



# Global Pediatric Alliance: Indigenous Mother & Child Health

May 2026 Featured Grant



TOGETHER WOMEN RISE



# Mexico: Stark Health Inequities



## Indigenous Mexicans:

- 19% of population
- Poverty rate is 65%
- Infant Mortality Rate 23 deaths/1,000 births

## In Chiapas, Mexico:

- 37% Indigenous
- 67% poverty rate
- Infant Mortality Rate 25 deaths/1,000 births

# Featured Grantee: Global Pediatric Alliance

## \$50,000 Project Grant

### Improving Access to Quality, Equitable and Respectful Maternal Health Services for Marginalized Mayan Women in Chiapas and the Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico

- Strengthening skills of Indigenous midwives
- Fostering community networks of care
- Promoting Respectful Maternal Health principles in clinics and training institutions

# Community-Based Solutions

**Most maternal and newborn deaths are preventable.**

GPA's pillars of work in poor, rural areas support community-based healthcare by:

- Enriching the Skills of Traditional Midwives & Community Health Workers
- Promoting Respectful & Equitable Maternal Health Care
- Strengthening Movements & Advocacy
- Investing in Communities

# Mexico

- Population: about 134 million
- 3x size of Texas
- Large economy with high rural poverty & wide disparities
- Structural inequality perpetuates violence against women



# Impact and Transformation

Founded in 2002 by pediatrician Scott Cohen

In 2024:

- Reached 130,092 people
- Trained 324 midwives and 179 community health workers
- Newly trained midwives carried out 3,788 prenatal visits, safely delivered 815 babies, and made 116 emergency referrals for life-saving care

**Direct impact: 800 women** (including 200 Indigenous midwives, 400 health providers, and 200 community leaders in Chiapas, Yucatan, and Quintan Roo); **Indirect impact: 450,000 women and girls** (through increased access to comprehensive, culturally-respectful healthcare services and increased community support)

# Budget

Item	Description	Cost
Personnel	Personnel costs cover 50% of Mexico Office Director salary, who oversees entire on the ground operation	\$33,000
Field Operations Travel	For workshops/activities throughout three rural states, Indigenous communities	\$8,050
Translator Expenses	Contracted Indigenous language translators	\$7,350
Supplies	Midwife kits: Approximately \$63 per kit, includes glucometer, gauze, alcohol, umbilical tape	\$1,600
<b>Total</b>	Total project cost: \$631,065. Rise funding: \$50,000 (approx. 8%)	<b>\$50,000</b>

# Doña María's Story



More than 80 years ago, Doña María Méndez was born into the hands of her grandmother, Mercedes, a Mayan midwife from the Tzeltal region of southern Mexico.

And just like her grandmother, mother, great-aunt and great-grandmother, María became a midwife. Her mother used to say: **“How could you not be a midwife, when you carry the lineage of all the midwives and healers in the family?”**

