

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY



The Anglican Relief and Development Fund[®]



GUATEMALA: CHURCH SUPPORTS CHILDREN LIVING IN A LANDFILL

New community center will offer meals, medical care, tutoring, and spiritual support to the community



It is under this tin roof that Misión Desafío cares for children living in zone 3 of Guatemala City's central landfill. The plan is to construct a building to house its programs.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

CONTEXT: Families in zone 3 of Guatemala City have literally made their homes in a landfill. Small makeshift houses are surrounded by mountains of garbage and waste. Their houses are made of scraps found in the dump – corrugated aluminum, cardboard, wood, and bricks. Poverty is a huge issue as most people in this area live on less than \$2 a day, leaving them unable to purchase sufficient food and other necessities. Many children don't go to school because their families can't afford the fees. As a result, many children join their parents scavenging in the landfill at a young age. Due to the unsanitary environment, many people in the area suffer from various infections such as skin diseases, eye infections, and respiratory irritation.

NEED: The people in this area are caught in a cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse. They need help meeting their basic needs and their children deserve a better start in life. They also need to know Christ, their savior, the one who can heal their wounds and give them hope for a better life.

SOLUTION: Misión Desafío, of the Anglican Church of Guatemala, serves a community of about 510 families who survive off whatever they scavenge from within the Guatemala City landfill. The church offers tutoring and breakfast for 120 to 150 children each day. Weekly church services are attended by about 100 people. With funding through the Anglican Relief and Development Fund, church leaders want to construct a Community Outreach Center that will serve the approximate 3,400 residents of the landfill. Being located in an actual building will strengthen existing programs that now take place outdoors and allow the church to start new programs. Plans are also under way for the building to house a Christian primary school for 120 students starting in 2023.

PROJECT PROFILE

ID: ARDF-0921-Misión Desafío

Lead Ministry

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF GUATEMALA



Guatemala

LIVES IMPACTED 160

SECTOR **Education and Community Development**

AMOUNT REQUESTED **\$88,947**

TOTAL COST PER BENEFICIARY **\$573**

ARDF COST PER BENEFICIARY **\$553**

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"Dana and Damaris are impacting the poorest of the poor. If that ministry did not exist, what would happen is that the parents would go out to work and leave the kids locked up with a padlock behind the door in a (small) room. ... The big kids of 6 or 7 years old (are) taking care of the little ones and seeing what they have or not have to eat. They make that impact in the lives of those children. They have years of serving in a place where no one else wants to be."

– Leonardo Rosales, founder of WOT Dev, a local business, and a donor to Misión Desafío

LIFE IMPACT

Benefits 160 people, some in multiple ways:

- 60 people show an increase in their understanding of Scripture as indicated by their commitment to study the Bible and attend Bible study groups and services
- 100 elementary and secondary students grow academically after receiving tutoring help



WHAT IT'S LIKE NOW



"It is estimated that the landfill in zone 3 receives the waste of approximately 7 million

people. This means about 3,200 tons per day ... Around the landfill there are a total of 20 settlements recognized by the capital's municipality, many of whose residents make a living from recycling, such as the 1,200 people who come in every day."

— **"Towards more efficient waste management,"** *El Periodico, Guatemala, May 26, 2019, <https://elperiodico.com.gt/noticias/domingo/2019/05/26/hacia-una-gestion-de-la-basura-mas-eficiente/>*

"The situation of poverty and exclusion goes hand in hand with different types of violence ... Different types of violence that are not separate, since one generates the other (intrafamiliar, historical violence, gangs) ... I lived through violence and I know how to respond to violence," he explains. "When you're in a gang, feelings are turned off. Why? Because you can't let others see you as weak. You have to have that badass persona, even if inside you think you're a coward."

— **"Surviving a city and a pandemic from the dumpster of zone 3,"** *Plaza Publica, Guatemala. July 5, 2020, www.plazapublica.com.gt/content/sobrevivir-una-ciudad-y-una-pandemia-desde-el-basurero-de-la-zona-3*

PROJECT DESIGN

Misión Desafío will build a Community Outreach Center to host programs for children and adults. By January 2023, the building will also serve as a primary school for 120 students. Plans call for the 2,152-square-foot building to house a reception area, three classrooms, 1 computer lab, a dining room, and a patio.

