

Maya Health Alliance

SITE VISIT WITH POPULATION CONNECTION
SPRING 2025

“Unlocking healthcare, saving lives”



Mission: Building health equity in Guatemala

Vision: Everyone—no matter where they were born or what language they speak, has access to quality health care.

Work: Provide comprehensive care in communities where patients live and in the Mayan languages they are most comfortable speaking. Program areas include child nutrition, women's health, maternal-infant health, and chronic disease



GUATEMALA'S INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

- ~41-43.5% of Guatemala's ~18.2 million people are Indigenous
 - 75% live in rural areas
- 24 recognized Indigenous groups
 - 22 Maya ~41.7% (Achi', Akateco, Awakateco, Chalchiteco, Ch'orti', Chuj, Itza', Ixil, Jacalteco, Kaqchikel, K'iche', Mam, Mopan, Poqomam, Poqomchi', Q'anjob'al, Q'eqchi', Sakapultec, Sipakapense, Tektiteko, Tz'utujil, Uspanteko)
 - 1 Garífuna group ~0.1%-0.13%
 - 1 Xinca group ~1.8%



GUATEMALA'S INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

- Major challenges:
 - **Economic Inequality:** Indigenous families are more likely to live in poverty (75-90% vs. 40% non-Indigenous)
 - **Land access:** Indigenous lands have been taken historically; unequal land ownership and distribution remains
 - **Discrimination:** Structural racism limits access to education, health care, and political influence
 - **Political exclusion:** Indigenous leaders and movements are increasingly visible; yet, government structures remain dominated by Ladino elites



GUATEMALA'S INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS



24 Indigenous languages are spoken in Guatemala, but most health care services are offered in Spanish, effectively preventing millions of people from accessing care.

"Many Indigenous people would rather die at home than be treated in a hospital where no one speaks their language or respects their dignity."

Antigua



Tecpán



Paraxquin





IRMA

"I WANT TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF, BECAUSE IT'S DIFFICULT WITH THREE KIDS ALREADY. SO, THESE SERVICES ARE REALLY BENEFICIAL FOR ME."





CRISTINA

"AT FIRST, I WASN'T SURE ABOUT FAMILY PLANNING. I WAS REFERRED TO MAYA HEALTH ALLIANCE FROM MY FRIEND. THEY MADE ME FEEL SAFE AND SUPPORTED IN RECEIVING CARE."





"EVERYTHING WE DO HERE AT MAYA HEALTH ALLIANCE IS IMPORTANT. WE PROVIDE FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES AND CANCER SCREENINGS, AND WE EDUCATE WOMEN ABOUT THEIR HEALTH SO THAT THEY CAN MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR BODIES."

-GLENDY

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER, MAYA HEALTH ALLIANCE



MAYA HEALTH ALLIANCE

“OUR WORK IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE WE ARE PROVIDING HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES. WE ARE SUPPORTING OVER 11,000 PATIENTS PER YEAR, AND WE DO IT IN NATIVE LANGUAGES. OUR TEAM MEMBERS—BACKPACK NURSES, PHYSICIANS, DRIVERS, AND OTHER STAFF—WORK TOGETHER TO PROVIDE PROFOUND CHANGES TO THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.”

-ANDREA

COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT
OFFICER, MAYA HEALTH ALLIANCE

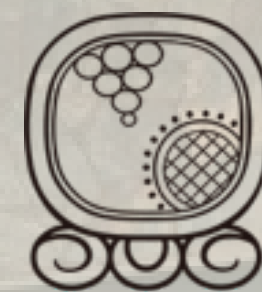
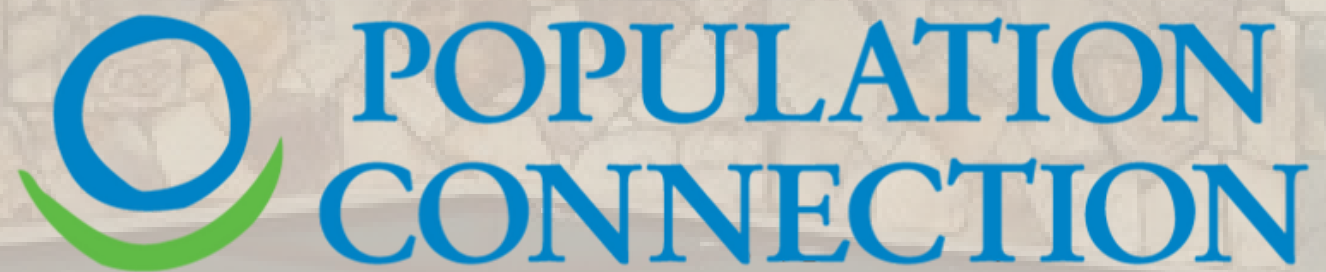


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WUQU' KAWOOQ
ALIANZA MAYA PARA LA SALUD



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