



# CAPUTO CHILDREN'S FUND

**2018  
2020**

**COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)  
TO GLOBAL COMPACT**



**CAPUTO CHILDREN'S FUND - GUATEMALA**

<http://www.caputo-children-fund.org/>

## Declaration of the Executive Department Support



### Caputo Children`s Fund

April 21, 2011

H.E. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I am pleased to confirm that Caputo Children`s Fund supports the ten principles of UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment, and anti- corruption.

With this commitment, we express our intent to advance these principles within our sphere of influence, and will make a clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders the general public.

We also pledge to take part in the activities of the UN Global Compact where appropriate and feasible – through, for instance, participation in Country/Local Networks; involvement in specialized initiatives and work streams; engagement in partnership projects; and reviewing and providing commentary to participating companies on their Communication on Progress.

Sincerely yours,

Salvatore Ferdinando Antonio CAPUTO  
CEO President/Executive Director

13 Ave. "A" 15-73, zona 11, Col. Loma Linda, Guatemala City, Guatemala C.A.  
[caputo.children.fund@gmail.com](mailto:caputo.children.fund@gmail.com) Tel/Fax: +502 2473-0770  
Web: <http://www.caputo-children-fund.org/> [www.nobledynasty.com](http://www.nobledynasty.com)

# Guatemala – Global Compact



## Overview



The Global Compact Network Guatemala was launched in 2005 as a business-led network with multi-stakeholder participation.

Vision: To be the main resource and point of contact in Guatemala for the private sector concerning the UN Global Compact and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mission: The Global Compact Network Guatemala is dedicated to promoting the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles and the Sustainable Development Goals and to support local organizations with environmental, social and ethical management.



Caputo Children`s Fund has been a party to the [United Nations' Global Compact](#) since 2012. Launched by then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the Global Compact's goal is to encourage companies, together with other social agents, to contribute to the construction of a more humane and sustainable global economy. This initiative is based on universally recognized rights.

The UN's agencies involved directly with the Compact are: The [Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights - UNHCHR](#), the [UN Environment Programme – UNEP](#), the [International Labor Organization – ILO](#), and the [UN Development Program - UNDP](#). As a party to the Global Compact, Caputo Children`s Fund's senior management states its commitment to the Compact's ten Basic Principles:



#### Human Rights

[Principle 1](#): Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

[Principle 2](#): make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

#### Labour

[Principle 3](#): Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

[Principle 4](#): the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

[Principle 5](#): the effective abolition of child labour; and

[Principle 6](#): the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

#### Environment

[Principle 7](#): Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

[Principle 8](#): undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

[Principle 9](#): encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

#### Anti-Corruption

[Principle 10](#): Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

## **A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT**

We live in a world of abundance, yet many people around the world are in desperate need. Poverty, death, disease, and disasters wreak chaos in the lives of millions. Most of times little children are the ones who suffer the most from these problems, and they are the ones most desperately in need of your help

Millions of children suffer from lack of food, health care, neglect and abuse. Among all children, the children of Africa and the street children of Central America suffer most. But you don't have to stand by hopelessly while children are going hungry. The majority of them are homeless, sleeping on sidewalks or by an abandoned or uncompleted building. To reduce their desperation and hunger, many have become inhalant addicts, sniffing industrial solvents that almost certainly cause brain damage. Young girls, twelve or thirteen old, become prostitutes in order to obtain food.

You can help provide food and supplies to children and their families swiftly and efficiently. From hurricanes to earthquakes and floods, you can be confident that your support to Caputo Children's Fund hard work will save lives and bring hope to people in great need.

Our programs focus on providing food, medical assistance, emergency relief, and creating sustainable development.

Since 1992, we have provided food, clothing, medical assistance, and educational opportunities to the street children, homeless elderly people and needy families of Guatemala City. Thousands of young children are forced to work in the dangerous firework industry, risking their lives and health to make money for their impoverished families.

