UNLOCKING POSSIBILITIES FOR GIRLS

The Summit Foundation
Equality for Women and Girls Program
2012-2019
“As the next generation of Summit leadership, we are proud of the progress our partners have made to date and are committed to continuing Summit’s support of critical efforts to protect and promote the rights of women and girls in the Mesoamerican region, and throughout the world.”

Lex Sant, President, The Summit Foundation
The following pages detail much of the work that is the focus of The Summit Foundation’s Equality for Women and Girls program. This program builds on a legacy of commitment to the rights of women and girls around the world that my wife Vicki and I held dear even before the creation of The Summit Foundation. That our family foundation was a primary mechanism for Vicki to engage in this work is a credit to the commitment of our program staff and also to her leadership. Since Vicki’s death in December 2018, I have been honored by the stories of her support for women around the world and her personal encouragement to so many. Her dedication was sincere and lasting.

The work that The Summit Foundation continues today draws proudly on Vicki’s legacy, but its ambition is not one of tribute alone: the rights of women and girls and their access to opportunity and positions of power in this country and around the world remain as essential now as ever before. The Foundation’s work to advance reproductive health and achieve gender equality for marginalized women in the Mesoamerican region dates back to the 1990s. This work is as necessary today as when we began. We proudly continue this work, not only because of Vicki and her inspiration, but also as a reflection of our shared vision of a world in which a person’s opportunity and agency in their life is not determined by their gender.

Vicki’s last tour of the program’s work in the Mesoamerican region was in 2012. This followed a Board trip the prior year that cemented The Summit Foundation’s commitment to unlocking opportunities for adolescent girls and young women, which emphasizes access to reproductive health services, ending child marriage, and changing gender stereotypes. This report describes our progress since then, while reminding us of how much work there is left to do. You will see that we have focused on how interventions can support individual girls, with a view that we must remain attentive to the individual people whose lives can be transformed by access to resources and education.

This is challenging work in a challenging context, where poverty, violence, and underinvestment in basic services can make change even more difficult. At Summit, we believe that persistence is critical to achieving long-term success. And we remain inspired by the work of so many in the Mesoamerican region and beyond to overcome the substantial obstacles to progress.

As we continue into our third decade of such efforts, we remain steadfast in our commitment and hopeful for the progress to come.

**Roger W. Sant**
Chair, Board of Trustees
Unlocking Possibilities for Girls

Table of Contents

Meeting Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs ................................................. 3
Unlocking Future Opportunities by Educating and Empowering Girls .................................... 4-8
Enabling Girls to Delay Marriage and Motherhood ................................................................. 10-13
Engaging Men and Boys to Support Girls’ Equality ................................................................. 14-17
Harnessing the Power of Young People .................................................................................. 18-22
Accelerating Regional and Global Momentum for Change ..................................................... 24-25
What We’ve Learned ................................................................................................................. 26

Charts and Lists

Grants by Country ...................................................................................................................... 2
Grantmaking Strategies ............................................................................................................ 9
Theory of Change ..................................................................................................................... 23
Grantee Partners ....................................................................................................................... 27-28
Endnotes and Acknowledgments ............................................................................................ 28

Equality for Women and Girls Program

Grants by Country, 2012-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>$2,239,422</td>
<td>15.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>$4,001,341</td>
<td>27.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>$3,990,702</td>
<td>27.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>$2,093,348</td>
<td>14.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>$1,070,774</td>
<td>7.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>$1,032,000</td>
<td>7.15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Investment: $14,427,587
The Summit Foundation envisions a world where girls and women in Mesoamerica are empowered, healthy, resilient, and able to reach their full potential. Experience and evidence tell us that having the ability to make decisions about their sexual and reproductive lives, including whether and when to have children, is critical for adolescent girls to grow up to be empowered women. This is why we have championed adolescent sexual and reproductive health programs since the 1990s.

There is much work to be done. Latin America as a region has the second-highest rate of adolescent pregnancy in the world, and Guatemala has the highest rate of adolescent pregnancy within the region. In Belize and Honduras, adolescent fertility rates have gone up in recent years. Despite the enormous need, the commitment of Central American governments to adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights remains woefully inadequate and is getting worse instead of better, leaving a large gap in services.

To address this gap, we have supported dozens of organizations that provide community-based information and services throughout the region – including the International Planned Parenthood (IPPF)/Western Hemisphere Region, Foundation for Eco-development and Conservation (FUNDAECO), Population Services International (PSI), and WINGS – reaching more than one million young people and their families with affordable, culturally-appropriate, youth-friendly services.

Our strategy recognizes that the drivers for unintended teen pregnancy are complicated. Gender inequality, sexual violence and coercion, lack of age-appropriate sexuality education, and pressure to cohabitate or marry young all contribute to the high rate of unintended teen pregnancy.

In response, much of our support to advance adolescent reproductive health is based on a holistic, integrated approach. Many of the life skills programs we fund through our girls’ education grants feature appropriate sexual and reproductive health information. We promote youth leadership programs that focus on empowering young people to advocate for their sexual and reproductive health and rights. And our support for programs that engage men and boys includes efforts focused on improving men and boys’ support for, and access to, reproductive health services.

By partnering with local governments, parents, and young people themselves, our grantee partners are demonstrating that it is possible to shift attitudes and behaviors, increase contraceptive use, and lower teen pregnancy. Despite their success, evidence-based policy change and support at the national level continues to lag, pointing to a need for greater investment in local, national, and regional advocacy efforts.

Expanding adolescent sexual and reproductive health has always been a cornerstone of The Summit Foundation’s approach in Mesoamerica – and will continue to be until the world we envision becomes a reality.
Unlocking Future Opportunities by Educating and Empowering Girls

In a move toward full equality, our grantee partners make it possible for girls to acquire the knowledge, life skills, and self-confidence they need to gain an education, delay early unions and pregnancy, and pursue economic independence.

Overview

The research is clear: education, especially secondary school, is critical to unlocking opportunities for girls. A girl who completes high school is more likely to become a woman who has the ability and autonomy to make her own decisions about her sexual and reproductive life, free from discrimination, coercion, and violence. In fact, each year of formal schooling beyond primary school a girl completes is shown to have increased benefits for the girl as well as her future children and her community.

Yet, in the Mesoamerica region, a combination of economic, social, and cultural factors devalues girls’ education and puts graduating from high school out of reach for many of them. In addition, a lack of secondary schools in rural areas creates an added barrier. The situation is particularly stark in Honduras and Guatemala. By the time they reach age 24, only about 33 percent of Honduran women and 25 percent of Guatemalan women have finished secondary school (this falls to 15 percent in rural areas of both countries).