Many of the programs currently offered by the church take place underneath a sheet of corrugated metal that offers some shade on hot days and keeps people dry on rainy days. The recent addition of a concrete floor is an improvement over the cardboard that use to serve as a floor. Activities currently offered by Misión Desafío include:

Weekly church services. Saturday services are led by a husband-and-wife missionary team, Dana and Damaris Craft. They also host Bible study groups.

Daily breakfasts. Nutritious breakfasts are served daily to 120 people, including children who comes for tutoring, their siblings, and their mothers. The day starts with devotions, prayer, singing, and a 20-minute Bible lesson. Afterward, they eat breakfast and attend tutoring lessons.

Medical support. Misión Desafío staff work with a nearby national healthcare center to keep medical records for children seen by visiting nurses. The health records include malnutrition measurements, vaccination records, treatment for amoebic dysentery twice a year, and any other specific treatment prescribed.

Psychological counseling. Professional counseling is offered by a volunteer psychologist, often addressing domestic violence and post-traumatic stress disorder, which is extremely common among those living in the dumpsite.

Tutoring. Children who are fortunate enough to attend school get little support at home. Misión Desafío hosts daily tutoring sessions and encourages the children to stay in school. Without any motivation, children often drop out of school and join their parents working in the landfill.

Measuring impact. Misión Desafío maintains records that account for the health of children, with a new photo taken each year and the child's weight, height, and medical history recorded. The church also maintains attendance lists for its various activities.

PROJECT BUDGET

ITEM	ARDF FUNDS	LOCAL/OTHER
Terrace	\$7,635	
Labor (5 builders, 1 master builder)	\$10,700	
Blocks, tiles, bathrooms	\$7,775	
Front door, windows, interior doors	\$3,620	
Electricity, pipes, lamps, fans	\$2,946	
Cement	\$3,990	
Gypsum/drywall	\$3,850	
Water system and holding tanks	\$2,818	
Civil Engineer, design and drawings ¹		\$3,250
Construction subtotal	\$43,334	\$3,250
10 desktop computers	\$9,200	
10 computer desks	\$2,650	
150 ergonomic chairs for children	\$4,800	
12 tables and boards	\$2,720	
150 student desks ³	\$7,800	
Stoves, gas tank, accessories	\$2,550	
Freight charges	\$1,300	
Kitchen utensils	\$2,600	
Equipment subtotal	\$33,620	
Research and evaluation	\$11,543	
TOTAL	\$88,497	\$3,250

HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

For \$5,150, you can outfit the kitchen with a stove and cookwear that will supply children with a nutritious meal.

For \$9,200, you can supply 10 computers for the school.

For \$10,700, you can cover the salary of five builders and one master builder.

NOTES

¹ local in-kind donation



IMPLEMENTER FINANCIALS* 

This project adheres to some or all of this sector's established best practices

INCOME	2018	%	2019	%	2020	%
Individual donations	\$31,000	73	\$37,307	77	27,705	88
Church donations	\$11,387	27	\$10,860	23	3,772	12
TOTAL	\$42,387	100	\$48,167	100	31,477	100

EXPENDITURES	2018	%	2019	%	2020	%
Anglican Church	\$8,242	21	\$8,055	17	3,320	11
Emergency relief	\$6,796	16	\$17,868	37	11,845	40
Charity	\$5,214	12	\$3,753	8	2,228	7
School feeding program	\$7,862	19	\$7,158	15	4,667	16
School	\$3,356	8	\$3,878	8	1,808	6
Special adult education	\$1,799	4	\$1,867	4	655	2
Special activities	\$3,131	7	\$2,216	5	1,453	5
Administrative expenses	\$2,649	6	\$2,135	4	1,409	5
Building and equipment	\$852	2	\$32		1,401	5
Transportation	\$1,934	5	\$726	2	977	3
TOTAL	\$41,836	100	\$47,688	100	29,764	100
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$551		\$479		1,714	

NOTES:

*Income and expenditures reported in U.S. dollars

INCOME: Mision Desafio Guatemala presented an unaudited summary of income and expenditure reports from 2018 to 2020. These summarized reports did not provide details on items included in each income and expense category.

Overall Mision's income grew 13% from 2018 to 2019 before declining 34% in 2020. Individual contributions are the main source of income, averaging 80% of total income, with church donations representing the remainder during the three-year period under review.

Mision reported a surplus during each of the three years under review. Despite being unaudited, the financial reports detailed expenses in each category. Still unaudited financial reports impede an independent assessment of the organization's financial position.

EXPENSES: The majority of Mision's expenses were donations to the Anglican Church, averaging 16% of total expenditure during the three years. Growth in emergency relief and charity programs was noted in 2019 and 2020, respectively representing 45% and 47% of total expenditures.

