



Educational attainment of CFCA sponsored in Guatemala

Projects: Hermano Pedro, Guatemala; Atitlán, Guatemala
Report Date: December, 2010 – Initial findings

Despite economic, geographic and/or ethnic marginalization, children and youth supported by CFCA in Guatemala are achieving higher levels of schooling than national averages of the general population and have reached a primary school graduation rate of 87 percent.

Program background: The educational situation of youth in Guatemala is extremely dire. The average Guatemalan has less than a 5th grade education. The situation is even worse for those who are poor, indigenous, or living in rural areas with little access to schools and resources.

Within this context, CFCA Hermano Pedro and CFCA Atitlán place a significant emphasis on the importance of education as a pathway out of poverty. The project teams maintain records on schooling of members and encourage families to keep children in school as long as possible.

Purpose of the evaluation: 1) To contribute to the learning of the CFCA administration and board regarding the outcomes of the Hope for a Family sponsorship program in the area of education, since education has a primary roll in all CFCA programs worldwide and the two Guatemalan projects represent almost one third of all CFCA sponsored members. 2) To determine the educational outcomes of the Hope for a Family sponsorship program in Guatemala so that project staff and communities can learn about successes, identify goals, and make decisions about education programs and support in specific communities.

Methods: Post-test data collection of final year of schooling attained by all sponsored children and youth leaving the CFCA program between 11/2009 - 11/2010 in Hermano Pedro and Atitlán
Total data set = 7357

A conservative comparison group (general Guatemalan pop. age 20-24) generated from the *World Bank 2010 Education Statistics* and the *Barro-Lee Educational Attainment Dataset*.

Key findings and Conclusions:

- CFCA sponsored children and youth in Guatemala attained 8.2 years of school on average, which is 1.5 years more than those in the comparison group.
- Female sponsored members demonstrated a 0.2 year gender deficit in education levels, closing the gap on the full year deficit evident in the comparison group.
- CFCA sponsored in Guatemala had a primary education completion rate 23.7 percentage points higher than the national rate of 63.6 percent.
- The largest cohort of sponsored leaving the program completed a partial secondary education or reached the benchmark of 9th grade. This reflects a specific emphasis of project staff on keeping kids in school through the 9th grade and informs progress toward this goal.
- 20.2 percent of CFCA sponsored graduated from secondary school and 2.2 percent of sponsored completed at least some post-secondary education before leaving the program.

Note: The above findings respond to the 1st purpose of the evaluation, but do not fully address the 2nd. In 2011, staff will further analyze this large data set to draw additional conclusions regarding gender, age, geography, etc. to inform their programs. The rigor of this evaluation may also be enhanced in the future by a comparative sample and/or ongoing cycles of data collection.