The majority of girls who drop out of school are from families living in poverty. They are disproportionately rural, indigenous, and of African descent. Hindered by problematic social norms, parents are unwilling or unable to pay for school fees, forcing girls to leave school and take on domestic chores or other work. Once girls reach puberty, they may be pressured to marry or enter into unions with older, more economically stable men. Early marriage leads to early, unintended pregnancies, which makes school attendance even more difficult. Pervasive violence, both outside and inside the home, also causes girls to leave school.

The Summit Foundation supports research and implementation of community-based empowerment programs that build the life skills, resilience, and self-efficacy of girls in the Mesoamerican region, whether they are in or out of school. Ideally, our funding helps girls continue their schooling for as long as possible. But, when formal education is not possible, the innovative models of our grantee partners demonstrate that girls can gain critical skills – including what experts refers to as protective assets – to improve their life outcomes. Girls’ and boys’ clubs, sports clubs, and mentorship programs, among other approaches, empower girls through lessons that challenge harmful gender norms, increase social and emotional skills, and build self-confidence through leadership opportunities. Several of these programs engage men and boys as well as community leaders in supporting girls and their education.

How does the Summit Foundation know these investments are improving the lives of girls?
It takes time to measure true outcomes. And it takes even more time for these programs to gain traction and fundamentally change social and cultural norms. However, several initial evaluations show promise. For example, when Summit grantee MAIA evaluated the outcomes for Guatemalan indigenous girls who participated in its scholarship and follow-on mentorship program, it found these graduates were more likely to:

- graduate from high school (100% of MAIA’s program participants graduated, compared to 16% of other Guatemalan girls);
- secure formal employment (41.5% of MAIA graduates were formally employed, compared to 22% of other young women);
- postpone marriage and motherhood (100% of MAIA graduates decided to postpone marriage and 92.5% are delaying childbearing); and
- leave poverty behind (more than 50% of MAIA graduates earned above the minimum wage in an area where just 25% of other young women live above the poverty line).

While these results are impressive, the region needs to achieve greater progress to close the rural gender gap in education – a target codified in the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. Despite the worldwide consensus on the importance of secondary education, governments and donors continue to neglect this need in Mesoamerica. Our grantees demonstrate that nongovernmental organizations can help girls build critical skills, but more formal, national-level programs are sorely needed to ensure all girls have access to and can complete secondary school.

Still, we are encouraged by the work of our girls’ education grantees, including the Population Council, Population Services International, FUNDAECO, MAIA, and Glasswing International, among others. Since 2012, our grantees have reached more than 15,000 girls directly – and many thousands more boys, parents, and community leaders – throughout over 390 communities in the region. We are inspired by their results and the thousands of girls and young women who are now on a path toward fulfilling their potential.
When Elizabeth Vasquez finished high school – a rarity in her small Guatemalan village, especially for a girl – she had three options: get married, become a domestic worker, or find work in another department. She chose to move, but still needed a job.

“I spent eight months going to job interviews, but as an indigenous woman, I was subject to a lot of discrimination,” Vasquez explains. “When I finally got a job, it did not pay enough to cover all of my expenses.”

Then a friend told her about Abriendo Oportunidades, a program of Summit Foundation partner The Population Council that helps Mayan girls ages 8 to 17 increase their social support networks, build life and leadership skills, and gain practical skills that enhance their economic mobility.

“The experience changed my life,” says Vasquez. “I thought I knew things from school, but this is the first time I learned about self-esteem or human rights or the rights I have.”

Abriendo Oportunidades engages young women to run community girls’ clubs – safe spaces where they learn practical life skills and assume leadership roles. Over the past 15 years, what started as a small research effort in a handful of rural communities in Guatemala has expanded to reach indigenous girls throughout Guatemala and also has spread to Belize and Mexico, reaching more than 23,000 girls in dozens of communities in Mesoamerica. In addition to funding the program, The Summit Foundation has been instrumental in securing financial support from other foundations as well as government and UN agencies. The Foundation is the main source of support for Abriendo Oportunidades’s adaptation to Belize, where the project is known as the Toledo Adolescent Girls (TAG) program.

As Vasquez learned about human rights and values, she began to view her community differently.

“I realized women were not taken into account. They had no visibility,” she explains.

This was especially challenging when it came to understanding sexual and reproductive health and rights.
“I wondered how the men in our community would respond to us talking about reproductive health when we were also very involved in the church,” says Vasquez, noting that parents often do not talk to their daughters about puberty or other aspects of sexual and reproductive development. “But it was my dad who pushed me to do it. He said it was necessary for me to share information with young girls because they suffer a lot from violence when they don’t know their rights.”

Vasquez worked with a total of 110 girls in her community to explore sexual and reproductive health, human rights, and the types of violence women suffer, while helping them gain practical skills, including financial education. Once the girls came to trust that the meetings were a safe space, they opened up about the physical, sexual, and psychological abuses they were suffering from, including rape, which the girls did not know they had a right to report.

A three-year evaluation of the program showed 100 percent of the girl leaders had completed sixth grade, compared to 82 percent nationally. The evaluation also showed that girls who participated were more likely than their peers to feel a sense of autonomy over their lives. This meant they were more likely to make decisions about the critical choices in their lives, whether it was staying in school or delaying motherhood.

Vasquez, who joined The Population Council’s staff and became a youth mentor, determined that to change the system, women and girls need a stronger voice in their communities.

That’s why in 2017, with funding from The Summit Foundation and others, Vasquez joined three other Abriendo mentors to create Red de Mujeres Indígenas (REDMI), a network of indigenous women that replicates Abriendo Oportunidades programming in other communities and trains girls about their rights. When girls complete the REDMI program, they go on to share what they have learned with other girls, constantly growing the network of support for adolescents throughout Guatemala.

“People ask me why I care so much about the wellness of other girls,” says Vasquez. “They don’t understand that our community is in real trouble. We have to stop the violence and empower girls to stay in school. Education is the bridge that leads girls to opportunity.”
Chicas en Conexión

Girls and boys in Honduras are entitled to receive a free education until age 15. However, a lack of secondary schools requires students from rural areas to travel far from their homes to continue their education, an expense most families cannot afford. When forced to choose, parents prioritize boys’ education given cultural norms and the lack of employment opportunities for girls. As a result, the vast majority of Honduran girls do not complete secondary school.

