



Welcome!

The webinar will begin at 2:00 pm EDT.

As we're getting things ready...



MATTHEW 25



Please MUTE your microphone.

It will allow everyone to hear the main speakers



If you have a question for our panelists or staff,
please enter it in the chat.

*We may not answer it during the session, but our team will
work hard to get you an answer in our follow-up contact*



Matthew 25: Eradicating Systemic Poverty



MATTHEW 25

Bryce E. Wiebe, Moderator

*Director, Special Offerings & Appeals,
and the Presbyterian Giving Catalog, PMA*

INTRODUCTIONS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

NATIVE-LAND.CA



Matthew 25: Eradicating Systemic Poverty



MATTHEW 25

The Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett

*Executive Director & President,
Presbyterian Mission Agency*

OPENING PRAYER

SYNOPSIS OF THE MATTHEW 25 INVITATION &
ERADICATING SYSTEMIC POVERTY



Matthew 25: Eradicating Systemic Poverty

The West Africa Initiative:



MATTHEW 25

Valéry Nodem

*Associate for International Hunger,
Presbyterian Hunger Program, PMA*

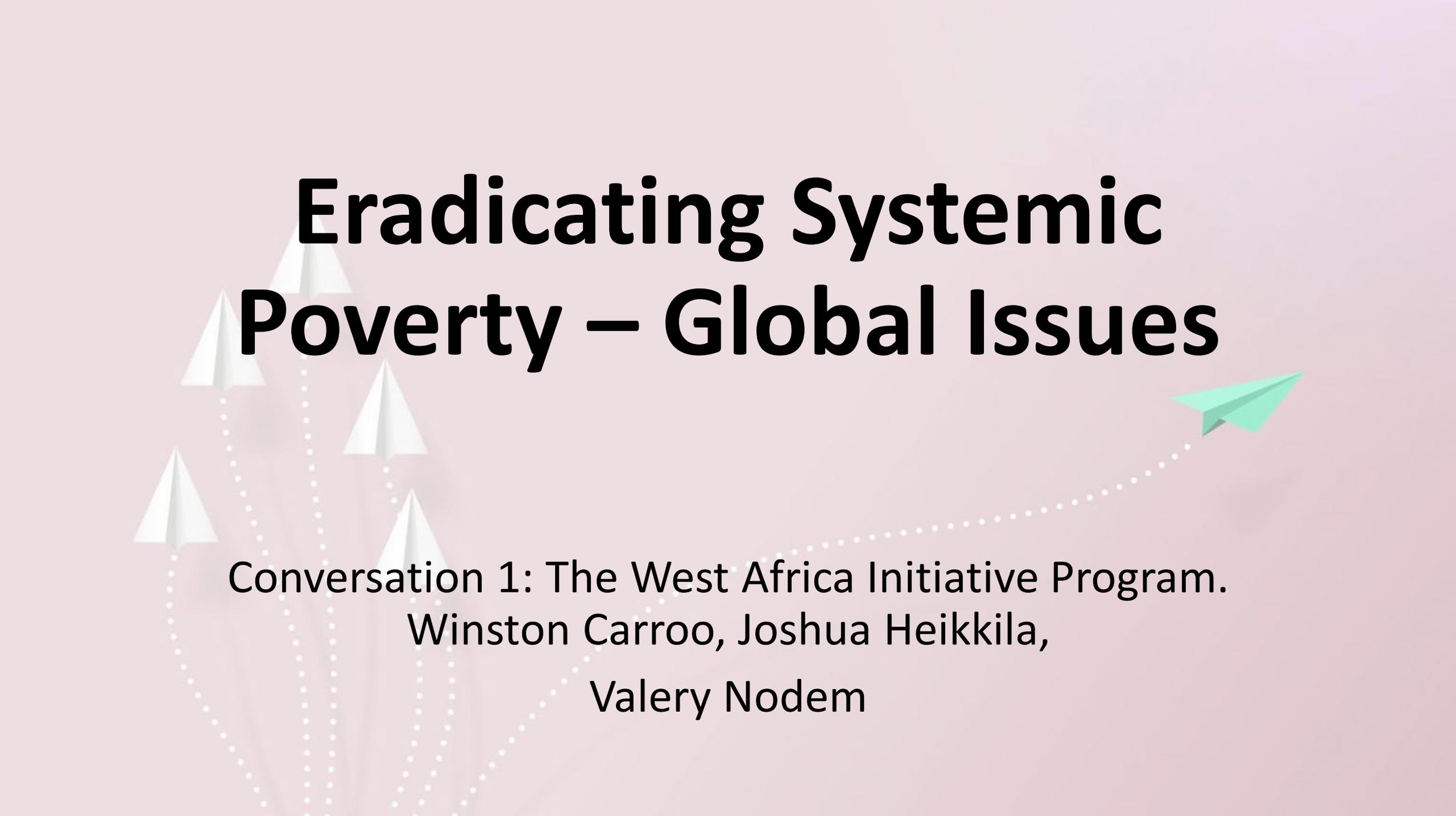
Winston Carroo

Director of the West Africa Initiative

The Rev. Josh Heikkila

*Regional Liaison for West Africa,
Presbyterian World Mission, PMA*

Eradicating Systemic Poverty – Global Issues



Conversation 1: The West Africa Initiative Program.
Winston Carroo, Joshua Heikkila,
Valery Nodem

The West Africa Initiative

- Responding to the call from Councils of Churches in both Liberia and Sierra Leone for reconstruction after war in both countries
- Started by the 3 Compassion Peace and Justice Ministries (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self Development of People)
- Lead by communities themselves towards self-reliance
- Capacity building and leadership as key parts of the program
- Helped us coordinate our work better

Ways That We Address Systemic Poverty Globally

- Short term: Disasters and emergencies, famine and conflicts, extreme hunger
- Medium term: Training and equipping, reconstruction, Self-development
- Long term: fighting systemic injustices and root causes, social justice, campaigns
- Partnerships at the heart of our work



Our Goal with Community-led Development Globally



Mindset: People in poverty are not “subject/beneficiaries”, but “change agents”



Capacity: Gaining voice, agency and confidence is key for progress



