



2025 Impact Report

The Power of Community

Protecting the Lives of Mothers and Children



Global
Pediatric
Alliance



A Heartfelt Thank You

Dear Friends,

For nearly 25 years, GPA has worked alongside some of the most medically underserved communities in Latin America, in the belief that empowering community-based healthcare improves the lives of women and children. In places where deep inequities shape how health systems serve rural and Indigenous populations, community networks of care are essential to reducing maternal and newborn mortality.

When we reflect on 2025, a story of community power unfolds, made possible in large part by your generosity. Indigenous midwives, community health promoters, women's groups, and health committees, often working against significant odds, continued to advocate for the health of mothers and children across southern Mexico and Guatemala. We worked with over 650 midwives who delivered 2,053 babies, provided 8,056 prenatal consultations, and made 217 timely referrals when they identified danger signs. Their advocacy secured birth certificates for children, expanded ambulance services, and more. These numbers represent a vast, largely invisible network of care upon which thousands of rural families depend, and which is saving lives.

Community health cannot be separated from the question of rights. Through our Respectful Maternal Care program, we equipped nearly 600 medical staff with the skills to provide timely, culturally appropriate care to women, especially during obstetric emergencies. Our Community Health Projects Fund and community-based alliances supported multiple health fairs and mobile clinics, bringing medical care, vaccines, and medications to hundreds of vulnerable families.

Our work is far from finished. Deepening poverty and drastic cuts to global and local health programs continue to threaten the health of women and children. As we look to 2026, we will focus on strengthening these vital networks of care so that no woman or newborn is left without the care they deserve.

Thank you for standing with us. Your generosity and commitment inspire us and drive our work forward.

With gratitude,

Stacey Ramirez
Executive Director

Scott Cohen
Founder & Medical Director

2025: Our Impact

Protecting the Lives of Mothers & Children by
Strengthening Community Networks of Care



361,624

People Reached

Through GPA's programs across Mexico & Guatemala



2,053

Babies Safely Delivered

By GPA-supported midwives



217

Life-Saving Referrals

By GPA-supported midwives recognizing danger signs in time to act

Across southern Mexico and Guatemala, midwives, health promoters, and community leaders are saving lives and defending women and children's right to quality healthcare.



Protecting Mothers and Newborns

Indigenous women in Mexico and Guatemala are 2 to 3 times more likely to die in childbirth. Midwives and community health workers are often their only line of defense.¹

742

traditional Indigenous midwives and community health promoters trained or supported

Guardians of ancestral knowledge equipped with life-saving skills

8,056

prenatal visits conducted by GPA-supported midwives

Starting care early saves lives

3,250

postpartum visits made by GPA-supported midwives

Care after birth is essential to healthy outcomes for mothers and newborns

Advancing Rights and Respectful Care

1 in 3 women in Mexico experience obstetric violence in hospitals, abuse that drives them away from institutional care.²

589

health professionals trained in Respectful Maternal Care

Dignified, culturally appropriate care is a skill that must be practiced

42

advocacy events where women leaders defended maternal and child health and Indigenous midwifery before officials

Amplifying the voices health systems too often overlook

540

Indigenous women united to advocate for improved healthcare services

Leadership growing stronger every year

Strengthening Community-Based Care

In Guatemala, over 80% of children suffer from chronic malnutrition. In Mexico, Indigenous children face infant mortality rates over five times higher than national targets, while Chiapas has the highest percent of population living in extreme poverty of any state—Indigenous women are the most affected.³

10,400

people reached through GPA's Community Health Projects Fund and grassroots alliances

Delivering nutritional support, vaccines, medical and dental care, prenatal vitamins, and midwifery materials where access is scarce

11

community health fairs and mobile clinics

Bringing care to the families who need it most

¹ Freyermuth Enciso, G. et al. (2018)

² Castro, R. & Frías, S.M. 2019

³ Seimon, T. et al. 2020; Meredith, H. et al. 2018; UNDP 2010; CONEVAL 2020; INEGI 2025



The Power of Community

Women and Communities Building Health on Their Own Terms

Across rural and Indigenous communities in southern Mexico and Guatemala, community-based healthcare has long been the bedrock of survival. Since its founding, GPA has strengthened these networks of care, made up of midwives, health promoters, and community health committees. When these networks of care are strong, women and children live safer, healthier lives with dignity, possibility, and self-determination.