We also provide assistance to orphanages, schools, and other charitable groups in these regions.

A key goal is to help families in need move past needing help and into becoming self-sufficient members of their community. Through long-term, self-help development programs funded by grants and individual donors, thousands of children in countries around the world will increase their ability to be self-sufficient by learning and applying new, marketable skills.

## Guatemala Profile



A country of striking features and a strong indigenous culture, Guatemala's natural beauty and powerful identity stand in stark contrast to its bloody past and troubled present.

Mountainous, heavily forested and dotted with Mayan ruins, lakes, volcanoes, orchids and exotic birds, Guatemala is one of the most beautiful countries in Central America.

Its indigenous population, the Maya, make up about half of the population. Mayan languages are spoken alongside Spanish, the official tongue. Many Guatemalans are of mixed Amerindian-Hispanic origin.

In 1996 it emerged from a 36-year-long civil war which pitted leftist, mostly Mayan insurgents against the army, which - backed by the US - waged a vicious campaign to eliminate the guerrillas.

More than 200,000 people - most of them civilians - were killed or disappeared. Despite an official finding that 93% of all atrocities carried out during the war had been committed by the security forces, moves to bring those responsible to account started only after a long delay.

Guatemalans live in one of the most inequitable societies in the region. Poverty is particularly widespread in the countryside and among indigenous communities. Illiteracy, infant mortality and malnutrition are among the highest in the region, life expectancy is among the lowest and, in common with many of its neighbors, the country is plagued by organized crime and violent street gangs. It is a major corridor for smuggling drugs from South America to the United States.

Despite talks and international mediation, a long-running territorial dispute with neighboring Belize remains unresolved. Guatemala lays claim to thousands of square kilometers of land.

*A timeline explores more than 50 years of violent suppression and revolving dictatorships in the country and the role played by the U.S.* (Sources: Amnesty International, BBC, Britannica, The Commission for Historical Clarification ("Guatemala Memory of Silence" report), [www.Consortiumnews.com](http://www.Consortiumnews.com), Global security.com, The National Security Archive, Nations Encyclopedia, The New York Times).

With a population of 14 million people (estimated March 2014), Guatemala is the second most populated country in Central America (after El Salvador). Guatemala has a long history of violence, political instability, and foreign corporations exploiting the country's natural and economic resources. There's a marked disparity in income distribution within Guatemala, and Mayan Indians, the majority of the population, are the most impoverished. A former Spanish colony, the country has been run by an oligarchy of wealthy landowners. For decades, one of Guatemala's most influential corporations has been the U.S.-owned United Fruit Company, what some Guatemalans call el pulpo ("the octopus"). The company is the largest landowner and employer in the country, and many people have criticized it for receiving large tax breaks and using its political influence to instigate a U.S.-backed coup in 1954 that led to an era of human rights violations against Guatemalans.

### **Reconciliation Begins, Immunity Remains 2000–2008**

In March 1999, after more than 40 years since the U.S. first financed the counter-terrorism campaign that led to thousands of civilian deaths in Guatemala's civil war, President Bill Clinton publicly apologized to Guatemalans during a short visit to the country.

In July 2005, thousands of records were discovered at the Guatemala National Police archive. The documents contain information about the 36 years of internal armed conflict that resulted in 200,000 deaths and "disappearances." Families of the victims and human rights organizations believe that the documents could lead to knowledge about the whereabouts of the "disappeared."

On July 12, 2005, the court issued a historic ruling authorizing the PDH (Guatemalan Human Rights Commission) to inspect the files and documents. The PDH is working on the restoration of the documents. With a \$2 million grant from the governments of Switzerland and Sweden, archive workers are focusing on the restoration and organization of the documents.

Twelve years after the end of the civil war, impunity remains, as little progress has been made toward promoting accountability and to bringing human rights perpetrators to justice. Human rights investigators and defenders continue to be the targets of threats, and clandestine security organizations still operate with impunity.