Impact: Measurable progress in livelihoods, health, education



Sustainability: People should have control of their own lives and destinies



CPJ and WM working together to address systemic poverty with global partners

“Whole cultures promote and maintain healthy communities which in turn nurture individuals who are well.”

Ghanaian theologian Emmanuel Larrey,
Postcolonializing God: New Perspectives on Pastoral and Practical Theology



***Supporting children education
in Liberia though beekeeping
skills to parents***

Presbyterian congregations have a strong desire to “help” partners in West Africa, who have become like family to us. There are many requests for things like school scholarships, and motorcycles for pastors, teachers, doctors, and nurses, which are direct relief for immediate needs. There is also a need to go beyond relief to address systemic issues.



The Beginning Of The West Africa Initiative

- Invitation from Councils of Churches in Liberia and Sierra Leone
- Started by the PCUSA- (Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Self Development Of People)
- Implemented by Agricultural Missions Inc.
- Joined by other denominations (United Methodist, Disciples Of Christ, and United Church Of Christ). Ecumenical effort



From Short-term to long-term

- Started as a program to enhance food security in rural villages through food production
- Evolved into a comprehensive rural development program with the following goals:
- Improving the quality of life in rural villages through agriculture and other economic activities and amenities such as safe water access and grain stores (immediate needs)
- Support and strengthen the capacity of local groups to become independent and self-reliant organizations with the capacity to ultimately assume responsibility to operate the program on their own. (long-term sustainability)

Human Development Indicators In Both Countries

- The 2019 Human Development Index (HDI) published by the United Nations ranked Liberia at 176 and Sierra Leone at 181 out of 189 countries.
- Liberia “a least developed, low income, food deficit country”, where 83% of the population of 4.5 million live on less than \$1.25/day. (2018)
- Sierra Leone a country of 8 million is “marked by food deficit”, with 53 % of the 8 million people living on less than \$1.25/day (2020)



