Delivering Safe and Healthy Births in Rural Guatemala

Virtual Visit Agenda

MAYA HEALTH ALLIANCE
WUQU’ KAWOQ
Welcome! Thank you for this opportunity to share our Maternal Mobile Health Program. We are excited to introduce you to the people and communities that are part of this transformative work saving the lives of mothers and newborns in rural Guatemala!

I. Greetings & Introductions - Emily López, Wuqu’ Kawoq Development and Digital Communications Manager

II. Care Navigation - Rosibely Sut, Mobile Health Coordinator

III. Our Midwife Partners - Bernalda Calel, Midwife, Community of Pamanzana

IV. A Mother’s Perspective - Glenda Argelia Sipac, Community of Pacorral

V. Our Community-led, Data-informed Approach - Dra. Waleska López Canu, Wuqu’ Kawoq Chief Medical Officer

VI. Delivering Safe & Healthy Births Across Guatemala and Beyond - Anne Kraemer, Wuqu’ Kawoq Chief Executive Officer

VII. Q/A - Guided by Anne Kraemer

Zoom Meeting Details:
Join Zoom meeting: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81771393671?pwd=Z0wxQi9UOWRsS1BRNTILZ2tHYUNmQT09
Meeting ID: 817 7139 3671
Access code: 728443

Please note: Presenters will be speaking in English, Spanish, and Mayan Kaqchikel. We will provide translation to English throughout.

For more photos, videos, and information, please explore our virtual visit webpage: https://www.wuqukawoq.org/virtual-visit/
Virtual Visit Participants

**EMILY LÓPEZ / DEVELOPMENT AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER**
Emily earned her Bachelor of Business Administration from Rafael Landívar University in 2021. She is studying for her master’s degree in Digital Marketing. Before joining our team, she worked in the private sector. She’s interested in raising awareness of social problems in Guatemala and improving medical care for rural and indigenous populations by combining technology and the knowledge and skills of the Wuqu’ Kawoq team.

**BERNALDA CALEL / MIDWIFE, PAMANZANA**
Bernalda is a Kaqchikel midwife from the village of Pamanzana, Tecpán. She was one of the first midwives to join the Mobile Maternal Health Program and has been working with us for eight years. She believes that the Program has made a big impact in her community because the equipment and training help midwives provide better care in patients’ homes and navigators help patients receive more respectful, timely care when they go to the hospital.

**ROSIBELY SUT / MOBILE MATERNAL HEALTH COORDINATOR**
Rosibely was born in the Kaqchikel village of Chuatzunuj, Tecpán. She graduated as an accountant, but yearned to contribute more to her community. So she joined our team as one of our first Care Navigators (Chajinel en Kaqchikel). She deeply understands the situation rural indigenous women confront and puts her heart and soul into her work. She was promoted to Program Coordinator and now works with midwives, providing training on the cell phone app, high risk pregnancy signs, and a new application for identifying infants in danger in the first days of life.
Doña Glenda is the mother of four children and is expecting her fifth child. She is from the Kaqchikel village of Pacoral, where she and her husband operate a tortilleria stand near the central plaza. She experienced the Mobile Maternal Health Program for the first time with the birth of her fourth child. She values the ongoing monitoring and the chance to learn about her pregnancies as a patient in the program. She also appreciates the sense of security that comes with being accompanied by a care navigator at the hospital.

Originally from Patzún, Chimaltenango, Dra. Waleska is proudly Kaqchikel Maya. She received her medical doctorate from the Autonomous University of Mexico and completed her clinical training at the University of San Carlos in Guatemala. She has worked extensively in Mexico and Guatemala for Ministry of Health programs to extend coverage to rural areas. Her previous leadership experience includes managing a large team of healthcare providers serving in dozens of rural communities in the Department of Chimaltenango.

Anne co-founded Maya Health Alliance | Wuqu’ Kawoq in 2006 and has served as our Executive Director since 2009. Her passion is building high-impact, collaborative, and culturally and linguistically appropriate health and development programs. Anne trained as a cultural anthropologist at the University of Kansas, where she received her master’s degree and completed doctoral coursework. She was the recipient of a Fulbright scholarship in 2007 to examine the relationship between rural Guatemalan communities and the NGOs that serve them.
Community Partners

The Mobile Maternal Health Program operates in 50+ rural communities in the Department of Chimaltenango. Partnerships with the midwives, local leaders, and Ministry of Health providers in these communities are key to the program’s success. Today, we will visit the Kaqchikel Maya communities of Pamanzana, home of midwife Bernalda Calel, and Paccoral, home of patient Glenda Sipac. Both are small villages outside the city of Tecpán. Located in the center of Guatemala’s Highlands, Tecpán is a traditional Maya community. More than 70% of the population speaks Kaqchikel Maya.

During Guatemala’s 36-year civil war, guerrilla troops invaded Tecpán, damaging police stations, stores and city hall. The army arrived soon after and established a garrison in the town square. Caught between the government military and the guerillas, many Maya were killed, tortured and accused of supporting one or the other.

Today, the local economy centers on agriculture. Most men work as farmers growing beans and corn for local consumption and crops like broccoli, green beans, and snow peas for export. Most women identify as homemakers and are often backstrap loom weavers. Some 70.2% of the population lives in poverty, compared to the national average of 54.3%.

Growing Impact

The Mobile Maternal Health Program has increased hospital births by 50% and reduced maternal deaths to 0-2 a year. The Maternal & Infant Health Award would make it possible to exponentially expand the benefits of the program, scaling from 800 to more than 5,000 births a year and serving six health districts and five Mayan language groups.
Mobile Maternal Health Patient Journey

Typically, when women in rural Guatemala need hospital care during pregnancy or delivery, they’re on their own. With the Mobile Maternal Health Program, mothers work with midwives who have the tools and clinical support to detect and respond to problems. If hospital care is needed, care navigators step in to accompany patients throughout their journey.

The Mobile Maternal Health safe+natal Smartphone App

The smartphone application, designed with Maya midwives, uses audio, pictures, and checklists. The app integrates low-cost tools to monitor the mother’s blood pressure and baby’s heart beat. When a risk is detected, the app notifies clinical staff for back-up.

Click here for a video demonstration.