



Crowdfunding Report:

## **“An alliance to strengthen the future of Guatemala”**

Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, C.A., March 2018

# An alliance to strengthen the future of Guatemala

## CONTEXT OF THE AREA IN WHICH THIS GIRLS LIVE

Retalhuleu is located in the southwest of Guatemala, most of its inhabitants are engaged in agricultural activities especially in rural areas where the 28 families benefited by the Scholarship Project are located. For FUNDAP through the scholarships it is a challenge to be able to help the young girls, since many of them are demotivated due to:

- The distances to reach the educational centers are long
- Parents have to go out to work outside the community in order to have income for family expenses, but not for education.
- Families migrate to the Mexican border and the coastal zone of Guatemala in search of better opportunities, especially when its time to harvest coffee and sugarcane.
- The level of education of the parents does not favor the support in school tasks for the scholars.
- The low quality of education and infrastructure in schools is evident and sometimes that makes girls feel unmotivated by the lack of access to technology in the communities (Internet, photocopiers, etc).

With these socio-cultural problems, the project aims to ensure that the greatest number of girls complete the grade satisfactorily, and at the same time that the parents are protagonists for the good performance of the students in their studies.

At the same time, the scholarship project is committed to families and students to complete their high school education, it is important to mention that most of the girls would not continue their studies due to the economic factor, which is why during the selection of the students to the scholarship it was possible that several of them enrolled in the educational centers and in this way continue their education.

The main challenge of the project, is to ensure that young women do not leave the school system, as many of them by mid-term and year-end term holidays, are inserted into the workforce to contribute to family expenses, some of them travel to Tapachula Mexico and sometimes they no longer intend to continue their studies. However, the project has already identified communities where there is greater mobilization of students and monitoring will be/is maintained in schools to reduce this risk.





## PERFORMED ACTIONS

### Selection and awareness

During the first 2 months of the school year, surveys were conducted in 6 communities in the department of Retalhuleu, in order to determine school dropout rates, not-promoted and promoted girls who finished sixth grade in 2017 in the schools of the community, this was used as a basis for the selection of the educational centers so that the project can carry out its actions for the benefit of the girls which is that they continue high school education and do not drop-out from school.

At the end of the community survey, 6 communities were selected, where drop-out rates, extreme poverty and lack of support from parents for their daughters' education are evident, the selected communities are:

DEPARTMENT	COMMUNITY	No. OF SCHOLARSHIPS
RETALHULEU	Cantón Ayutia	11
	San Felipe	1
	Parcelamiento Caballo Blanco	5
	Parcelamiento Santa Fe	7
	Aldea Ajaxa	4
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>

By having selected the communities and the possible candidates for the scholarship, sensitization meetings were held in each community with the objective of parent awareness of the importance of the education from women. Associated to this action, those in charge of the girls were told of their commitment and responsibilities within the project, likewise, the girls were committed to attend school regularly and maintain acceptable academic performance.

## Baseline and home visits

At the moment of having the official list of candidates to apply for a scholarship, we proceeded to fill out the baseline of each girl, this consisted of conducting a socioeconomic study of each family, to determine their needs for financial support and to observe the parents with the interest that their daughters continue studying, as well as, to verify the vulnerability of the girl and family, 30 home visits were made to validate the following:



- Girls with lack of economic resources to continue studying.
- Distances between 1 and 2 hours to reach the educational center.
- Families with vulnerability, which translates into not prioritizing the education of children.
- Large families with lack of employment.
- Young girls who only have the support of the mother.

The 28 young women who are currently receiving scholarships are motivated and eager to continue studying, the support of the scholarship has been an incentive for each of them, especially because they know that this benefit will be for 3 years, which gives them security to finish their basic studies and continue in the following levels of education.

Each of the girls has a file where the accompaniment provided throughout the scholarship is recorded.

## Monitoring of educational centers

During these months of intervention of the project, 2 monitoring sessions were carried out at each educational center, in order to obtain information from the directors and teachers in relation to the attendance, academic performance and behavior of each one of the scholars. With this activity, situations that obstruct the good progress of the students are detected, for which individualized and collective counseling has been carried out with the beneficiaries; and at the same time some homes have been visited to treat some family problems.

At the end of February the young women are studying, they are glad to be part of the project. Likewise, it is important to mention that parents are expecting for their daughters to attend the school, every day.