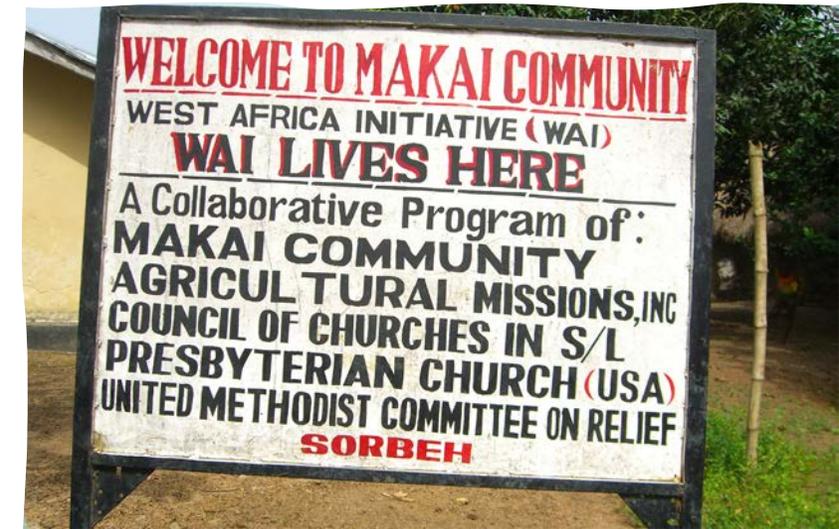
Main Activities

- Farming, beekeeping, training in post-harvest handling and construction of grain storage facilities.
- Safe water-construction and repair of wells and hand pumps and training of local water sanitation committees
- Microcredit and business training for women traders and artisans
- Nutrition training and home gardening for family consumption
- Group organizational development
- Local staff and Board development
- New activities focus on Youth Agriculture Program and COVID-19 awareness in communities, and COVID -19 related food security problem as a result of restrictions.



Achievement/Impact

- Increase in the numbers of groups. Neighboring villages interested to join!
- Communities food secure in times of Ebola
- More investment in children education
- Belief in internal capacity to bring about change
- Improved nutrition



Lessons learned

- Long term commitment necessary to achieve lasting outcome
- Local congregations' role in going beyond emergency is critical
- **Increasing production and material benefits is the easy part**
- **building local organizations is the hard part.**







Wisdom
From
Liberia
and Sierra
Leone

“Teeth and tongue can fight but they will never stop working together to eat.”
Liberian Proverb

“If a single hair has fallen from your head, you are not yet bald.” Proverb
from Sierra Leone



Matthew 25: Eradicating Systemic Poverty



MATTHEW 25

As your poverty ministry has grown from direct aid to systemic, root-cause ministry, how have the relationships with your partners changed?

What challenges and changes might be in store as you continue?



Matthew 25: Eradicating Systemic Poverty



MATTHEW 25

CEDEPCA (The Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America)

Judith Castañeda

General Coordinator, CEDEPCA

Priscila Barrientos

Coordinator, Communication Program, CEDEPCA

Esvin Sirin

Facilitator of Intercultural Encounters, CEDEPCA

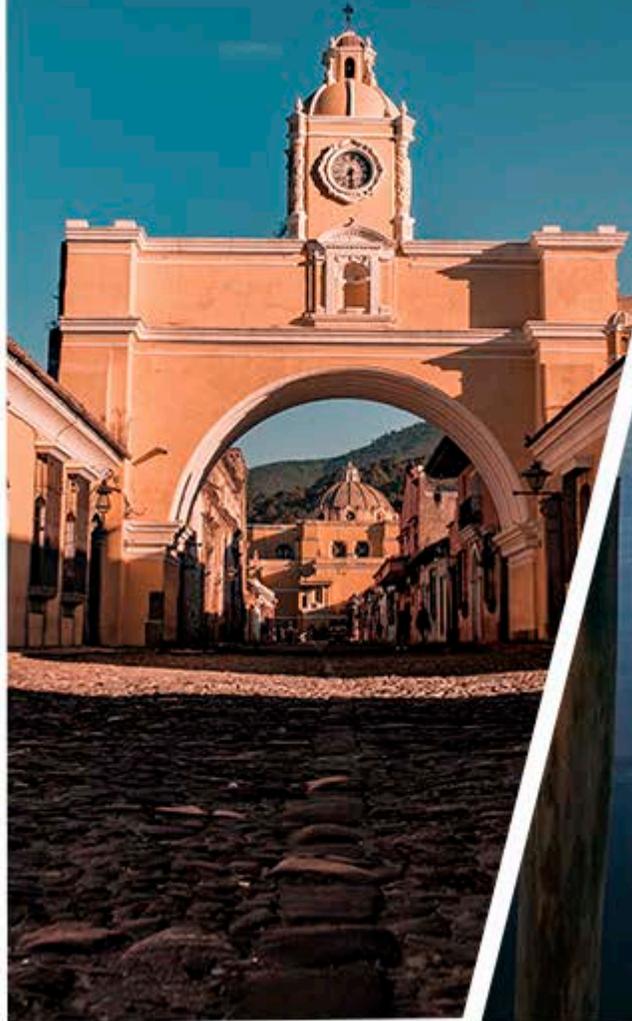
The Rev. Edwin González-Castillo

*Associate for Disaster Response in Latin America
& Caribbean, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, PMA*