In 2014, Population Services International (PSI) and its local affiliate, PASMO Honduras, launched Chicas en Conexión (Connecting Girls) for adolescent girls in 11 communities in the rural Valle de Sula area of Honduras. PASMO staff adapted the Chicas program from Abriendo Oportunidades after a learning exchange with Population Council-Guatemala staff. It was the first adaptation of the program in Honduras and among PSI’s first examples of a holistic approach to girls’ sexual and reproductive health anywhere in the more than 50 countries where it operates.

Chicas en Conexión aims to promote educational lessons related to gender equality, sexual and reproductive health, and life planning. The program also seeks to strengthen girls’ decision-making and leadership skills, improve their reproductive health, and increase support within the broader community for girls’ education. In the project’s first four years, it has reached more than 1,200 girls and 2,200 parents and community members.

One remarkable outcome is the groundswell of support for girls’ education that grew within the Valle de Sula area, leading community members to advocate to the Honduras Ministry of Education to extend their local schools beyond the sixth grade. As a result, three of the schools serving El Higueró, Chomoa, and Guaruma Dos became centros basicos, meaning classes now extend through the ninth grade. PASMO is working with three other organizations to expand the Chicas en Conexión model within Honduras.

It was a huge win for the girls and their families, who led much of the advocacy efforts. In the words of one of the Chicas en Conexión participants: “Empowering girls means they can value themselves and fulfill their dreams. If they aspire to do it, they can achieve it.”
INNOVATE
Support innovative strategies and programs that transform social and cultural norms that are barriers to girls’ equality

EVALUATE
Support evaluation of these innovations

GENERATE
Support to extend/_scale successful innovative models

ADVOCATE
Support advocacy to advance supportive laws and policies

CULTIVATE
Support cultivation of youth leadership AND organizational strengthening for advocacy, service delivery and leadership development

OTHER SUPPORT
Provide technical assistance; convene stakeholders/partners; recruit and educate other donors; provide non-traditional financial support

The Summit Foundation | Equality for Women and Girls Program 2012-2019
Although child marriage rates are dropping in most places around the world, that progress has not reached much of Mesoamerica. In some countries, including Guatemala and Honduras, around 1 in 3 girls marry or are in non-matrimonial unions before they reach 18. Sometimes these girls are as young as 11 or 12 years old. In Honduras, 8 percent of girls are married before they turn 15.

Early marriage abruptly ends a girl’s childhood and makes her more vulnerable. It is often caused by, or results in, an early, unintended pregnancy, leading her to drop out of school and creating greater social isolation. Girls who marry young also have worse health outcomes and are at a higher risk of domestic violence than their peers. And, without an education or training, they have fewer economic prospects in adulthood, initiating a cycle that is often passed on to their own daughters.

Successful advocacy throughout the region has led Guatemala and Honduras to raise the legal marrying age to 18 in recent years. The law, however, has not changed the underlying circumstances that continue to drive child marriage. Stubborn social and cultural norms that undervalue women and girls and control their mobility and sexuality, coupled with economic constraints, continue to foster a climate that pressures girls to drop out of school, marry young, and become mothers before they are ready. In addition, pervasive violence at home and within communities may lead a girl to view an early union or marriage as her best option for greater safety or stability.

To address this inequity, The Summit Foundation supports organizations throughout the region that educate girls about their rights and shift harmful attitudes and social norms. Our strategy recognizes that pregnancy is both a result and a driver of early marriage, making adolescent sexual and reproductive health programs critical to our commitment to this area. We are also committed to building greater momentum throughout Latin America to change the norms that enable those outcomes.

Many of the programs we support include efforts to make girls aware of their right to make decisions about when they marry. For example, Summit’s support for the Asociación de Desarrollo Socio Económico Indígena Bayan...
in Honduras includes a school-based intervention program that features peer-to-peer discussion sessions focused on examining gender norms and delaying marriage, training for secondary school teachers, parent groups, and cultural celebrations and radio campaigns aimed at transforming social norms.

Additionally, we support regional advocacy efforts throughout Latin America that are focused on making ending early unions and child marriage a greater priority. For example, our support of the Central America and Mexico Youth Fund (CAMY Fund) brought hundreds of young people together with government officials, UN agencies, academic institutions, and other key leaders in Belize, Guatemala, and Mexico, to discuss progress and barriers to reducing early unions. In November 2015, efforts by networks supported through Rise Up and the CAMY Fund resulted in an important milestone: Guatemala raised the legal age of marriage to 18.

Despite this victory, overcoming the many interrelated drivers of early marriage and unintended pregnancy among adolescent girls will take more effort over many more years. Demonstrating success as they work to change social norms and transform girls’ lives, our grantees are moving in the right direction. A recent evaluation in 36 communities where the Abriendo Oportunidades program operates shows over 90 percent of the girls remained unmarried during the program cycle – a big improvement over the regional average.

The results from our grantee partners inspire us to believe that ending early marriage among girls in Mesoamerica is not just desirable – it is possible.

“The Prevalence (of child marriage) in Latin America and the Caribbean has remained stagnant for 25 years.”

UNICEF, A Profile of Child Marriage and Early Unions in Latin America and the Caribbean (2019)
Mayra started working with FUNDAECO at age 13, when the organization gave her a scholarship to finish high school and participate in its leadership training program for young women and girls. Two years later, FUNDAECO learned that Mayra was getting married against her wishes. The organization helped Mayra access legal support and fight back, and explained to her parents that underage marriage is not legal without a judge’s waiver.

FUNDAECO’s leadership training proved to be the true game changer for Mayra. Empowered to fight for her rights, Mayra is among the first indigenous girls in Guatemala to file a complaint against a forced union.

“My dream is to study. It is my right,” she told the judge, explaining that she did not want to be married.

Mayra prevailed and, with a scholarship, additional funding from FUNDAECO, and support from her parents to cover the cost of her food, Mayra is now studying sustainable development at San Jose Ecological School in Santa Elena.

Over the years, FUNDAECO has experienced its own transformation. Once focused solely on conservation issues, FUNDAECO came to understand the intrinsic connection between sustainability and women’s empowerment. With the realization that, as the primary purchaser of their family’s food and fuel, women are uniquely positioned to protect the environment, FUNDAECO now works at the intersection of girls’ education, women’s health, and conservation of the remote areas where they live.

“If you want to establish a protected area near a community, the community has to be on board and often half of those people are young women,” explains Arias. “They need to be empowered to have a say.”

And those women need to be healthy. Today, FUNDAECO supports 22 rural clinics, two urban clinics, two mobile clinics, and 10 small-scale health supply shops. These clinics, which address sexual, reproductive, and maternal health, reach more than 12,000 people per year. FUNDAECO also provides scholarships to 48 girls (averaging three to five years of support) and is working to increase that number. These girls often become youth leaders who promote reproductive health and advocate against early marriage in their communities. The organization is also focused on ensuring that once girls graduate, they have access to quality jobs.