For Indigenous, rural women in this region, the stakes are high: poverty, geographic isolation, discrimination, gender inequality, critical gaps in health services, and the erosion of ancestral health systems all drive preventable maternal and newborn mortality. No single intervention fixes this. What does make a difference is women and communities having the tools, support, and collective capacity to build the conditions needed to live full, healthy lives on their own terms, as guardians of their culture, identity, and continuity.

At GPA, we think of this as **the power of community**, and we see it across every dimension of our work. Community is built and held in relation to others. It is sustained through the persistent work of people who show up to make their society more equitable and enduring, through sharing knowledge, bridging divides, sharing rights and refusing to let vital traditions disappear.



In the pages that follow, you will find the power of community in action. In midwives preserving and transmitting knowledge that saves lives. In women stepping into leadership roles to advocate for their communities' health needs. In community groups carrying out essential maternal and child health projects aligned with their cultural values. And in health workers making a commitment to providing respectful maternal care services.

At a time when Indigenous women and children face mounting obstacles to their health, rights, and culture, we are inspired by their collective spirit. We are committed to the power of community, ensuring women have the resources, recognition, and support to carry this work forward.

Enriching the Skills of Traditional Midwives

Rural areas in Mexico and Guatemala rely on traditional midwives for 50–90% of all births. In Chiapas, more than 5,000 midwives attend between 50,000 and 60,000 births each year, the highest rate of midwife-assisted births in Mexico. Yet traditional midwifery is in decline, threatened by restrictive health policies, an aging midwife population, and fewer young women learning these skills. When that transmission breaks down, communities lose not just a tradition but a critical source of culturally safe, accessible maternal care.

In 2025, GPA worked to strengthen that transmission across Chiapas, Quintana Roo, and Yucatán while also enriching midwives' technical skills. We launched new courses with four new groups of midwives, expanded into Bacalar and Felipe Carrillo Puerto in Quintana Roo and held skills refresher workshops in Yucatán. In Tenejapa, Chiapas, where up to 96% of births are attended by traditional Indigenous midwives, we worked with midwives from the Un Solo Corazón network. In total, 201 midwives deepened their knowledge of prenatal, birth, and postpartum care, with notable gains in their response to preeclampsia and hemorrhage, two of the leading causes of maternal death.

Midwifery apprentices made up over 30% of participants in our workshops. Women like Daniela are stepping forward to learn from experienced midwives like Leonida, who has been practicing for 10 years and hopes her own daughters will one day carry that gift forward.



Midwives in Chiapas practice during a Skills Enrichment Workshop.

Hear midwifery apprentices in Quintana Roo tell their stories [HERE](#)



"I would like my daughters to take on that legacy, to leave them with that gift."

—*María de los Ángeles,*
Traditional Midwife, Quintana Roo



María de los Angeles practicing neo-natal resuscitation



Midwifery workshop in Bacalar, Quintana Roo



"Our midwifery is life, identity, and resistance. We are the seeds of an ancestral future."
 – Continental Alliance of Indigenous Midwives of the Americas

Midwifery Advocacy: The Power of Community in Action

From municipal health offices to the chambers of the United Nations, the Nich Ixim Midwife Movement of Chiapas is making its voice heard and changing what is possible for Indigenous women and midwives across the Americas.

In 2025, GPA provided technical, logistical, and strategic support to the Movement, a coalition of more than 600 midwives defending Indigenous midwifery as a critical component of maternal care and a fundamental Indigenous right.

Throughout the year, Movement representatives gathered from around the state to review legislative changes, document obstetric violence, engage with health officials and congressional representatives, and coordinate collective responses to the barriers women face in accessing quality maternal care. Representatives also met with more than 219 medical and nursing students at the Autonomous University of Chiapas to foster understanding between traditional and biomedical health systems, an important step toward improving maternal health outcomes.