The Rev. Valdir França

*Regional Liaison for Latin America & Caribbean,
Presbyterian World Mission, PMA*

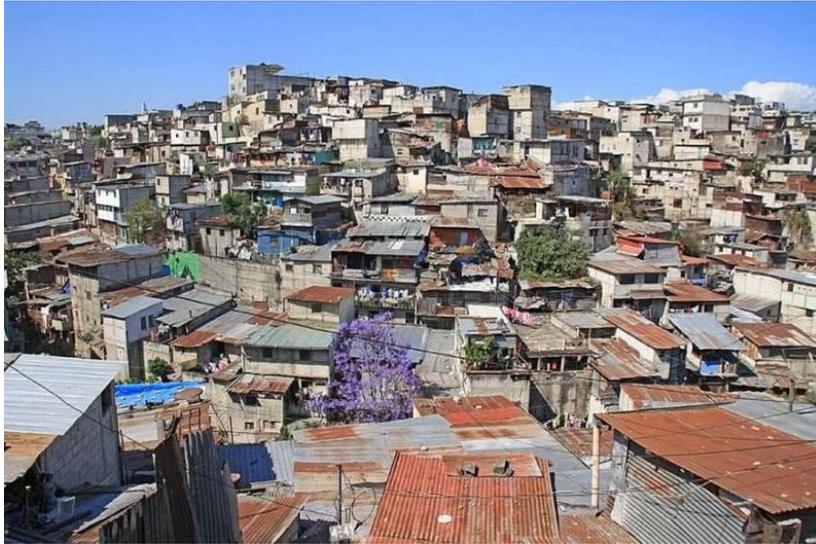
Guatemala Land of Eternal Spring



Guatemala in Context

Population: 17 million

Poverty: 59.3% = 10.5 million of Guatemalans



Poverty and social inequality are the result of an economic model designed to guarantee the concentration of wealth at the expense of the majority.

Food Security

- Only 40% of the Guatemalan families enjoy food security.
- Chronic malnutrition affects to 46% of children.



Water situation in Guatemala

- 4 million Guatemalans do not have access to drinkable water.
- The water deficiency reaches up to 90%.
- 91% of the rivers in Guatemala are contaminated.

