

"The truth is, being a trainer is a beautiful job, even though it is much more work and effort. You have to read a lot, which is good, but sometimes stressful and tiring. But what would be the point of life if we didn't multiply our knowledge and share it with others, rather than accumulating it solely for ourselves? We know that by teaching others, not only do the new practitioners benefit from the knowledge, but we ourselves improve our understanding of the topics."

~ Eva Lanuza, Health Promoter Practitioner, Guatemala

Dear Friends,

Concern America's health promoter practitioner training model is unique among community health programs worldwide. We train community members, many with few years of formal education, to become the primary health care providers in their communities who can diagnose and treat nearly 80% of the health needs they encounter. In these regions with no other access to services, even minor cases such as a moderate wound or a stomach infection can be deadly if gone untreated. Concern America's trained practitioners save lives every day.

The health practitioner trainings are participatory and dynamic, with materials that are relevant and accessible to students, despite covering complex procedures such as assisting breech births and repairing lacerated tendons. Creativity and hands-on accompaniment are essential. On page two, we share a few examples of the ingenuity of the local leaders and our amazing field teams.



Much of the training and accompaniment of newer practitioners is conducted by local leaders and advanced practitioners, known as "multipliers," who share their skills and knowledge through courses, teaching clinics, and by working alongside practitioners in their own communities. Eva, quoted above, embodies the term "multiplier." In addition to being a teacher and leader in Guatemala, she has traveled numerous times to Concern's program

in Colombia to teach and mentor, and she recently earned a degree in physical therapy and is passing this knowledge along to the other practitioners, sharing her gifts of knowledge every day.

Thank you for sharing your gifts with your community, including your support of Concern America. We invite you to consider a gift at this time to support all of the multipliers and their transformative work.

Your generosity multiplies the good we can do in Mexico, Guatemala, and Colombia, and enables others to share their gifts, building a more hopeful world.

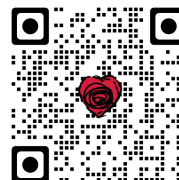
In peace,

*Cat Quinn*

Cat Quinn, BSN, RNC, MPH  
Field Program Director



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# Snapshots of Learning



**Petén, Guatemala**

## Rolling the Dice to Get Rid of Parasites

The newest cohort of practitioners in Guatemala plays an interactive game to identify different parasites, how they enter our body, their life cycle, and how to treat and prevent contagion and spread. By using dice, players can advance through the different entry routes into the body, depending on the parasite, with the objective being to end the parasite's life cycle. There are several ways to block the parasite from completing this cycle, such as wearing shoes, washing hands, cleaning food, and going to see your local practitioner for prevention and treatment.

## Expanding Connections

In Chiapas, Mexico, the team connects virtually thanks to the newly installed solar systems and cloud-based data storage. The heavy violence in the region has greatly reduced travel to the communities; however, they are now able to safely and widely share the community-based and created curricula and materials for 13,500 students, all rooted in their indigenous languages and culture.



**Chiapas, Mexico**



**Chocó, Colombia**

## Practitioners Without Borders

Guatemalan practitioners lead a training course on ophthalmology with the second level practitioners in Colombia. During the visit, the morning is spent teaching in the "classroom," and the afternoon includes seeing patients alongside newer practitioners in the program's teaching clinic.

## Learning Advanced Techniques to Share with Others

Advanced practitioners in Guatemala participated in an advanced ultrasound machine course led, two years in a row, by a visiting group of doctors and technicians from Providence Heritage Health. They practiced using their portable ultrasound machines to diagnose a wide range of illnesses and guide treatments, which can be used in the teaching clinic and when visiting remote communities.



**Petén, Guatemala**



**San Miguel, Mexico**

## Attending Patients in the Communities

Between the bimonthly courses, the program team and the new practitioners visit each other in their communities around San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, providing hands-on training as they see patients. In addition to providing essential care, these visits boost confidence in the new practitioners and help create a network of support in the communities.