At the international level, GPA joined the Continental Alliance of Indigenous Midwives of the Americas at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York, accompanying midwives from throughout the Americas. These women traveled not only as caregivers but as advocates for ancestral knowledge, cultural survival, and Indigenous women's health.

Respectful Maternal Care: Transforming Hospital Quality of Care

In southern Mexico, the quality of care Indigenous women encounter when they enter a hospital can be a matter of life and death. GPA's Respectful Maternal Care Program trains health personnel to recognize and eliminate discriminatory practices, improve communication across cultural and linguistic divides, and coordinate more effectively with the midwives who are often a woman's first and only source of care.

In 2025, GPA trained 589 doctors, nurses, medical residents, and administrative staff across hospitals and clinics in five municipalities. Participants examined patient rights and obstetric violence, and made individual and collective commitments to ensure women receive care rooted in dignity and cultural awareness. GPA also met with hospital directors whose facilities serve approximately one-third of Chiapas's mostly Indigenous population, to develop improvement plans for equitable, respectful care.

By course end, at least 83% of participants were aware of what constitutes obstetric violence and the elements of providing dignified care.

Working in concert with the Tzoblej Nich Romero midwife group, Doctors of the World Switzerland, and health officials, we reached a milestone: Yajalón General Hospital officially opened its doors to traditional midwives as partners in care. Looking ahead, GPA will pursue additional improvements, including interpretation services for Tseltal and Ch'ol speakers, a long-standing gap in care.

Watch the Yajalón General Hospital opening its doors to the Tzoblej Nich Romero Midwife Group [HERE](#)



Communities Unite to Make Maternal and Child Health Accessible

GPA's Women Caring for Women Program and community-based alliances are proving that when communities organize around a shared purpose, change is possible.

Women Leading the Way: San Juan Cancuc

San Juan Cancuc is one of the poorest municipalities in Mexico, where nearly 97% of Indigenous families live in poverty with an illiteracy rate of over 30%. Women account for nearly 70% of those unable to read or write.

In 2025, GPA partnered with Sakil Nichim Antsetik, led exclusively by Indigenous women, to accompany Slejel Lekil Kuxlejal (Walking Toward a Good Life), a group of Tzeltal women, in the development of a community emergency plan for pregnancy and childbirth complications. Women built and strengthened their leadership skills as they presented their demands to government and health officials during a roundtable meeting. We also collaborated with Doctors of the World Switzerland, conducting a workshop with medical staff and developing an action plan to address barriers to care that the women had identified.

Building Leadership from Within: The Komon A'tel Alliance

Also in Cancuc, GPA joined the Komon A'tel Alliance and held a series of workshops with community leaders on maternal health, the right to health, and violence against women and children. As a result, a health committee was formed to address the absence of prenatal care and women's risk of dying from obstetric emergencies. For 2026, they have set a firm goal: to advocate for their regional clinic to be fully staffed and properly equipped.



Bringing Healthcare to Remote Communities: Sitalá

Through our participation in the Crecer Juntos Alliance, midwife groups, health promoters, local government, and health institutions have come together to form a municipal health roundtable. Facing critical shortages of staff and medication, the roundtable organized health fairs in two remote communities, offering prenatal care, ultrasounds, vaccination, nutritional assessment, and dental care. The community response was overwhelming, confirming that when we work together, more equitable and accessible healthcare is possible.

María García's Path to Community Leadership

She started as a student in a GPA workshop. Now she's transforming her own community from the inside.

María grew up in San Juan Cancuc, a Maya Tzeltal community in Chiapas where many girls marry young and leave school early. She had a quiet ambition: go out into the world, educate herself, and come back to change things. That's exactly what she is doing.

It began in 2017 when GPA brought a youth leadership program to her high school. After graduating, she took an internship with GPA, learning alongside midwives and youth groups. Seven years later, she co-coordinates GPA's Women Caring for Women program, supporting women to defend their rights to lead full, healthy lives.