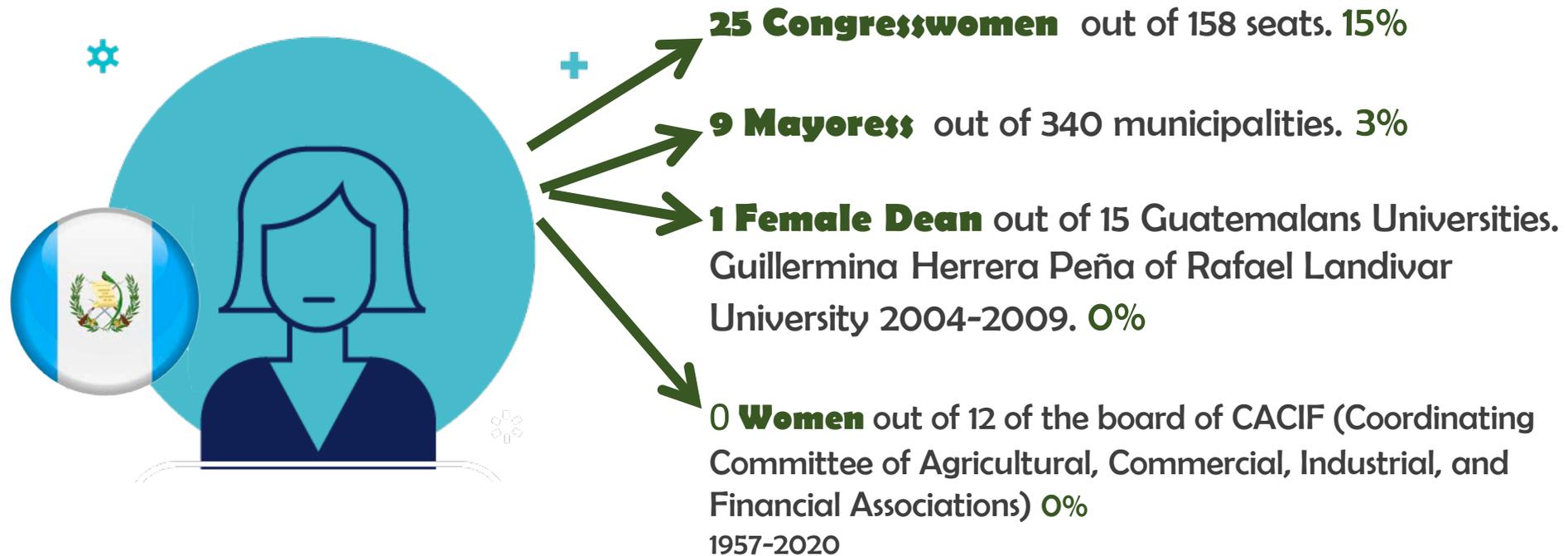


The Situation of Women in Guatemala

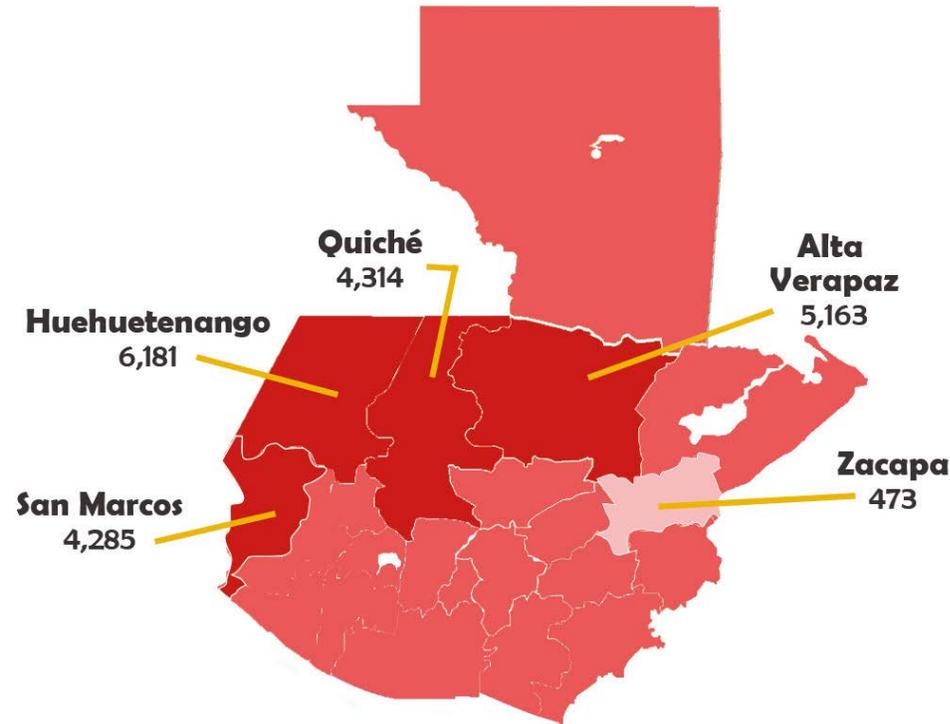
Women in politics

Guatemala is one of the most inequitable countries in the world. Gender violence has been and continues to be one of the clearest manifestations of inequality, subordination, and power abuse of men over women.

- In Guatemala there are only:



Violence, rape and forced pregnancies of women under 19 years old, from January to May, 2020



- Departments with higher forced pregnancies in children and adolescent girls:
- Department with lowest forced pregnancies in children and adolescent girls:

Violence, rape and forced pregnancies in adolescents between 10-19 years old. From January to May 2020:

- **1,962** forced pregnancies between 10-14 years old
- **44,901** forced pregnancies between 15-19 years old

**Total forced pregnancies:
46,863**

Migration

Migration has been one of the main survival strategies of the Guatemalan population to increase family incomes.



