



**The Chajulense Association of Women United for Life (ACMUV)**

ACMUV was created by a group of women with the help of Coffee Kids' former partner, the Chajulense Association. ACMUV strives to provide more economic opportunities for women in this remote community.

Coffee Kids began supporting ACMUV this year after supporting a textile project with the Chajulense Association in 2007. The women will continue working in textile production, but shift focus to a microcredit program.

**Life in Guatemala**

In Guatemala, almost 76% of the population lives on \$2 a day or less. The town of Chajul is located in the Ixil Triangle, a remote region that was hard hit by Guatemala's civil war. Twelve years after peace accords were signed ending the war, Chajul still suffers from high rates of unemployment, lack of infrastructure and elevated mortality rates.

The main economic activity in Chajul is agriculture, but the previous years have seen an increase in tourism-related activities such as eco-tourism and artisan production.

**Coffee Kids and ACMUV**

ACMUV's microcredit program will provide business training to the women of Chajul and access to loans to initiate their own small business. Members of ACMUV will participate in an exchange with Coffee Kids' partner AUGE of Veracruz, Mexico, to benefit from their extensive experience with microcredit. With adequate training and constant follow-up, women in Chajul can strengthen their administrative abilities and management skills.

The project is expected to promote a more diversified economy and provide additional income for families. Women in the program will become more confident in managing their own finances and small businesses.

**2008 Results**

- Over 45 women participated in the Chajulense Association's textile project. Many of them will take part in ACMUV's microcredit project.
- ACMUV developed a catalog of the 112 textile products they produce.
- With the support of Coffee Kids, the group purchased a foot-operated loom to increase production, and repaired another loom for use at the workshop.
- Four women received training on operation of the loom and teach that skill to other women.
- Over the past year, 35 women attended workshops and talks on gender equality, participation and organization.



*A participant in ACMUV's textile project works on a backstrap loom.*