

# SURVIVAL



## Report for The Ottawa Collective

You are changing the lives of moms and babies in Guatemala. Here's how.

## GU0973

# El Jícaro Survival Program

### GU0973 at a glance:

Your support is helping

- 15 moms, including 2 pregnant women
- 15 babies from 0-12 months old

### In the last year\*:

- 1 case of infection was treated
- 3 cases of moderate malnutrition were treated
- 2 cases of severe malnutrition were treated
- 12 babies were born full-term and 1 baby was born premature
  - 12 babies were born at a normal birth weight
  - 1 baby was born at a low birth weight
  - 12 babies were born with the help of a skilled birth attendant
- 2 women are breastfeeding

### Prayer requests:

We ask for prayer for the babies, so that they are born healthy and develop in the best way. We also ask for prayer for our church, so that God can provide us with sources of work for the members, which will allow us to raise funds to one day have our own facilities.

\* Number of cases treated reflect unique treatments each month. For example, one child might have been treated for malnutrition several times over the course of a year.



## A message from the pastor of El Jícara Survival Program

Grace and peace be among you and your families. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your mercy to people in need, reminding you of the promise of the Lord in Psalm 41.

My name is Nohemi, and I am the pastor of the Church of Jesus Christ Centro Estudio Biblico, located in the municipality of El Jícara, department of El Progreso. I have been the pastor here for 26 years.

The church has been running the Compassion "God Is Love" Compassion centre for 21 years. Four years ago, thanks to God, we started the Survival program. This has had a positive impact on the families of the community, giving them hope and helping them support the development of their children. The Survival program helps them to reduce their basic needs and prevent maternal and infant mortality. This program has an impact because of the problems found in the community, such as lack of jobs and lack of access to doctors, hospitals and medicines. The caregivers learn about prenatal and postnatal care, the importance of medical checkups and the development and proper feeding of the babies.

We are presenting the message of salvation not only to the mothers, but also to their families, which makes the impact greater. As a pastor, I get involved by participating in the evangelistic activities, providing spiritual support to the volunteers and beneficiaries through counselling, prayer and teaching. I also monitor the execution of the activities, encouraging good stewardship in executing the budget and ensuring that the selection of volunteers is adequate for the safety of the beneficiaries. The church pays for the Survival intervention facilities. In this time of pandemic, short meetings have been held with the mothers where the Word of God is imparted to them and they are prayed for. The tutor communicates by phone with the mothers, praying for them and encouraging them to seek the Lord Jesus.

The mothers and babies receive many benefits such as medical checkups, medicines, grocery bags, "My Baby" magazine, pre- and postnatal care, Bibles and spiritual and emotional guidance. The mothers also receive technical training in cooking and baking, and they sell the products they prepare in the centre. We plan to instruct the mothers to prepare family vegetable gardens for consumption in their homes and also to sell the products in their community. In this way, they can generate income for their families.

It is a pleasure to greet you and to share with you all the joys of having the Survival program in our municipality. We are eternally grateful to you for all the donations, financial support and prayers for our babies and their families. The Word of the Lord says that not a cup of water goes without its reward, and much more for all that you have done for our families. May God bless you and multiply you.

*Pastor Nohemi*

# In the last year...

Here are some of the activities the program has been busy with

## **“My Baby” magazine**

During the pandemic, Compassion Guatemala has been distributing a parenting magazine called Mi bebé to all Survival families that includes information on health, hygiene and early childhood development, as well as simple Bible lessons and early stimulation exercises that caregivers can do with their babies at home.

## **Early stimulation**

During guided activities, moms learned activities to do with their babies to support their healthy cognitive and physical development.

## **Health and nutrition**

Moms and babies attended routine medical checkups including pre- and postnatal care for moms. Babies were weighed and measured each month to track their growth and prevent malnutrition, and additional medication and food supplementation was provided where needed. Moms attended nutrition workshops, and monthly food kits were distributed to each family.