Her approach is anchored in cultural honesty. Rather than imposing outside frameworks, she uses Tzeltal concepts, like *chopol kuxlejal*, "what makes us have a bad life," to open conversations about partner violence and health that communities have long kept closed. "We approach rights through Mayan values," she says, "so women can find meaning in them."

Women who once sat silently now address municipal and health officials with confidence. Young people stop María on the street to tell her the workshops shifted how they see the world. One woman put it simply: "You went out and educated yourself and came back to share what we didn't have access to." For María, there is no greater measure of success.



"You don't see it right away, but little by little, really positive changes are taking place."

— María García



Read an interview with María [HERE](#)



Community-Designed Health Grants

GPA partners with community organizations to support sustainable projects that meaningfully impact the health and well-being of women and children in poor, rural areas. In 2025, our program reached 10,000 people, including 4,000 children.

Guatemala

ADEMI (Asociación de Mujeres Ixpiyakok) worked with 72 Maya women in Chimaltenango to combat severe malnutrition in 87 children under five, cultivating family gardens, reviving ancestral recipes, providing nutrition supplements, and building rain catchment systems. In Quetzaltenango's Palajunoj Valley, where 85% of the population lives in poverty, **Primeros Pasos** brought mobile medical and dental clinics, along with medications and vitamin supplements, to 360 people across eight villages.



Mexico

In Chiapas, GPA continued its partnership with **Sbelal Kuxlejalil**, supporting Maya Tzeltal women in building fuel-efficient stoves from local materials, reducing respiratory disease and burns in children while promoting eco-friendly practices. In Huixtán, **Camino del Viento** trained community health promoters in maternal health, pediatrics, and nutrition, benefiting approximately 1,400 residents.

When heavy flooding devastated remote Indigenous communities along Mexico's eastern coast, GPA responded swiftly, awarding an emergency grant to **M'im T'sabal**, an Indigenous-led organization in San Luis Potosí, to provide 150 midwives from the Teenek and Pame Indigenous groups across 10 communities with essential midwifery supplies. Collectively, these midwives care for approximately 7,000 families.

2025 Financial Overview

Approximately 90% of our funds directly support communities in Mexico and Guatemala through our Midwifery, Training and Advocacy programs, and our Community-Designed Health Grants

**TOTAL
EXPENSES
\$396,592**

**ENRICHMENT,
TRAINING &
ADVOCACY
PROGRAMS
\$274,415**

**COMMUNITY-
DESIGNED
HEALTH FUND
\$80,758**

**FUNDRAISING
\$27,849**

**GENERAL &
ADMIN
\$13,569**

SOURCES OF FUNDING

92%

Foundations*
\$499,265

8%

Individuals
\$43,174

*Includes donor-advised funds
and family foundations

ASSETS

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$484,566
Fixed Assets	\$36,333

NET ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$21,760
Unrestricted Earnings Balance	\$342,760
Net Income	\$156,379
Total Net Assets	\$520,899
Current Liabilities	\$0
Total Net Assets & Liabilities	\$520,899



2025 GPA Team (HQ & Mexico)

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A Special Thank You to Our 2025 Supporters

We extend our deepest gratitude to our generous donors – the many individual contributors recognized here and those who give quietly and anonymously. You don't just fund our work; you share in our commitment to protecting the health and well-being of hundreds of vulnerable women and children. Every gift, at every level, translates directly into lives changed. **From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.**

Alesandro Larrazabal & Christina LaMontagne

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GPA honors Dr. Paul and Lee Quintana, steadfast supporters for 23 years. Dr. Quintana's contributions to the landmark public health manual "*Where There is No Doctor*" are incorporated into GPA's work to this day. Read more about Dr. Paul and Lee Quintana [HERE](#).



A Call to Action

Your tax-deductible gift to GPA is vital to our work, and ensures that more women and children living in precarious situations have access to quality maternal care and child health services, and can get emergency care when they need it. There's no one way to give—donations range from \$10 to \$10,000 and beyond. Every donation matters, and every dollar goes toward improving the health and lives of women and children in Mexico and Guatemala.

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our work today.



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