

GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN MISSION

PROJECT PROPOSAL

Olopita School Library



**Esquipulas, Chiquimula
GUATEMALA**

Overview

Guatemala in Central America was ruled for many years by military regimes, during which 200,000 people lost their lives. The country is now ruled by a civilian government; however, crime and violence are still widespread. Approximately half of the Guatemalan population lives in poverty and 13.7% of them live in extreme poverty.

Esquipulas, a small market town on the southeastern Guatemala border, is known for its coffee cultivation. The first settlers in this town were descendants from the indigenous Mayan people. Today, Esquipulas has a population is over 18,000.

For many years, children in rural schools in Guatemala have struggled to learn to read and write, largely due to a serious lack of resources. Infrastructure like chairs, desks, child-sized tables, and bookshelves are deteriorated from overuse, and the general environment is not inviting or stimulating. Many teachers are not trained, and specifically, have not learned strategies for teaching reading. In students' homes, where most families live below the poverty line, few children have access to children's books.

These challenges have only been exacerbated by the pandemic-era school closures, which lasted over two years. Reading assessments conducted in 2023 determined that third and fourth graders had average reading skills of the first grade level. Additionally, first graders who participated in the assessment, read an average of 19 words per minute, under the required standard of 40 words per minute.

Fabretto Children's Foundation is a non-profit organization which works with local community organizations to educate and empower underserved children, youth, and their families in vulnerable communities.

Fabretto is focusing attention on **Olopita School**, a nursery and primary school, with a student population of 61, served by a staff of 5 teachers. The school is located in the central part of the municipality, approximately a 20-minute walk for most of the students who attend from the surrounding 8 hamlets.



Where They Are



Coordinates: 14.5596° N 89.3401° W

Project Snapshot

Global Humanitarian Mission, which shares the same guiding principles, believes in the power of education in breaking the cycle of poverty.

Olopita School Library is therefore being established to support Fabretto in creating a small library and reading corner within Olopita School.

This will include:

- ❖ Needs assessment
- ❖ Action plan development
- ❖ Strategic infrastructure improvement (*if necessary*)
- ❖ Equipping the library with furniture and bookshelves
- ❖ Purchase of books
- ❖ Teacher training
- ❖ Ongoing technical assistance and monitoring

With your support, this project will be accomplished over a twelve-month period.

TOTAL COST: \$19,200.00



From Global Humanitarian Mission

Numerous studies have shown that children who master reading skills are more likely to continue and complete their education, while those who do not learn to read are more likely to drop out.

Numerous studies have also shown that decades of underfunding and neglect have created an education system in Guatemala that falls far short of meeting the needs of the children who need it most.

You can change the educational landscape for boys and girls in underserved communities in Guatemala –Starting with Olopita School!

*Every child deserves the opportunity for a successful future
as tomorrow's leader. Help make it happen!*



*"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts."
Psalm 145:4*

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