League USA (IMLUSA) served as advisory and fundraising body for ACAM (Association of Midwives of the Mam Speaking Area)
- ACAM midwives address issues specific to indigenous midwives and their communities
- Model based on listening to local midwives and community members
- Tackles challenges in a holistic way with cultural respect



# Discussion: Share Your Thoughts

1. What do you think it would be like to give birth surrounded by healthcare workers who don't speak your language?
2. How do you think this project impact overall healthcare in Guatemala?
3. How do you think this project enhances gender equality?