Guatemalans continue to face high levels of violence and weak and corrupt law enforcement institutions. Sixty percent of the country lives in poverty, and the increasing levels of crime, gang violence and drug dealing show a society where inequality, racism and poverty dominate many peoples' lives.

### **FIGHTING FOR LIFE**

The U.N. World Food Program is working to combat child malnutrition in Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala - four of Latin America's

poorest countries - amid food shortages provoked by a combination of factors including drought, low coffee prices, environmental degradation and high rural unemployment.

"They cannot withstand a lot more of this," said Dorte Ellehammer, head of U.N. food program in Guatemala. "Now we're entering this critical period because they have no food left, and they don't have the money in reserve that they would have in past years." Jocotan's (Chiquimula region) small church-run nutritional clinic treated as many as 73 children at a time when starvation was the most acute. At the time, the extremely emaciated children reminded aid workers and experts of starvation they had seen in Africa, and the crisis reached a level not often seen in the Americas.

#### **GUATEMALA HAS THE HIGHEST RATE OF MALNOURISHED CHILDREN IN ALL OF LATIN AMERICA.**

Guatemala has the highest rate of malnourished children in the Western Hemisphere, even higher than Haiti, the region's poorest country. The Central American nation also ranks sixth in the world for chronic malnutrition. Malnourished children do not grow properly. Often, they are much thinner and shorter than they ought to be for their age. Malnutrition is most prevalent in mountain villages like Jocotán and Camotán in the department of Chiquimula, east of Guatemala City. Here, most everyone is petite, the result of years of insufficient food. Most families live in adobe homes with thatched roofs and dirt floors and depend on agricultural work.

#### **Guatemala's malnutrition facts**

- Guatemala has the highest rate of malnutrition in Latin America and ranks sixth in the world for chronic malnutrition.
- More than 1 million children under the age of five suffer from chronic malnutrition. An estimated 69.5 percent are indigenous children.
- An estimated 53 percent of children who die under the age of five die as a result of complications linked to malnutrition.
- Two national initiatives launched in 2004 aim to reduce chronic malnutrition to 25 percent from the current 49.3 percent by the year 2016.

Source: UNICEF



## Who We Are

### HISTORY



Dr. Salvatore Caputo, Executive Director of Caputo Children's Fund, traveled to Central & South America, Africa, Brazil and Philippines for work duties in 1968 to 2002. While there, he and his wife helped at residential facilities for adults with physical challenges, homeless elderly people and street children. He also worked inflexibly in remote villages in Guatemala, Central America.

In 1968, the first time he visited Guatemala, he was astonished to see so many street children besieged to survive, sleeping on sidewalks, to reduce their desperation and

hunger; they become inhalant addicts, sniffing industrial solvents. So touched by such inhuman worldwide treatment to people because of their inability to defend themselves or provide proper food and accommodation, we created a Non-Profit Organization, the CAPUTO CHILDREN'S FUND, that is committed to improve the lives of the poorest of the poor, the marginalized and the oppressed in Guatemala City. Our mandate is building better communities through compassion, love and assistance. We assist individuals, especially street children, and families to empower themselves to become self-sufficient by providing education, health care and financial assistance when we can.

The present situation of world food insecurity cannot leave us indifferent. Socrates said long ago that as long as one man goes hungry there would always be war.

You can play a vital role in creating a world free of hunger and extreme poverty. Chronic hunger means that millions of children die before reaching their teens, adults never attain their full potential, and communities and nations are stalled on the road to development. Hunger in these proportions represents a stunning failure on the part of humanity.

Humankind has the power to effect change; to end hunger, to fight poverty and disease, and to banish illiteracy. We cannot tolerate hunger and malnutrition. We have the techniques and the resources to eliminate them. What is lacking is human solidarity and political will.