<https://cnnespanol.cnn.com/video/guatemala-mexico-migrantes-negativa-ingreso-rio-suchiate-perspectivas-buenos-aires-cnnee/>

Why do they migrate?

TODAY: Multiple reasons of migration



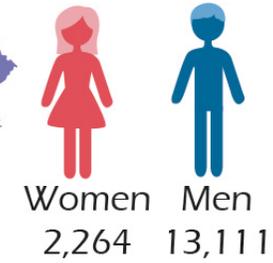
- ▶ Of work migrations to multiple reasons migrations.
- ▶ Of individual migrations to family migrations including girls and boys.
- ▶ Of voluntary migrations to forced migrations.
- ▶ Migration in an advanced stage, previous migration generate new migrations.

Deportations

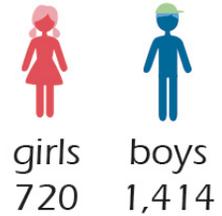
34,000

Guatemalans were deported from January to October 2020

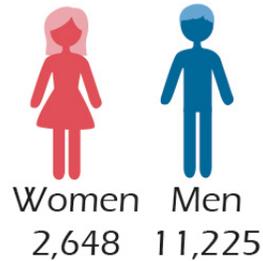
17,509 Guatemalans deported via air from the United States



MINORS



16,355 Guatemalans deported via ground transportation from Mexico



<https://igm.gob.gt/estadisticas/>

REMMITANCES in the year 2020 US\$ 8, Billion= 13% of GDP



COVID-19 in Guatemala

- More than 105,000 confirmed cases
- More than 3,651 confirmed deaths

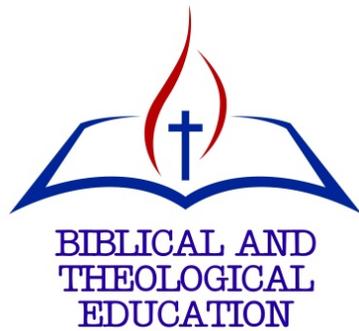


Light in the darkness

In this context, CEDEPCA contributes with concrete actions in the following areas:

- Offers humanitarian response to the COVID-19 situation. Food baskets, water filters, hygiene kits, psychological support, recovery of livelihoods.
- Contributes to the empowerment of women and men.
- Contributes to the Biblical and Theological education of pastors and laypersons.
- Struggles to build a more just world and continue encouraging partnerships.
- Opens its doors for learning and mutual accompaniment; from the standpoint of a liberating theology, works toward justice and an abundant life.

All of this through its different programs:





Matthew 25: Eradicating Systemic Poverty



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How can your
poverty-alleviation ministry
intentionally center leaders
from impacted communities?



Matthew 25: Eradicating Systemic Poverty



MATTHEW 25

The Rev. Rosemary Mitchell

Senior Director, Mission Engagement & Support, PMA

THANK YOU

“GOING DEEPER”



Matthew 25: Eradicating Systemic Poverty

Go Deeper: Join the Facebook Page

“Matthew 25 in the PC(USA) Church and Mid Councils”

facebook.com/groups/matthew25pcusa





Matthew 25: Eradicating Systemic Poverty

Go Deeper: Try an Online Course



MATTHEW 25

“CIVIL INITIATIVE AND THE ENGAGED CHURCH”

offered by Stony Point Center &
Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary

Four consecutive Mondays from 7:00-9:00 pm (EDT)
November 9 – 30, 2020

Registration required:

[PRESBYTERIANMISSION.ORG/MINISTRIES/MATTHEW-25/CURRICULUM/](https://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/curriculum/)



Matthew 25: Eradicating Systemic Poverty

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Later this week, all registrants will receive:
 - A link to the recording of this webinar;
 - A list of resources
 - A very short survey.
- In the next two weeks, a Mission Engagement Advisor will following up with someone from your congregation to provide resources and answer questions



MATTHEW 25



Matthew 25: Eradicating Systemic Poverty



The Rev. Dr. Diane Givens-Moffett

Executive Director & President, PMA

CALL TO ACTION:

PRAY

ACT – invite members, friends and colleagues

GIVE



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission



MATTHEW 25

presbyterianmission.org/matthew-25



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Music arranged, performed, and recorded by Ruling Elder Dr. William McConnell, CFRE.
Unless otherwise noted, all music is public domain.