Mision's education programs comprised of a school, a school feeding program, and an adult literacy program. All together these represented 31% of total expenditures in 2018, 27% in 2019, and 24% in 2020. Special activities and administrative, building, equipment, and transportation costs were each less than 10% of overall expenditures and averaged 4% over the three-year period.

RISK ANALYSIS



Low: 1, Low/Medium: 2, Medium: 3, Medium/High: 4, High: 5 

CONCEPT: 1

This project allows the Anglican Church of Guatemala to reach very poor people living in a central landfill. The impact on the beneficiaries has the potential to be deep, especially because of the education, nutrition, and spiritual components for young people.

PROGRAM DESIGN & EXPERIENCE: 1

Misión Desafío has served those living in the landfill since 2013. The vision for this project is to build a school that will serve 120 elementary students starting in January 2023. They will use unemployed local youth, paired with skilled workers, to construct the building. The young workers will have a sense of ownership and acquire new skills.

LEADERSHIP: 1

Misión Desafío has the necessary skills and staff to operate this project. The director of the project has several years of experience. His wife has experience with similar projects in Africa. They will be joined by a professional civil engineer who volunteers his expertise.

FINANCIAL CONTROL: 3

Misión Desafío has stable management and secure fund transfers, but it lacks externally audited financials. This project requires continued access to funds until the center can be self-sustaining. It also lacks independent governance as all staff are members of the Anglican Church.

SUSTAINABILITY: 4

Continued access to funds will be necessary to maintain the level of impact that has been established during these first years of expanded services. The leaders are starting to work on plans to be self-sustaining in the future, but there is not a working plan at this point.

EXTERNAL: 1

People at the landfill have responded positively to the project. Parents have expressed their satisfaction with the tutoring program and look forward to the new school. However, the current pandemic could negatively affect the project if the government calls for curfews or quarantines.



LEADERSHIP PROFILES

The Rev. Dana Craft serves as rector for Cristo Mi Redentor, in the Anglican Church of Guatemala. His background includes:

- Began serving in Guatemala City in June 2012
- Ordained into the priesthood in 2018
- A master's degree from Knox Theological Seminary, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
- A bachelor's degree in fine arts and a bachelor of science degrees, The University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.
- A bachelor of arts degree, New World School of the Arts, Miami

His wife, Damaris Oliva de Craft, serves as a legal representative of the church. Her background includes:

- An interior designer with experience from other church building projects
- Helped open the OM International office in Guatemala
- Previous work as a mission project developer
- Served as a missionary in Swaziland and Guatemala

Civil engineer Walter Porres will volunteer his skills and oversee the team of local workers.

REFERENCES

"I have seen that (Misión Desafío) reaches places where no one else reaches, not even the government. The aid that is given does get to where it belongs and they are very good at sending evidence of how it was spent, how much was spent, and how it was delivered to which families, etc. They are super good at keeping records. They don't just give it to any family, but they investigate well who is the leader of each neighborhood and that it is given to the people who are going to take care of things the most and who can channel help to others.

"Regarding their leadership capacity, it is an excellent capacity, they have a great ability to connect, communicate, and lead. I have known of people who arrive very out of control, and they manage to make groups so that they can lead each other and calm the others down. However, I think there are always areas for improvement and one of them is that their ability to sustain themselves as a ministry needs to be strengthened.

– **María José Destarac**, operations coordinator at WOT Bands and a donor to Misión Desafío

RESEARCHER'S STATEMENT



Ana Lisbeth Salazar
Sr. Research Analyst
September 2021

Misión Desafío began after a call from God to missionaries Dana and Damaris Craft. After founding a church in zone 3 of Guatemala City, they became aware of the many needs of the people. After eight years of service, they are ready to strengthen their programs and plan to start a private Christian school. This investment in the spiritual and academic lives of these families

can help break the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse in which they live. It is a legally established foundation and has a committed staff to carry out the programs. However, Misión Desafío needs to strategically plan for the long-term financial sustainability of the ministry.

IMPLEMENTER'S INSPIRATION

"Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

– Matthew 28:19 (GNT)

HOW TO FUND THIS PROJECT

PROJECT RECAP

ID - ARDF-0921- Misión Desafío
Timeline - 12 months
Requested - \$88,947
Modified - 101921

For information about the Fund or Projects, write to:
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The Anglican Relief and Development Fund®