CAPUTO CHILDREN'S FUND Is an International Charitable and Social Welfare Entity, nonprofit, apolitical, non-religious and independent Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), dedicated to provide humanitarian assistance to people with extreme poverty and where inevitability necessity of food, education, literacy, health and sanitation, human development, and all sorts of needs without regard to race, religion or national origin. The primary objective is to aid starving children. We operate from Guatemala City. The Foundation is registered at the Government Ministry under the following numbers:

Number 24850, folio 24850, book 1 of Electronic System, 10/12/2009.

Application No. 51091118430.

Caputo Children's Fund is a registered tax-exempt non-profit Organization (NGO) in the Republic of Guatemala.

Charity Registration Resolution Number: R-2011-03-01-000039

Federal ID Tax (NIT): 7216620-7

## Goals and objectives.



The aims and objectives of the Association are: to help people in the following distinctions:

- Neglected children known as the street children;
- Abandoned Seniors;
- People with low incomes or in poverty;
- All kinds of people who suffer from the effects left by the armed conflict in Guatemala.
- People who suffer from interdiction of alkaloids, drugs and alcohol.
- Promote a culture of continuous evaluation of education programs within and outside the Republic of Guatemala;
- Giving certainty to the distribution of aid all people in extreme need;
- Promoting systematic process of education at all educational levels;
- Establish cooperative relationships with related international organizations to receive contributions, gifts in kind and cash, collaboration, cooperation and assistance necessary for the proper functioning of the association, to integrate a system of accreditation and recognition of these activities.

At this time, we will be focusing our assistance in these specific countries: Central America: Guatemala, El Salvador.

## **GUATEMALAN STREET CHILDREN**

About 6 thousand children living on the streets of Guatemala City, in precarious conditions really, most inhale glue or any other chemical that can keep them away from hunger, cold and loneliness, are dedicated to steal in many different ways, many girls prostitute themselves to get some money and able to feed or buy more drugs. Most of the children are between 7 and 14 years. They come from poor or marginalized neighborhoods of the city areas where the population emigrated from inside the country for economic reasons or by after war situations.

The boys and street girls flee from home abuse, beatings and misery they find in their families. But street life is not better, the children are more exposed to poverty, accidents, rapes, injuries, illnesses and even murder. It is so sad to see so many children on the streets, many die, violence and hunger are the main causes of these deaths. There are institutions that are dedicated to assisting, providing, food, shelter, clothing and a small hope of being able to rehabilitate their lives.

More than 75,000 children have been identified as severely malnourished in Guatemala. This is as a result of ongoing poverty, which particularly affects children living in rural areas. Infant mortality rates are among some of the highest in the region at 41 per 1,000 live births, while maternal mortality is 290 per 100,000 live births. Organized crime, violent street gangs and domestic violence are major problem in Guatemala, and sexual abuse and incest affect 30 per cent of girls and 18 per cent of boys.

### **The characterization of the character**

The main protagonist, let's call him X child, very easy to identify him; wearing red baseball cap, dirty trousers, sweaters and broken tennis shoes. It is a child of taciturn nature and melancholy, like all beggars, roam the streets of Guatemala, eating what he finds in his walk, sleeping on sidewalks as the son of anyone, as garbage of the city.

### **A life on the streets**

It is known that the child X does not feel well in her aunt's house, so he wants to escape once and forever. He crosses the path another child who says that life on the street is the best thing that one is not obliged to attend school and only need to beg to eat at ease. These insinuations are sufficient for the child X decision to leave home, after burning the photographs of his parents in the yard of his aunt's house.

So change the course of his life and begins the story of a child over the street. But very soon, while vague without further consolation of hope but feel a profound freedom inside, he realizes that life on the street is far more dangerous and complicated. While it is true that there is solidarity between those who share the



same fate, it is also true that one loses confidence in others, although all share the same dreams, even to fall in love with a person who holds another status, as happens to X child, who has a crush on a girl whose parents are at home and have work and money.

