



Monte Carmelo Elementary School Toilets
La Libertad, Peten, Guatemala

The community



Monte Carmelo is a rural community in the La Libertad municipality of Petén, Guatemala. It's located 10 miles from La Libertad, the municipal capital, and 12.5 miles from Flores, the departmental capital. Access to the community is primarily paved, with only three miles of all-weather dirt road.

Approximately 400 people live in Monte Carmelo, most of

whom rely on agriculture, either farming their own land or working for others. Some residents also run small businesses like stores, food stalls, and barber shops. The majority of the population belongs to the Maya Q'eqchi' ethnic group, speaking both their indigenous language and Spanish. While the community manages its own water supply, it lacks other basic services such as electricity, healthcare, and sanitation. Residents must travel to neighboring villages or the municipal and departmental capitals for healthcare.

The project

The community's elementary school serves 87 children from preschool through sixth grade, staffed by four teachers (one for preschool, three for primary grades). Before 2024, the school's four classrooms were in very poor condition, constructed from rustic timber boards with metal roofs and chicken wire mesh windows.

Seeds of Learning, with funding from The Global Uplift Project (TGUP) and in collaboration with the community, built two new concrete classrooms, providing furniture and equipment. Funding from TGUP was also provided to construct a proper kitchen. Although the local government promised flushing toilets, this remains a pending task despite the community's lobbying efforts. Currently, the school relies on pit latrines made of metal sheets and crumbling wood, which appear unsafe for small children who often relieve themselves in the open behind the school.



The community has been collecting resources to build proper toilets themselves, but their low income has limited progress. The planned work includes a septic pit and two flushing toilets with block and rebar walls, concrete floors, and metal roofs. So far, they've procured toilet seats, PVC pipes, metal doors, and cement. External support is urgently needed to complete these toilets and create better conditions at the school.



Monte Carmelo Primary School Toilets Budget

Materials/Resources	Quantity	Cost per Unit	Total Cost
Cinder Blocks	562	\$0.80	\$449.60
Cement (45 Kg bag)	25	\$8.60	\$215.00
3/8"x20' corrugated metal rods (quintal)	9	\$38.50	\$346.50
Metal tying wire (pound)	25	\$0.80	\$20.00
3" nails (pound)	10	\$1.32	\$13.20
Sand (cubic meter)	5	\$40.00	\$200.00
Gravel (cubic meter)	5	\$40.00	\$200.00
Toilet seats	2	\$79.00	\$158.00
PVC piping (all the pipes and accessories)	1	\$66.00	\$66.00
Metal doors	2	\$79.00	\$158.00
Builder salary (work days)	30	\$22.00	\$660.00
Total			\$2,486.30
Community contribution (materials and cash)			-\$831.58
SOL donor			-\$900.00
Project management & reporting			\$150.94
Total requested			\$905.66