Arias credits The Summit Foundation’s ongoing support and deep understanding of the group’s strategic approach for much of FUNDAECO’s success in empowering girls and young women.

“Summit understands that as a group we are evolving, and it supports that evolution,” explains Arias.

FUNDAECO recently completed a five-year evaluation of its programs. Based on the study, which surveyed Guatemalans at four of FUNDAECO’s 13 Women’s Clinics in protected areas along Guatemala’s Caribbean coast, 86 percent of adolescents and young adults increased their awareness and/or use of family planning methods and 56 percent have a better understanding of legal protections to prevent violence against women. Many of those reached were young women: 20 percent of those who sought counseling on family planning and reproductive health services were women ages 20 to 24.

By demonstrating that its model is working, FUNDAECO hopes to take its approach to scale and empower women throughout Central America. As it does, The Summit Foundation’s support will continue to be instrumental. In addition to its own financial support, Summit has connected FUNDAECO to other funding partners, including the Bergstrom Foundation, which funded the health clinic in Carmelita where Mayra works.

“Educating and empowering girls helps us prevent girls from getting married too early,” says Arias. “If we can continue to grow this work, we can have a positive impact on the entire country and beyond.”
CAMY Fund

The Summit Foundation supports a regional approach to combatting child marriage and early unions through an initiative of the Central America and Mexico Youth Fund (CAMY Fund). With additional support from the Ford Foundation and NoVo Foundation, among others, the CAMY Fund is managed by Seattle International Foundation and provides support to young leaders to tackle challenging issues in the region.

Our investments in CAMY have supported nine youth-led projects in Belize, Guatemala, Mexico, and Nicaragua in communities where child marriage and early unions are common, as well as research on child marriage. These funds have also strengthened the network of youth-led organizations by bringing these groups together to learn from one another and from global efforts such as Girls Not Brides and UNICEF.

CAMY supports youth activists coming together to learn and, where appropriate, advocate. It has sponsored a number of national, regional, and global forums where youth work alongside researchers, donors, government officials, and UN policy leaders to map out shared priorities. CAMY’s model proves investing in youth-led projects and advocacy can achieve impressive results.

In November 2015, CAMY’s support for advocacy by the youth group GOJoven Guatemala, among others, successfully raised the legal age of marriage in Guatemala from 15 to 18. With subsequent CAMY support, GOJoven launched #NoForcedUnions, targeting four municipalities where child marriage is prevalent. The campaign included education and training for young people, as well as for local public officials, who learned how to strengthen local policies to close loopholes that were allowing families to skirt the new law.
Engaging Men and Boys to Support Girls’ Equality

We invest in organizations that engage fathers, brothers, and others to change the social and cultural norms that devalue girls and contribute to gender inequality.

Overview

According to a recent study, over 80 percent of men in Guatemala believe women should ask permission to leave their home and nearly 60 percent think women should seek permission to use contraceptives. These harmful attitudes do more than shape relationships. They contribute to the complex factors that prevent girls from completing school – which could delay marriage and motherhood until they are ready – and limit their future economic potential.

Harmful gender norms also drive the high rates of sexual and domestic violence in the region. Fourteen of the 25 countries with the highest murder rates for women are in Latin America. The Pan-American Health Organization reports that two out of three women killed in Central America are killed for gender-related reasons.

For girls to grow up with equality, the harmful gender stereotypes and cultural norms that are pervasive throughout the male-dominated societies of Mesoamerica need to change. This not only means educating and empowering women and girls, but also shifting the mindset of men and boys. It is not enough to encourage greater respect for girls. Programs must also tackle “machismo,” the hypermasculine view of male identity that values male dominance and sexism. This challenge is made all the more difficult by authoritarian institutions, including in government and within the church, that benefit from the gender status quo.

Recognizing the gap in male engagement programs in Mesoamerica, The Summit Foundation made a grant to Promundo in 2012, which in turn initiated a project with local partners to engage health providers to work with expectant and new fathers in Guatemala and Nicaragua. That program was piloted with 600 fathers and fathers-to-be and also trained more than 160 professional and over 300 volunteer health providers who work with these men to support their partners, learn to care for babies and young children, and gain confidence in their parenting skills, all while shifting their attitudes toward gender roles. The providers trained at local partners APROFAM in Guatemala continue to use the methodology, reaching thousands.

We support pilot programs and research that demonstrate it is possible to engage men and boys to support gender
equality, even in a highly male-dominated culture. This has included funding pilot research, regional training for community-based staff on how to use evidence from existing programs to design local interventions, school-based and out-of-school programs, and other approaches that shift attitudes and behaviors that drive inequality.

Local projects led by Glasswing International, the Organization for Youth Development, and others have reached thousands of boys and men. In addition, efforts by international partners, including the Global Fund for Children and Promundo, have been fundamental to expanding the local expertise needed to reach men and boys through evidence-based programs.

Their programs equip boys and men with the cognitive, social, and emotional skills to recognize and change their harmful beliefs about girls and women, confront toxic masculinity, and develop a healthier vision of what it means to be a man. The programs also seek to change behavior, including gender-based violence. Often, participants include adolescent girls, too, so girls and boys can develop healthy ways of discussing gender roles.

Evaluations show that these programs are beginning to shift attitudes. More than 8 out of 10 boys who completed the Glasswing program expressed more positive attitudes about gender relationships, including the belief that their relationships should be free from violence and that men and women should be equally able to make decisions about finances and other areas. They also recognized the unfair burden placed on girls related to household chores. Changes were even more pronounced among girls who participated.

Though the full social change needed to truly change behaviors is further away, this initial shift in attitudes among program participants shows promise. Moving forward, we will continue to invest in programs that engage men and boys to support equality and confront harmful masculinity. We will also support our grantee partners in learning what is working so they can continue to make progress in this complex but critical area of work. And we will encourage other funders to join us in supporting this critical opportunity in the field.

**Glasswing International**

After years of working for a disaster relief organization, Celina de Sola wanted to stop responding to the crisis and start preventing it. Believing solutions must be locally driven, she returned to her home country of El Salvador and began working with communities to understand their priorities and their culture – and determine how to deliver on those priorities within that culture.

“Gender is so deeply cultural and behavioral,” explains de Sola. “It is really difficult to come from the outside and work on these issues in country.”

