

# one school one garden

## Guatemala Pilot Overview

Guatemala, located right below Mexico, is blessed with some of the world's best natural beauty and resources including two coasts, soaring mountain ranges and seemingly endless forests criss-crossed by rivers. But, despite its natural wealth, Guatemala hosts the **3rd highest rate** of chronically malnourished children - **approximately 54% of Guatemalan children** don't ever have enough food to eat, which impedes brain development, stunts growth and oftentimes leads to death.

Roughly half of Guatemala's 14 million residents live on less than \$2 per day. Yet the native Mayan population, often rural farmers, fare even worse - **80% of the children in this segment suffer from chronic malnutrition**. According to the United Nations Children's Fund, only Afghanistan and Yemen have worse rates of chronic malnourishment.



Higher world prices of food, droughts, lack of agricultural infrastructure, poor land management, and low employment rates among other factors have all contributed to malnutrition in Guatemala.

El Infinito is a community-based organization in Quetzaltenango (Xela), Guatemala. The organization is located in the heart of Xela and works to improve education and spur cultural and social changes. At their headquarters they host agricultural workshops, demonstrations on urban sustainability and environmental forums to help empower and inspire the local population. Additionally, El Infinito partners with schools and other organizations throughout Guatemala to promote sustainable gardening methods and organic foods with the help of their demonstration garden in their headquarters.