The Street children, from the moment starts begging on eagerness to take bread in their mouths, as well as learn to inhale glue to escape from reality and take refuge in false illusions, learns also the rules to survive by stealing and run fast, because they, as elements as "non socials", flee from the police, patrol cars and uniformed and armed guards, for fear that if caught they are locked in the cell in a police station, where they will stated as criminals, prostitutes and members of the "maras" (gangs) who are subjected to a regime of abuse and humiliation.

### **PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR STREET CHILDREN**



Street Children Project aims at improving the health, welfare and quality of life of street children. The focus of the project is on developing the capacity of local organizations to prevent, assess and manage psychoactive substance use problems among street children. The children in these programs are all children who live on the street. Some live with a parent or relative but all are extremely poor and in desperate situations.

**HOPE FOR STREET CHILDREN.** Our Mission is in working with the poor, oppressed, suffering Street Children and all abandoned children. Caputo Children's Fund is committed to building long-term community benefits for the street children of Guatemala City. Humanitarian efforts are our vision is to bring relief to the street children and elderly people where it is needed most.

We accomplish this by rescuing them from the street and providing a safe Christian refuge where they can grow and learn. We also try to initiate community programs that help to protect and safeguard all children.

### **How We Work**

Our principal goal is to unite the children with their families. We try to find children who are entering the streets first time, before they are captivated by the street gangs; we rescue them and take them to a safe place. After counseling we

take the children to join with their families, if not possible, to some orphanage that we patronage.

### **Our goals:**

We are looking forward to enlarge our work among the street children. Our final goal is to see as many children as possible to be integrated into our Home for children at Guatemala. In a short term a child gets initial counseling, and then in the longer term rehabilitation center where a child gets ready to join, momentarily, a family home until we can find an orphanage ready to assist them. The Children face many challenges in regards to health, education, security and food provision.

## **OUR PROGRAMS THROUGH PARTNERS**



### **Education**

Thousands of children, specially street children, in Guatemala are not enrolled in school; Caputo Children's fund focuses on providing basic education to those who need it most. Access to education is not only a basic human right, but also a key factor in reducing poverty and child labor.

### **Emergencies**

Many of the regions where Caputo Children's fund works are highly vulnerable to conflict-based emergencies and natural disaster. They are prone to floods, storms, earthquakes and droughts. The frequency of these disasters is increasing at an alarming rate.

## **Health**

Caputo children's fund recognizes that poverty, inequality and marginalization are both the root causes and consequences of poor health. Today, there are people living in extreme poverty, most of whom regularly experience health problems.

## **Livelihoods**

Caputo Children's Fund, with the help of the field partners, has been supporting the livelihoods of the poorest people in the poorest settlement sections of the city. But it is about so much more than just income, it is about everything that makes an impact on a person's life.

### **CAPUTO CHILDREN'S FUND FIELD PARTNERS**

Caputo Children's Fund recognizes that in order to fight poverty we cannot work on our own. Each of the partners are involved in various ministry activities that assist in our organization in meeting our "mission statement". Our partners are administratively independent. We meet regularly with all of our partners so we can continue to know how we can support and expand their ministries. Our partners come from a range of different backgrounds, from small community-based groups to governments and globally based organizations.

## **Working together**

Poverty has many causes. These include lack of education, weak governance, natural disasters, inequality and loss of employment. To make poverty history, each of these causes needs to be tackled. This is the challenge we have set ourselves.

One of the ways we try to do this is to bring together a wide variety of people and organizations. Together we can pool our knowledge and resources and work together to fight poverty.

In this diverse world, we have realized that working with others and engaging in partnership will help us achieve our overall aim of making poverty a thing of the past.

Projects for street children not only include places of refuge for young people for whom the street has become the center of their lives. Caputo Children's Fund's partners in the field and their staff also stand up for the rights of the boys and girls. They constantly draw public attention to violence and question the values and the behavior of society.



