



Guatemala, Guatemala City – “Training to get decent work” - Education

Since the beginning of 2016, women living in a shanty town next to a dump in Guatemala have been participating in training sessions organised by AIC volunteers (on making piñatas, hairdressing, dressmaking and waitressing). At the end of this training, they will have the chance to set up a small income-generating activity other than the collection and sale of rubbish.

The volunteers, moved by the extreme poverty experienced by the women from the shanty town have decided to accompany them through this new chapter of their lives. The objective of the project is to ensure a future of better financial independence and more decent work for more than one hundred of these women.

Context

Many women living in a shanty town next to a big dump in Guatemala collect, sort and sell reusable or recyclable rubbish at very low prices. Their tiny income barely allows them to cover their daily costs and survive. Many of them are heads of families, single mothers, married to alcoholic men, victims of domestic violence or even wives of prisoners. The children often stay at home alone while the women work at the dump. The living conditions are difficult and dangerous.



Project Theme and Activities

The workshops established by a group of AIC volunteers from Guatemala City aim to train the women and to create income-generating activities other than collecting and selling rubbish:

- Visiting the families
- Organising 40 hour training modules divided into 8 hours per week (on making piñatas, hairdressing, dressmaking and waitressing for hotels/restaurants)
- Supporting the creation and development of income-generating activities
- Providing the material necessary to set up the income-generating activities

Key Figures

- The project aims to train 100 women
- 1 module of training lasts 5 weeks with 8 hours a week, so 40 hours in total



Partners

- The Daughters of Charity
- INTECAP (Technical Training Institute)

Future Prospects and/or Impact

After the first training module, the project has already enabled:

- 18 women to be trained in making piñatas.
- The income from selling piñatas currently allows one beneficiary from the training to cover her son's school fees.
- Another beneficiary now has orders of piñatas guaranteed until August 2016.