



Casa Guatemala 2021 Annual Report

Prepared by:
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www.casa-guatemala.org





Summary 2021

For Casa Guatemala, the year 2021 began with the hope of having the boys and girls return to face-to-face classes after almost a whole year of students learning from their homes. Although we started with the school open, unfortunately we returned to classes from a distance. But, the positive thing was that the children who come from far away were able to stay at Casa Guatemala, living with us and studying with their teachers at home, even though the school is closed. Students who live nearby, came to receive their work every week and since they are our neighbours, they could come when they needed help with their homework, when we had special events and when we distributed food for their families.

The school teachers and the house teachers worked very hard to prepare material for the external students while they worked daily with the children living on site. In total, 197 students have successfully completed their studies from pre-kindergarten to sixth grade. Of them, 88 live in Casa Guatemala, and 109 come every week for their work packages and time with their teachers. Additionally, our four high school scholarship students completed online schooling while completing their work training at Hotel Backpackers.

Mission:

Casa Guatemala seeks to provide a safe home, love and care, proper health care, and an excellent education to the children of Guatemala who are abused, abandoned, malnourished, or living in extreme poverty.

Vision:

Casa Guatemala strives to equip the children in its care with the skills and education necessary to become upstanding and empowered citizens of their communities in order to break the cycle of poverty and abuse from which they come. To help Casa Guatemala to become more self-sufficient through the social enterprises it runs, which provide financial support and meaningful job training for the youth of the communities they serve.

