

CONCERN AMERICA

Quarterly Newsletter

— SINCE 1972 —

Fall 2022

Warm greetings during this fall season! From all of us at Concern America, we hope this newsletter finds you and your family well.

As Concern America's Field Program Coordinator, I have the great honor and privilege of working closely, every day, with our incredible field team members, local teams, and when visiting the field, with many of the families benefitting from our work. To have primary health care providers in a community that is hours away from the nearest health facility means that families can receive timely, quality, and affordable health care, in their own indigenous languages. In northern Guatemala alone, these Concern-trained practitioners and midwives have reduced the patient to provider ratio from 5,000:1 to 500:1. For comparison, the ratio across the US is 400:1.

There are many more communities without their own health providers, and with your support, we initiated new health promoter practitioner cohorts in all three countries where we work! As I write this, 145 new practitioners are in training and are bringing health care to 17,000 people previously without access to this transformative service. And, their training and accompaniment is being led by the local teams of advanced practitioners. It is inspiring!

We launched Concern America's 50th anniversary year with the goal of celebrating our past to build for the future. Your generosity has already made it possible for us to increase our work, and we look forward with the confidence that we will be able to continue to bring health care, clean water, education, and income opportunities to more communities. If you are in a position to consider a 50th anniversary gift, we invite you to give towards this expansion, training the next generation of community members who will build a better future for all!

Thank you for growing a global heart with us.



Cat Quinn,
Field Program Coordinator

Upcoming Event ——— Concern America Education Night

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Join us for an evening with Concern America volunteer Audrey de Los Reyes, PA, who is currently serving in Guatemala. She will give an update on the new first-level promoters, midwives, and the program in Guatemala.



Meet the new health promoter practitioner cohorts and their trainers!



Team Mexico learns the importance of washing hands and sterile techniques

I remember the day I got my stethoscope and otoscope. I felt like I had the whole world in my hands, so powerful, and I could now heal the whole world!

-New Guatemalan Health Promoter Practitioner



Team Guatemala gets hands on practice in the teaching clinic



Team Colombia learns about the World Health Organization's essential medicines

Building Local Capacity in Income Sustainability

One of Concern America's longest programs is its support to artisan groups. Beginning in the 70s, it was a way to uplift people in need of providing for their families by purchasing their traditional hand-arts and weavings. Today, we've expanded to support 11 cooperative groups across the globe, purchasing their work at a fair price which honors their skills and talents as artisans as they achieve a safe and

sustainable living at home, in their own villages. When you purchase fair trade items, you build stronger economic foundations for local artisans, transforming need into self-sufficiency and positively impacting their livelihoods, their families, and their communities. Here are three examples of artisan groups and the ripple effect of support that happens because of this work.



Mujeres Sembrando la Vida

From Chiapas, Mexico is the cooperative Mujeres Sembrando la Vida (Women Sowing Life) whose name describes their collective vision of being leaders in the creation of economic, educational, health, and environmental opportunities. The artisans' beautiful weavings and embroidery integrates images from their daily lives, most notably the flowers in the nurseries that are found throughout the Zinacatán region. In addition to the life-sustaining craft income, 10% of all sales is reinvested back into the cooperative.

CORR - The Jute Works

The first artisan group we partnered with, CORR- the Jute Works in Bangladesh, is a group started by and comprised of widows, victims of war, and marginalized women from rural communities. The cooperative trains its members, building skilled artisans and economic stability, as well as supports a local school for women. We purchase their crafts at a fair-trade value set by the organization, supporting their mission of 'trade not aid' through this partnership.



Los Cuchareros Ixchel de Petén

This spoonmaking cooperative was formed out of Concern America's health practitioner training program in Petén, Guatemala, as a way to supplement the loss of income from their time away from their communities. Made up of rural farmers who had been refugees or internally displaced due to the country's civil war, the artisans handcraft spoons, utensils, and earrings out of local, natural hardwoods native to the humid jungles of northern Guatemala. The woods used are certified as sustainable, preserving local forests while doubling the income of the cooperative's families.



Browse and shop new items on

www.marketplace.concernamerica.org