Faith In Practice
Life Changing Medical Mission

GUATEMALA: IMPORTANT INFO TO KNOW (2027)

THE ISSUE: VAST POVERTY & HEALTHCARE INEQUITY

- Guatemala's population is approximately 18+ million people.
- More than half of the population lives in poverty, with rural and Indigenous communities experiencing the greatest barriers to care.
- Limited public healthcare resources and high out-of-pocket costs mean many families delay care until conditions become urgent.
- Provider access is uneven—healthcare professionals and services are concentrated in Guatemala City, leaving rural regions with far fewer options.

THE ISSUE: HEALTH & WELLNESS REALITIES

- Chronic malnutrition remains one of Guatemala's most urgent public health challenges. Many children experience stunting, especially in rural areas.
- Preventable and treatable conditions often go unmanaged due to limited access to consistent primary care, diagnostics, medications, and follow-up.
- Common needs seen in underserved communities include: surgical care, mobility/orthopedic support, women's health services, dental/medical care, and chronic disease management.
- Long travel distances, cost of transportation, and time away from work create additional barriers for patients seeking treatment.

HEALTHCARE OPTIONS IN GUATEMALA

- Private hospitals: typically high quality, but often unaffordable for most families.
- IGSS (Social Security system): generally available only to formally employed individuals enrolled through employers.
- Public/national hospitals and clinics: may be under-resourced, with long wait times and shortages of supplies/medications.
- Social hospitals/clinics: faith-based and nonprofit-supported systems that help fill gaps for underserved communities.

WHY FAITH IN PRACTICE MATTERS

- Faith In Practice is a leading provider of charitable medical care and is recognized as the 3rd largest healthcare provider in Guatemala.
- Our long-term presence, strong local partnerships, and consistent volunteer teams allow us to serve communities year-round—not just during a single trip.
- Volunteers help deliver high-quality, compassionate care while strengthening systems that support patients before, during, and after clinic.