In 2007, de Sola, along with her brother, Diego, and her husband, Ken Baker, founded Glasswing International, a nonprofit organization that works to address the root causes of poverty and violence through community-based public education, public health, and community empowerment initiatives. Over the past 12 years, their work has expanded to 10 countries throughout Latin America while maintaining a grassroots approach that engages each community in the solution.
Among Glasswing’s core initiatives are after-school clubs that help girls ages 9 to 18 build critical social and financial skills. Piloted in Honduras and run in public schools and health clinics in the region’s poorest communities, Girls Club teaches girls about sexual and reproductive health and empowers them to make decisions about their bodies and their sexuality. Despite its initial success, Girls Club faced a major obstacle.

“We realized we could only take girls so far. To completely remove barriers, we needed to change the attitudes of boys,” explains de Sola. “You can equip a girl with all the knowledge she needs, but if she doesn’t have a safe environment, then it isn’t enough.”

Including boys in the program was not an easy transition. Cultural norms and attitudes and biases in the communities required Glasswing to completely revamp its curriculum as well as its metrics for success.

“Students have an open mind, but when they get home, it is an entirely different story,” explains de Sola. “The boys understand girls should not have to do all the domestic duties, but when they try to help their sisters, their fathers and grandfathers tell them to stay out of women’s work.”

With support from The Summit Foundation beginning in 2016, Glasswing continued to revise its approach to reaching and engaging boys, as well as parents and community leaders, to slowly change their mind-set.

“It is not easy to change these deep-rooted perceptions,” says de Sola, noting the importance of creating a space to talk about the need to change long-standing practices without making anyone feel judged. “Violence is top-of-mind for everyone. When you start to understand how gender bias leads to violence, then you get people interested in addressing the problem.”

With Summit’s support, Glasswing is adapting and scaling its Honduran Boys Club and Girls Club model to Guatemala and Nicaragua with a goal of reaching more than 1,500 at-risk youth (ages 12 to 16) in Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua over a two-year period. Although Summit’s financial investment is critical to Glasswing’s programming, de Sola is quick to point out that its support goes far beyond funding.

As Glasswing worked to adapt its curriculum for boys, the Foundation connected staff to experts who could help work through challenges and provide technical resources. Summit’s flexibility is also a key to success.

“When we started working on this issue, it was all girls, girls, girls. We told Summit we wanted to explore improving conditions for girls by addressing masculinity issues, and Summit told us to go for it,” says de Sola. “This is a tough field and Summit really perceives itself as a partner.”

Although Glasswing still has work to do to reach its ultimate goal of preventing violence in the home and in the community, it is seeing progress. Attitudes about healthy, equitable relationships are shifting. And the curriculum’s focus on reproductive health is moving the needle. By the end of the first year of the project, 70 percent of the boys and girls said men and women should exercise their sexuality based on respect.

“When we achieve our goals, there will be a shift in paradigms and a change in the constructs of these communities,” says de Sola, who in 2018, was one of 20 influential community leaders selected from around the world for the first class of the Obama Foundation Fellowship.

“We will see fewer girls dropping out of school, families not pulling them out of school to work or take care of kids, a reduction in underage pregnancy, and, number one, a reduction in violence.”
Global Fund for Children

The Mexican Yucatan has one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in Latin America, an issue that is exacerbating inequality and gender-based violence in the area. To address this problem, Global Fund for Children (GFC) – with support from The Summit Foundation – is leading an initiative aimed at deconstructing “machismo” and what it means to be a man.

GFC’s Changing Gender Attitudes, Empowering Girls project brings together partners in Guatemala, Honduras, and the state of Quintana Roo in Mexico, to work with men and boys to shift gender attitudes and behaviors and build equitable and healthy relationships.

“Here in Latin America we can see the root impact of gender inequities is violence,” explains Rodrigo Barraza, GFC’s program officer for Mexico and Central America, where violence against women has reached epidemic numbers. In 2017, seven women were killed each day in Mexico.

In Quintana Roo, GFC works with three partners – GOJoven México, Centro Integral de Atención a las Mujeres, and Red + Posithiva de Quintana Roo – to run a variety of community-based education efforts, some through high schools and some working with teachers, young parents, or directly with students.

When it comes to changing gender norms in marginalized communities, family and religious values can be a barrier to change. By providing its partner organizations with flexible funding and the latitude to determine what approach works best in each community, GFC leverages inroads wherever it can find them.

“There was a lot of pushback to addressing the issue directly,” says Barraza. “We realized we had to start slow and frame this as creating a culture of peace.”

The varying approach makes it difficult to set a single indicator to demonstrate changing gender attitudes in the region, but GFC is seeing early signs of success. In Quintana Roo, directors report that among teens who have participated in their program, pregnancy rates have dropped to almost zero.

“In the past I was very macho – it was normal to me, because I had to live with that every day inside my house,” shares a 17-year-old boy from Cancun, Quintana Roo. “I learned that it doesn’t have to be that way, that men and women are equal. And, I learned to admire women’s struggles to assert their rights. I learned that just because you cope with violence every day does not mean you have to reproduce it. That, on the contrary, we all have a responsibility to end this cycle and build healthier practices between men and women.”

GFC continues to advance this work by supporting programs and regional networks that allow grassroots partners to access new resources, learn the latest methodologies, and amplify their efforts and voice.

By leveraging partnerships to shift attitudes at the local level, GFC believes that, over time, it will empower a new generation of young people to be more comfortable talking about gender issues with each other and with the adults in their lives, and to be more confident in being role models for others.
The Summit Foundation is a long-time champion of programs grounded in gender equality and human rights. As we have honed our focus to more explicitly fund programs for girls and young women, we have sought partners that provide girls with the skills and knowledge they need to become advocates, champions, and leaders on these issues.

Investing in youth leadership helps ensure the real-life needs of adolescent girls and boys are reflected within reproductive health policies, programs, and services. Youth advocacy is also critical to ending social and cultural norms that devalue girls and diminish their rights. Additionally, our investment today is an investment in future leaders of reproductive health programs and institutions, donor efforts, and policy bodies at the local, national, and global level. In this way, our investments in youth leadership are building a movement for youth sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice.

Our partners have directly harnessed the potential of young leaders through training and educational programs, supported peer-to-peer learning and youth-led outreach, and advanced advocacy efforts that raise youth voices and priorities to decisionmakers at every level. These partners include grassroots organizations that reach the most marginalized girls and young women, especially within indigenous Mayan communities and in communities left behind by other efforts. Their projects have trained peer-to-peer educators to combat child marriage and improve reproductive health access, offered fellowships for young women to take on new challenges and lead institutions, and advanced policy platforms to build political will for young people’s reproductive health needs.