## **Skills training**

Moms participated in technical workshops in baking and cooking, where they learned how to prepare a sponge cake. They have already begun selling baked goods at the Compassion centre.

## **Special occasions**

Moms gathered for baby showers, and expecting moms were grateful to receive gifts and helpful items for their babies, including a newborn bathtub. They also gathered for celebrations on birthdays and at Christmas. These occasions helped moms and babies feel valued and loved.

## **Abuse prevention**

Moms attended talks on verbal and physical abuse facilitated by local police. They learned how to identify the signs of abuse and prevent violence at home.







## A message from a mom in the El Jícaro Survival Program

I say hi and I wish you are fine and healthy, as well as your families.

My name is Tamar and I'm 31 years old. I live with my husband, Alan. We live in a house of our own and it is made of blocks. We have water and electricity services. It has just one room. It is in Aldea Espiritu Santo, El Progreso. This is a rural and safe area. The weather here is warm and tomatoes, cucumber, and eggplants are harvested in this area during November.

I'm not working now but my husband does from Monday to Sunday for 14 years every day.

I was enrolled in the Survival Program when I was one month pregnant and my baby will be born in February. His name will be Fernando and thank God, he is growing healthy. Our dream for our baby is we can guide him on God's path.

I'm very happy for being part of this program, everyone is kind to me, and I have received the following through it, lessons on God's Word, medical checkups, supplementary feeding, groceries, early stimulation lessons, literacy classes, birthday and baby shower celebrations, cooking and pastry workshops. We sell some of our prepared items in the Student Center.

I would like you to pray for my baby and my husband. I thank God and you for the benefits received through the Survival program.

Love,

*Tamar*



## A message from a mom in the El Jícara Survival Program

I send you greetings with lots of love. My name is Lisbeth and I am 23 years old.

I live with my mother-in-law and brother-in-law. The house we live in has been loaned to us. The walls are made of cinder blocks and the roof is made with corrugated sheet metal. We currently have water, electric service and sewage service. In the house there is a kitchen, a yard, two bedrooms and a bathroom. The name of the village where we live is Aldea Ojo de Agua El Jicaro, which is located in the department of El Progreso. It is a rural area and I consider it to be safe. The weather is hot, and this is where we plant lemons and cantaloupes, which are harvested in April and August. My partner works as a farmer, and it takes him an hour to get to work. He works the entire week, for 12 hours every day.

My baby was eight months old when we joined the program. His name is William and his skin is light brown. He has brown hair and brown eyes. William likes to be carried while someone is walking, but he doesn't like it when we take his toys away. He is in very good health. Since he joined the program, he has developed in a better way, thanks to the medical checkups and the micronutrients, which he was not able to receive previous to this. My dream for my baby is for him to become a professional.

I feel very happy and grateful to be part of the program. The program personnel are very kind and loving. I have received spiritual help through songs and Bible messages. In the physical area, I have received micronutrients, groceries, milk, and Incaparina (traditional hot beverage made with ground grains). In the socio-emotional area, I have received advice and chats. I also participated in a parenting workshop on how to take care of my baby and about nutrition.

Please pray for my baby and my husband. Pray for my entire family and the community. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the support that I have received. May God bless you and always watch over you,

*Lisbeth*



#### WHAT IS COMPASSION?

As one of the world's leading child development organizations, Compassion partners with the local church in 27 countries to end poverty in the lives of children and their families. Today, more than two million children and their families are discovering lives full of promise and purpose as they develop in all aspects of their lives—minds, bodies and relationships—while discovering God's love for them in the gospel of Jesus Christ.



#### COMPASSION CANADA

PO Box 5591 STN B, London, ON N6A 5G8

TEL: (519) 668-0224 | TOLL FREE: 1-800-563-5437 | FAX: (519) 685-1107

[www.compassion.ca](http://www.compassion.ca)