

GUATEMALA MICROLOAN PROJECT UPDATE: May 2026

What Happens During a Change of Cycle?

In the Microloan Project, each loan cycle lasts six months. In addition to repaying the loans, an important aspect of closing a cycle is the process of evaluation. When the El Progreso group recently completed Cycle 8, the participants reviewed and rated their performance in the following areas.

- Group Organization and Coexistence: organization, respect among members, solidarity, tolerance, active listening, communication, conflict resolution, adherence to group agreements, and payment of fines.
- Financial evaluation: timely payments, sticking to savings plans, keeping track of savings in passbooks, managing account books, showing the group savings slip, using capital wisely, providing solidarity support, investing as planned, making business improvements, overcoming challenges in the business, and boosting profits.
- Participation in Formation workshops: punctuality, attendance, participation, teamwork, and the application of what was learned.

Through this process of evaluation, women recognized their strengths and identified areas for improvement.



Working Women with Hope group in El Progreso

While one woman had to step away because of her formal job, 12 women chose to remain in the project to begin Cycle 9. In addition, 3 new women joined the project. Checks were distributed and officers were elected.

Meet the Three New Microloan Participants:

Silvia is a dedicated and hardworking woman who really cares about her family's well-being. She has decided to start raising chickens to make extra money and enhance her family's diet. She mentions, "Being part of the group is great because you learn new things, save money, and get a little break from the house." She's quite familiar with raising chickens; she can slowly start bringing profits if there's good management of the diet and the care they need.



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Ana is a 29-year-old single mother who lives with her parents and siblings. Ana is recognized for being diligent, responsible, and motivated to better herself. For several years, she's been selling food and atole, which is a traditional hot drink. This has helped her support her family. Even with the economic challenges in the country, she's shown a lot of dedication and hard work to move forward. She chose to join the group to start raising pigs. Being part of the group has inspired her to save up personally.

Maribel is a 45-year-old single mother. She shares that she has an evangelistic ministry at her church that includes singing, preaching, praying, visiting the sick, and offering Bible teachings to both children and adults. Maribel runs a business roasting pigs for special occasions. She has a Facebook page where people can make reservations for weddings, baptisms, conferences, and graduations. In addition she creates fabric decorations, preserves flowers, and also sells and packages gifts.



Sisters in Prayer Are Needed

A unique and important aspect of this project is that each participant has a prayer partner, someone who prays specifically for them. The microloan participants value this relationship tremendously, and on our recent delegation trip we learned that the Guatemalan women call them their "Compañeras en Oracion" or "Sisters in Prayer," so we are adopting this new name. Three new Sisters in Prayer are needed for our newest participants; to volunteer contact Sharon Meares at shmeares@hotmail.com.

Formation Workshops



Earlier this year, in commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and at the request of a microloan participant, the issue of violence and its manifestations was addressed in workshops with microloan participants. The women engaged in group readings, discussion, analysis, and reflection on violence, its various manifestations, and its effects. Some shared their own experiences. Among the points for reflection were self-care, healthy self-esteem, healthy relationships with children through respectful and violence-free parenting, support among women, setting limits, having spaces to deconstruct violence, and learning new ways of relating.

Your Support Makes This Work Possible!

Pray – Prayer is essential and a primary way to provide support.

Financial Support enables us to continue. Donate by sending checks payable to PW PWNC to Amy Yenderusiak, 604 7th St NE, Conover NC 28613 or visit our website, GuatemalaMicroloanProject.org.

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