GOJoven International, led by the Public Health Institute (PHI), is one of our first and by far our longest youth leadership development initiative. Its efforts have trained about 400 youth leaders in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Quintana Roo, Mexico. A recent study shows 184 of the 193 fellows trained during GOJoven’s first nine years (2004-2012) remained engaged as alumni in 2018. These young leaders have in turn reached tens of thousands of adolescents with youth-focused reproductive health and other information.

After focusing its first eight years on training annual fellow cohorts from the four countries, as well as providing support to local organizations focused on adolescent sexual and reproductive health, GOJoven has shifted its leadership to alumni, who have created their own locally run, youth-led and youth-serving associations.

Harnessing the Power of Young People

We invest in young voices leading the way toward gender equality and improved adolescent sexual and reproductive health – giving youth the skills, tools, and access they need to advocate for their own priorities.

Overview

The Summit Foundation is a long-time champion of programs grounded in gender equality and human rights. As we have honed our focus to more explicitly fund programs for girls and young women, we have sought partners that provide girls with the skills and knowledge they need to become advocates, champions, and leaders on these issues.

Investing in youth leadership helps ensure the real-life needs of adolescent girls and boys are reflected within reproductive health policies, programs, and services. Youth advocacy is also critical to ending social and cultural norms that devalue girls and diminish their rights. Additionally, our investment today is an investment in future leaders of reproductive health programs and institutions, donor efforts, and policy bodies at the local, national, and global level. In this way, our investments in youth leadership are building a movement for youth sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice.

Our partners have directly harnessed the potential of young leaders through training and educational programs, supported peer-to-peer learning and youth-led outreach, and advanced advocacy efforts that raise youth voices and priorities to decisionmakers at every level. These partners include grassroots organizations that reach the most marginalized girls and young women, especially within indigenous Mayan communities and in communities left behind by other efforts. Their projects have trained peer-to-peer educators to combat child marriage and improve reproductive health access, offered fellowships for young women to take on new challenges and lead institutions, and advanced policy platforms to build political will for young people’s reproductive health needs.

GOJoven International, led by the Public Health Institute (PHI), is one of our first and by far our longest youth leadership development initiative. Its efforts have trained about 400 youth leaders in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Quintana Roo, Mexico. A recent study shows 184 of the 193 fellows trained during GOJoven’s first nine years (2004-2012) remained engaged as alumni in 2018. These young leaders have in turn reached tens of thousands of adolescents with youth-focused reproductive health and other information.

After focusing its first eight years on training annual fellow cohorts from the four countries, as well as providing support to local organizations focused on adolescent sexual and reproductive health, GOJoven has shifted its leadership to alumni, who have created their own locally run, youth-led and youth-serving associations.
The Foundation’s support of International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)/Western Hemisphere Region— and its local partners Ashonplafa in Honduras, BLFA in Belize, and Mexfam in Mexico— has expanded access to youth-friendly services and information. Even more, it has engaged youth to ensure these services meet their real-life needs and mobilized youth as advocates to shape reproductive health policy.

Our partnership with Seattle International Foundation’s CAMY Fund, which has supported nearly 40 organizations throughout Latin America, has made youth advocacy more effective across the region. Last year, CAMY co-convened a summit on “Accelerating Action to End Child Marriage and Early Unions in Belize” to develop a strategy for preventing early marriage in the country, where roughly one out of three women are in a union before age 18. Unlike similar convenings, where youth often have a token presence, more than half of the participants were in their teens and 20s. Many of the priorities, strategies, and other ideas for eradicating child marriage that were shared by these young leaders were presented to Belize’s First Lady and to relevant ministries, who have collectively committed to addressing the issue.

Along with the Packard Foundation and others, The Summit Foundation has also funded research and knowledge-sharing around best practices and gaps to benefit the field, particularly youth advocates and youth-led organizations. The YIELD (Youth Investment, Engagement and Leadership Development) research project found that the most effective programs follow five best practices: find and engage diverse youth; equip young people with information and skills; enable youth to succeed by fostering supportive environments; connect young people to greater opportunities; and track what is working through monitoring and evaluation.

Taken together, our youth leadership grantmaking demonstrates the benefit of supporting young people to shape reproductive health and gender equality programs. The commitment of these young voices attracts policymakers, community leaders, and, most importantly, other young people. Through the GOJoven program, we have learned that as these engaged youth become adults, they often remain committed to seeing through the change they started as young people.

We will use the results of the YIELD research—and the track record of our grantee partners—to inform and shape our future investments to truly harness the promise and potential of young people.
Fresh out of high school, where she was president of her student council, Kylah Ciego had just started working toward her bachelor’s degree when she became pregnant. Fortunately, Kylah had something a lot of teens in her native Belize do not have: a supportive family that helped raise her son so she could continue her studies.

“I grew up in a big family with all brothers,” says Kylah, who earned a Bachelor’s of Science and Social Work from the University of Belize. “They were always in my corner and very supportive.”

Understanding how important it is for young girls and women to have a support system, and to have access to sexual and reproductive health services, Kylah went on to complete a training and leadership program with the GOJoven Belize Alumni Association (GoBelize). Today, Kylah offers sexual and reproductive health services to families in Belize as the director of education and programs for Belize Family Life Association, an IPPF partner and Summit sub-grantee.

“Getting pregnant as a teenager made me aware of the need for teens to have access to sexual and reproductive health services,” explains Kylah, who took part in a 2012 effort of Belize’s Department of Youth Services to set a National Youth Policy for the country. “We need to give young people a voice and make sure they are getting access to the services and information they need to make decisions that are best for them.”

Launched in 2004, with a Summit Foundation grant to PHI (which coordinated the program until 2012 and continues to provide technical assistance locally), GOJoven International uses a unique, youth-centered development model to promote gender equity. Leveraging their own life experiences, GOJoven Fellows complete an 18-month program of training and hands-on experience to develop the skills to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights among young people.

Now, with GOJoven alumni-led NGOs in Belize, Guatemala, Quintana Roo, and Honduras, GOJoven has trained more than 400 youth leaders, who have reached thousands more through their efforts to expand adolescent sexual and reproductive health programs, policies, and services at the community, regional, and national level. A Summit scholarship program supported the continuing education of GOJoven alumni.

“Females in Belize are already marginalized. Empowering ourselves to go to school and pursue a higher education allows us to defend our rights as women and be more assertive in calling for family planning,” explains Eva Burgos, executive director of GoBelize.

By the time Eva was 17, she was married and a mother. She dropped out of school to care for her child and household, but she remained engaged in her community. In 2004, Eva became one of the first GOJoven fellows and eventually earned a college degree.

