

CARE Proposal for Multiple District 19 Lions



Project Location: Guatemala

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

Fundraising Period: July 2025 – June 2027

Project Implementation: November 2026 – November 2028

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For decades, CARE and Multiple District 19 Lions have partnered together to give life-changing help to poor communities in Latin America. We are grateful for this support and propose to continue this partnership through a new project in Guatemala.

Guatemala, a country rich in tradition and cultural, is facing enormous food insecurity with an estimate 2.3 million people lacking access to nutritious food. As food prices in Guatemala continue to rise due to global inflation and drought, and as families struggle to earn a living, the problem of severe food insecurity in Guatemala continues to grow. Children are particularly affected by the food crisis. According to World Bank data, almost half the population of Guatemala faces food insecurity and families cannot afford to provide their children with a well-rounded, nutritious diet. As a result, the prevalence of stunting (impaired development due to malnutrition) in children under 5 is one of the highest in the world – and the highest in Latin America and the Caribbean, with 46.5% of children in Guatemala reported as stunted.

To address this crisis and improve the food security and health of the most vulnerable people in Guatemala, **CARE proposes the following two projects for consideration:**



Project Idea 1: Improve Water and Sanitation in Schools (part of School Food and Nutrition Education “EDUSAN” Program)

It is crucial to strengthen initiatives that ensure proper nutrition for school-age children, promoting better physical and emotional health and their ability to learn. For this reason, CARE is working with the government of Guatemala on various interventions, including through a school feeding program. However, challenges exist that must be addressed to safely provide students with school meals and snacks. Most schools in Guatemala

City have inadequate infrastructure and fail to meet the minimum requirements for spaces suitable for food preparation. Moreover, schools currently lack appropriate kitchens for food preparation,

do not have dining areas, and lack handwashing facilities that promote food safety in the distribution process. Additionally, they lack the necessary equipment to promote the consumption of safe water for the preparation of school lunches.

With funding from MD19 Lions, CARE proposes to improve the infrastructure of schools in Guatemala City so that snacks and meals can be provided in a clean, safe environment where basic food safety and sanitation guidelines are followed.

To do this, CARE proposes a project that would install handwashing units, ensure access to clean water, improve bathroom facilities in schools and provide hygiene education, all of which will contribute to improve sanitation in schools.

With a grant of \$40,000 from Multiple District 19 Lions, CARE aims to work in 12 schools benefitting 3,018 children in Guatemala City, through the following activities:

- Improve water purification systems for safe drinking water (12 schools)
- Install handwashing units (3 schools)
- Construct bathroom facilities for boys and girls (1 school)

Project Idea 2: Home Gardens, Community Seed Banks and Agricultural Training

Rates of food insecurity and malnutrition are especially alarming in Guatemala's municipality of Chimaltenango, especially in rural areas. The report titled "Alta Verapaz and Chimaltenango, the two departments with the highest population in food insecurity," published on September 3, 2024, revealed that 24% of the population was suffering from acute food insecurity, and it was estimated that this figure would rise to 26% by March 2025. Dependence on subsistence agriculture, climatic variability, and limited access to resources and training exacerbate this situation.

To respond to this food crisis in Chimaltenango, CARE Guatemala proposes implementing comprehensive strategies that promote local agricultural production and ensure food sovereignty in the region. CARE has experience working with rural communities in Guatemala through our successful Field Farmer Business School approach, helping rural families improve their agricultural production. Through the proposed project, CARE will engage women and their families involved in CARE Savings and Loans groups, providing them with opportunities to grow nutritious foods at home while also establishing small businesses to improve household income.



With a grant of \$40,000 from Multiple District 19 Lions, CARE proposes to work with women farmers and families in Chimaltenango to:

- Establish **home gardens** that include 8 varieties of nutritious vegetables. Provide seeds, tools and composting kits.
- Develop **community seed banks** to offer seed loans to participating families and the wider community, providing local access to quality seeds.
- Provide **training on improved and sustainable agricultural practices** that are drought resistant and conserve natural resources, including training on food management production and harvesting and storing of seeds.

We are grateful for the generous support of Multiple District 19 Lions, and we hope to partner with you through one of the above projects to fight poverty in Guatemala. Thank you for your consideration!