Casa Guatemala Team

Heather Graham

Executive Director and SCGC Representative

Lilian Duarte

General Director

Yhoselin Urizar

School Principal

Elmer Ramos

Director of Administration and Board President

Armando Milla

Head of Maintenance and Transportation

Total Employees: 45

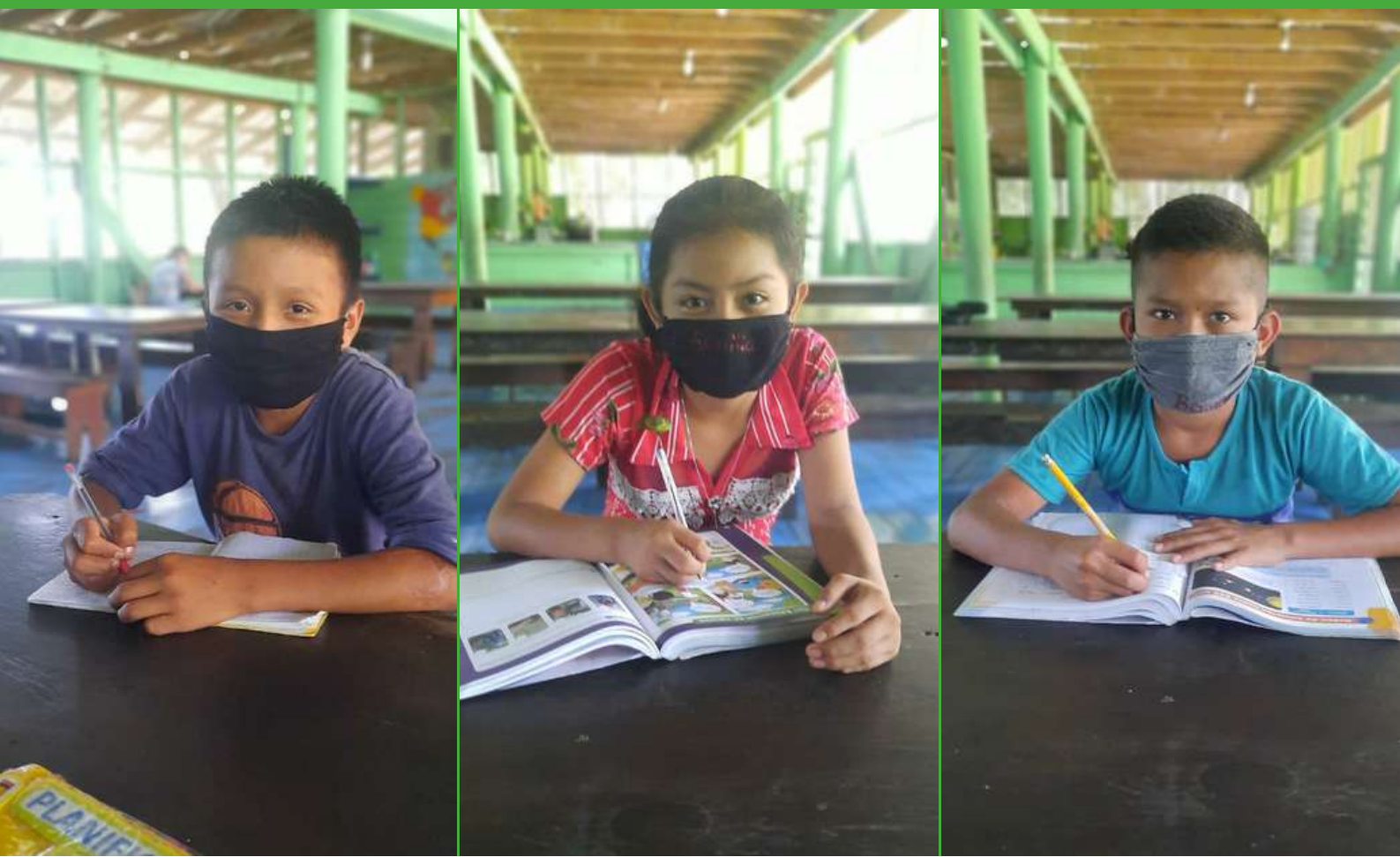


Education

Our education program is at the heart of our work. Our school is registered with MINEDUC as Escuela Privado Rural Mixta Casa Guatemala and although we are a private school, the families who receive our services only pay a symbolic amount of Q25 (\$5.00) per family plus a babu chicken, if they have one at home! Each year, we receive students from more than 30 different communities in the Izabal and Alta Verapaz area. The majority of students are of the Q'eqchi ethnic group, while 8% are Ladinos.

In 2021, we started the school year with 223 boys and girls, but after we returned to remote classes, several families withdrew their children between March and October. Some decided to move to public schools closer to their homes and others just stopped coming, with not explanation. In total, 197 students will finish the school year. Unfortunately, the closure of schools due to Covid-19 has affected the access to education for one in three students in Guatemala, according to UNICEF Guatemala. We are proud that our education program has been open and accessible, with less than 12% of students leaving the program.

For our program to work, we have a team of professionals made up of 2 administrators, 15 teachers from kindergarten to sixth grade, and 6 home teachers, who take care of the boarding children when they are not in school hours. Although we were not able to use the school buildings, our teachers spent the day with their students in the open outdoors areas, ensuring that each student receives a comprehensive education with lots of inspiration, creativity, and love!





Statistics

List of Students			
Grade	Internal	External	Totals
PreKinder	0	7	7
Kindergarten	3	14	17
Grade 1	11	8	19
Grade 2a	7	7	14
Grade 2b	6	9	15
Grade 3a	9	7	16
Grade 3b	10	7	17
Grade 4a	8	12	20
Grade 4b	6	11	17
Grade 5	13	15	28
Grade 6	15	12	27
Highschool	5	0	5
Total	93	109	202

List of Internal Children by Group	
Small Girls 4-9	15
Big Girls 10-17	33
Smal Boys 4-9	15
Big Boys 10-17	25
Highschool 18+	5
Total	93

List of Internal Children by Gender	
Total Girls	52
Total Boys	41





Nutrition

At Casa Guatemala, there is always something to eat, no matter what time it is! The boys and girls eat 5 times a day: Breakfast, a morning snack, lunch, another snack, and dinner! There are always tortillas, beans and rice as a base, but also lots of eggs, fruits, vegetables, vitamin fortified, protein drinks called atol, bread, cakes, and sometimes chicken, meat and pizza!

Our two cooks prepare the food every day with the support of the older boys and girls. We rely on donations of groceries and funds for most of our food, but we also grow part of our own vegetables and fruits in our gardens and fruit trees. The children have their own gardens and are always very proud of their harvests! They learn a lot about agriculture, permaculture and composting with the support of teachers and the maintenance workers.

For our external students, we have a food hamper program which supplies all of the basic necessities while they are learning from home. This program is also offered to other families with food insecurity in their homes who have sought out our assistance. There were several children from the villages near by who came just to eat even though there were no classes and they don't live at Casa Guatemala. For us, it is very important that the children always know what they can come to eat or ask for food when there is a need!

At the end of the school year, all families received food to take home. Likewise, we run our vacation program so families with the greatest need can send their children to receive our services in November and December.





Health Care

Ensuring the health of all children and employees in a pandemic has been quite difficult but we did not have a single case of Covid-19 at Casa Guatemala in 2021. Our teams have worked very hard to ensure that the protocols have been strictly followed by everyone. To keep our bubble very small, we decided to transport the employees to their towns in our vehicle to avoid traveling by public transportation, which is very over crowded in Guatemala. We also decided not to reopen our international volunteer program. All employees were vaccinated as soon as possible and when someone had contact with a person with symptoms, they stayed home without losing their salary.

Any medical issues are first cared for in our clinic and then when needed with the medical center in town. During covid, our clinic was not open to the public so we only cared for the children on site and the students who came to pick up and drop off their work from the villages nearby.

The only visitors we have had in 2021 are the groups of doctors who come from the US every year. They were also vaccinated and we always follow the strict protocols of wearing masks and gel, and constantly washing our hands. The doctors visit various communities in Izabal and always comment that the children of Casa Guatemala are the healthiest of all the children they see. Their comments reinforce that our efforts to provide the best education, nutrition and health services have a long term impact on the children in our care.



Funding & Expenses

CASA GUATEMALA FUNDING SOURCES 2021