“When I was training, I went back to my community and encouraged other women to go back to school,” says Eva, who successfully lobbied local officials to build a school in her hometown of Belmopan City, rather than requiring women who wanted to go to school to make the 41-mile trek to Belize City.

At GoBelize, Eva works to ensure young girls have access to sexual and reproductive health services, especially in rural areas. To date, the program has reached more than 9,000 youth and adolescents in Belize’s six districts through its trainings on reducing adolescent pregnancy and curbing HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Program evaluations demonstrate the effectiveness of the GOJoven model in sustaining the involvement of young people in reproductive health. In a recent survey of GOJoven alumni from four countries, nearly 90 percent who responded are currently doing some type of adolescent reproductive health work, with a majority of them holding a leadership position.

With 70 percent of the Belize population under age 29, increasing the agency of young people to participate in the decision-making process has the potential to dramatically shift the country toward a more gender equal society.

“There are two general elections (in Belize) in the next 10 years,” says Kylah. “At some point, young people like me will take office and create the kind of government that Belize needs to become a country that is inclusive of all the people who live in it.”
As a program director at Amigos de Santa Cruz, Jessica Xon tapped into the leadership and training skills she developed as a GOJoven Guatemala fellow to help launch Amigos’ Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health program. With support from The Summit Foundation ($165,000 over six years), Xon and her colleagues at Amigos introduced reproductive health education to public school students in Santa Cruz La Laguna, an extremely rural area of Guatemala.

At the time, youth in Santa Cruz’s 11 schools – like many rural areas in Guatemala – received no reproductive health education. By teaching adolescent sexual and reproductive health classes directly to students, training public school teachers, and helping parents and community members understand the value of sexual and reproductive health, Amigos aimed to decrease teen pregnancies, increase knowledge of and access to contraception, and reduce school dropouts – all while integrating their curriculum into ongoing school programming.

A five-year program evaluation (2013-2017) showed the effort is making progress. Within Santa Cruz schools, teen pregnancy and school dropouts due to pregnancy had decreased to 0, while the number of young women requesting contraception for the first time rose by 30 percent.

Although Amigos was achieving its desired impact within Santa Cruz schools, pregnancy among young women and girls outside the school system was on the rise. Amigos needed to empower youth outside of the school system with access to reproductive health information and services. It also sought opportunities to support more young people in gaining critical leadership skills and continuing their education.

Amigos introduced its Scholarship and Youth Leadership program to help students stay in school beyond ninth grade. For recent graduates, Amigos also created Youth Corps, a yearlong program aimed at giving youth participants access to professional skill development, on-the-job experience, and community service opportunities. For each of these efforts, students lend their voices to youth leadership conferences throughout the year. They also head up a variety of service projects while tackling a host of critical issues in their communities — including reproductive rights and violence against women. Additionally, Youth Corps members participate in monthly professional development and leadership workshops. Between these two programs, Amigos works with up to 50 students per year.

To keep its own leadership and training skills sharp, Amigos sends staff to GOJoven community sexual and reproductive health leadership training programs. Working together, the two organizations are building a leadership pipeline that extends throughout Guatemala. In fact, Xon was recently named executive director of GOJoven Guatemala, where she will continue to partner with Amigos de Santa Cruz while working to empower young Guatemalans to pursue their education and become leaders in their communities. And who was the best applicant to fill Xon’s position? It was Wilson Campo, also a GOJoven Guatemala fellow.
What Does Success Look Like

Our vision for girls and women in Mesoamerica and beyond is ambitious. We want them to reach their full potential as healthy, empowered, and productive women. That requires changes at multiple levels.

**INSTITUTIONS**
Health and education systems implement proven models that address school drop-out, unintended pregnancy, early unions, and respect and protect the rights and needs of most vulnerable girls
Stronger, more resilient civil society organizations

**LAW AND POLICY**
Supportive legal and policy environment for girls’ health and well-being

**SOCIAL AND CULTURAL NORMS**
Shifted norms and attitudes about the value of girls’ and young women’s lives

**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY NORMS**
Parents, other family members, teachers, health providers, local leaders want girls to finish high school, delay marriage, access SRH services/info, and get dignified work

**INDIVIDUAL EMPOWERMENT AND SELF-EFFICACY**
Girls and young women have greater knowledge, gender equitable attitudes, autonomous decision making and life skills
Accelerating Regional and Global Momentum for Change

We support organizations that are driving the regional and global momentum for change needed to make equality for girls and young women possible – both within and beyond the Mesoamerica region.

Overview

The Summit Foundation’s strategic grantmaking shows what is possible when donors focus on advancing equality for women and girls within a specific geography over a sustained period of time. In addition to directly funding organizations in the Mesoamerica region, we have invested in strategies that create momentum throughout Latin America and the Caribbean and across the globe to advance our goals.

Since 2012, the Foundation has supported 20 organizations with grants to advance work at the regional and global level. We are pleased when our leadership can multiply even a modest investment by bringing attention to an underrecognized area or attracting new partners and donors to the Mesoamerican region. We also invest in advocacy efforts to advance a regional and global consensus on what it will take to ensure every single girl is empowered to grow up healthy, with access to reproductive health information and services as well as an ability to exercise her rights and reach her full potential.

In this vein, we supported two leading international organizations, Girls Not Brides and Population Action International, to bring their effective advocacy into Latin America, a region where both groups had limited presence. Prior to our initial grant, Girls Not Brides, a global network of 1,300 partners committed to ending child marriage, had lacked donor support to work extensively in Latin America despite the enormous need for more concerted efforts to address early unions and marriage in the region. Similarly, our support for Population Action International helped the group relaunch a focus on Latin America as it advocates for universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, especially for young people. Our investments in both organizations helped draw additional donor support for their efforts in Latin America. As a result, each of these organizations has engaged many more local partners and reached a greater number of regional decisionmakers with their programs, building greater momentum for change.

In the global policy arena, we have invested in the work of The Universal Access Project (UAP) over the past seven years. Led by the UN Foundation, UAP convenes donors, NGOs, media, and other influencers to strengthen U.S. support for access to international reproductive health and family planning – work made all-the-more critical by the current challenging political context. To ensure the world’s most marginalized girls and women continue to have access to essential sexual and reproductive health services, this coalition is working to hold the line on bilateral aid for family planning and reproductive health investments to mitigate – and ultimately end – harmful policies such as the Global Gag Rule.

We also make strategic investments in regional and global donor forums to ensure they reflect the priorities of girls and young women within Mesoamerica. Our support for the Central American Donors Forum, an annual gathering that brings together international and regional grantmakers with government, civil society, and business leaders from the region, has helped ensure the Forum’s agenda includes sensitive but critical topics, such as how to end child marriage and how best to address adolescent sexual health and rights.

Finally, in addition to our investments in strengthening and amplifying youth leadership within Mesoamerica, The Summit Foundation makes limited, targeted grants aimed at giving young people more opportunities to shape global platforms. We supported the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights to ensure its network of 18- to 29-year-old students, health care professionals, educators, and activists are empowered to put youth priorities on the agenda at UN policy meetings. And our support for a youth forum at the five Women Deliver global conferences not only has helped increase youth participation for training, networking, and advocacy, but also has made these youth voices a major driver at this leading global conference on gender equality and the health of women and girls. In 2019, 1,400 young people attended and 20 percent of the conference speakers were under age 30.

By bolstering a long history of global and regional engagement through strategic investments and partnerships, we are encouraging change within and beyond the Mesoamerica region.
What We’ve Learned

As The Summit Foundation continues to support projects that empower women and girls in Mesoamerica and beyond, we will draw on insights from our work and outcomes to date and apply the following lessons to our future investments:

- Our funding needs to be flexible and allow our partners to pursue and shift strategies in their context, such as the Chicas en Conexión project in Honduras evolving into girl-led advocacy for secondary schools with local officials due to the demand their programs created. Or the case of MAIA in Guatemala, which believed the only ethical path forward was to build a top-quality secondary school for local indigenous girls in Sololá because poor-quality local schools were not worth girls’ time and more was needed for them to overcome entrenched ethnic discrimination and poverty.

- It is possible to measure positive changes in knowledge and attitude on gender equality among boys and young men. A deeply ingrained culture of violence and machismo requires long-term investments and patience to change male behavior over time.

- In under-resourced areas such as Mesoamerica, even modest funding can be valuably leveraged by local organizations to bring attention to critical issues such as the need for sexuality education to reduce teen pregnancies, or to develop evidence-based programming within local contexts, such as engaging males as part of the solution.

- As our grantee partners have shown, it is possible to reduce early unions and child marriages, but progress is very localized and high-touch. To truly sustain momentum, these interventions must reach multiple stakeholders, including girls, boys, parents, community leaders. A legal change can positively influence the situation, but it is only part of what is needed.

- Grantee approaches that work aggressively at the community level on the multiple drivers of adolescent pregnancy, early unions, and school dropout are more likely to be successful. Launching and implementing these programs requires skilled human resources that are tied to the community and patient financial support. More research is sorely needed on the long-term drivers of success.
Grantee Partners

Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health

Advocates for Youth
Amigos de Santa Cruz
Asociación de Desarrollo Socio Económico Indígena Bayan
The CAMY Fund of the Seattle International Foundation
Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)
Center for Reproductive Rights
CARE Guatemala
CARE Honduras
ETR - Youth Tech Health
Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres (FCAM)
Fund for Global Human Rights
Fundación Mexicana para la Planeación Familiar, A.C. (Mexfam)
Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAECO)
Glasswing International
Global Fund for Children
GOJoven Belize
GOJoven Honduras
GOJoven International - Public Health Institute
Hesperian Health Guides
International Planned Parenthood Federation - Western Hemisphere Region (IPPF-WHR)
La Instancia por la Salud y el Desarrollo de las Mujeres
Organization for Youth Empowerment
The Population Council
Promundo
Population Services International
Puntos de Encuentro para la Transformación de la Vida Cotidiana
Regents of the University of California, Berkeley
Regents of the University of Colorado
Rise Up - Public Health Institute
Women Win Foundation
Women’s International Network for Guatemalan Solutions Inc. (WINGS)

Delaying Early Unions and Marriage

Amigos de Santa Cruz Foundation
Asociación de Desarrollo Socio Económico Indígena Bayan
The CAMY Fund of the Seattle International Foundation
CARE Guatemala
Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAECO)
GOJoven Belize
GOJoven Honduras
GOJoven International - Public Health Institute
La Instancia por la Salud y el Desarrollo de las Mujeres
The Population Council
Population Services International
Regents of the University of California, Berkeley
Rise Up - Public Health Institute
Women Win Foundation

Engaging Men and Boys

Glasswing International
The Global Fund for Children
Organization for Youth Empowerment
Promundo

Harnessing Youth Leadership

Amigos de Santa Cruz Foundation
Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)
The CAMY Fund of the Seattle International Foundation
CARE Guatemala
CARE Honduras
ETR - Youth Tech Health
Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres
GOJoven International - Public Health Institute
GOJoven Belize
GOJoven Honduras
International Planned Parenthood Federation - Western Hemisphere Region (IPPF-WHR)
International Women’s Health Coalition
La Instancia por la Salud y el Desarrollo de las Mujeres
Organization for Youth Empowerment
Puntos de Encuentro para la Transformación de la Vida Cotidiana
Rise Up - Public Health Institute
Women’s International Network for Guatemalan Solutions (WINGS)

Educating and Empowering Girls

Amigos de Santa Cruz Foundation
Asociación de Desarrollo Socio Económico Indígena Bayan
The CAMY Fund of the Seattle International Foundation
CARE Guatemala
Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAECO)
Glasswing International
Limitless Horizons Ixil
MAIA
Organization for Youth Empowerment
Endnotes and Acknowledgments

The Summit Foundation is grateful to all our grantee partners, past and present, for their incredible work towards a world in which all girls reach their full potential as healthy, empowered, and productive women. The stories shared here are just a snapshot of the tremendous effort happening throughout the region and across the globe. We extend particular thanks to partners who were interviewed or provided input for this report.

Facts & Figures

Data figures not listed below are from currently available official government sources, Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), UNICEF, and UNFPA sources. Project-level data are from grantee reports to The Summit Foundation.

PAGE 3


PAGE 14


Photo Credits

Front and back cover: Ripple Effects Images/Carol Guzy
Inside photos: Amigos de Santa Cruz (page 22); CAMY Fund of the Seattle International Foundation (page 13); Glasswing International/Jorge Sandoval (pages 15, 16, 23); Global Fund for Children (page 17); GOBelize (page 20); GOJoven Honduras (page 19); Kate Lord Photography (page 26); Population Council (inside cover; pages 10, 21, 25); Ripple Effects Images/Carol Guzy (pages 3, 4, 6-7, 9, 18, 23, 29); Rise Up – Public Health Institute (pages 5, 9, 11, 12).

Production

Established in 1991, The Summit Foundation, a private family foundation, is committed to a world where people can thrive and nature can flourish.