

WINGS 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends,

In 2021, WINGS celebrated our 20th Anniversary. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us – we could not have come this far without your unwavering support and belief in the values that drive our work. Over two decades, WINGS has provided reproductive health services and education to vulnerable Guatemalan youth, women, and men. Since our inception, we have prevented an estimated 319,685 unintended pregnancies, 1,777 child deaths & 112 maternal deaths. What an incredible achievement for a reproductive health organization in a country where general healthcare can be difficult to access, let alone rights-based, patient-centered reproductive healthcare. We are proud of this milestone and are excited to share our annual results with you in this report.

In the face of the ongoing global pandemic, we not only survived but thrived during 2021, albeit with a different distribution of services than what we had originally projected. Despite the challenges we faced providing tubal ligations in hospitals burdened by COVID-19 cases, we were able to provide permanent and long-acting reversible contraception to 8,504 individuals in 2021. Included among those patients were a remarkable 945 men who received vasectomies. Prior to the pandemic, we had never provided more than 300 vasectomies in a year – we are very proud of this huge achievement and testament to our ability to adapt to the challenges we face.

We are also especially pleased to highlight the launch of our first Community Advisory Board with members from across the Central Region of Guatemala. In our continued efforts to meet these international best-practice standards, and as an important next step in rights-based care at WINGS, the Community Advisory Board ensures the meaningful inclusion of community voices in our organizational decision-making processes. This group provides insight into their communities' needs and perceptions of our services, they help us evaluate our current activities, and shape the vision for future programming.

As we celebrated our achievements over the past 20 years, 2021 was also a year of transition at WINGS. Rodrigo Barillas, our Executive Director since 2014, moved on to a new opportunity that will allow him to continue having a huge impact in the lives of women and girls across Guatemala. In his place, after an extensive search process, Eleanor Unsworth, WINGS' former Programs Director, was confirmed as our new Executive Director. Our team demonstrated strength, stability, and confidence through this period of transition and we now look to the future with great anticipation and high expectations for all that we will continue to achieve together.

With gratitude as we look to a bright tomorrow,



Theresa Wiemerskirch
President of the Board of Directors



Eleanor Unsworth
WINGS Executive Director

A young girl with dark hair tied back, wearing a vibrant pink lace-trimmed blouse and a long, pleated skirt with a colorful geometric pattern in shades of purple, green, and yellow. She is standing against a bright blue wall, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. Her right hand is resting on a metal railing. She is wearing green sandals.

ABOUT WINGS

Founded in 2001, WINGS provides quality reproductive health education and services to underserved, primarily rural Guatemalan youth, women and men. We take a holistic approach to reproductive health that recognizes the diverse barriers to exercising rights at the local level and engages community members, including indigenous women and girls, to secure reproductive rights and bring their voices to the forefront of the decision-making process. Working in predominantly rural, indigenous, and low-income departments in Guatemala, we provide education and services through a network of Youth Leaders, volunteer health promoters, mobile units, and stationary clinics.

OUR MISSION

WINGS provides quality reproductive health education and services to underserved, primarily rural Guatemalan youth, women, and men.

OUR VISION

WINGS envisions a future where all Guatemalans thrive and are able to fully exercise their sexual and reproductive rights.

REGIONS SERVED

As part of our vision for WINGS 2025 of national coverage, we laid the groundwork in 2021 to grow into additional departments in early 2022. This is our current coverage area, having recently added a fourth mobile unit based in Alta Verapaz which allows us to cover Baja Verapaz and Izabal, along with deepening our presence in Quiché.



2021 IMPACT*



21,911

UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES PREVENTED

108

CHILD DEATHS PREVENTED

6

MATERNAL DEATHS PREVENTED

*Calculated using the Marie Stopes International "Impact 2" demographic mathematical model.

SERVICE PROVISION

TUBAL LIGATIONS

466

29%

of 1,609 projected

VASECTOMIES

945

163%

of 580 projected

IUDS

1,718

100%

of 1,713 projected

SUBDERMAL HORMONAL IMPLANTS

5,375

96%

of 5,610 projected

QUARTERLY INJECTIONS

6,063

111%

of 5,444 projected

MONTHLY INJECTIONS

2,402

134%

of 1,789 projected

BIRTH CONTROL PILL PACKS

2,660

283%

of 940 projected

CONDOMS

71,147

395%

of 18,000 projected

EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTIVE PILLS

455

88%

of 520 projected

CERVICAL CANCER SCREENINGS

2,915

90%

of 3,243 projected





WINGS HISTORY WITH VASECTOMIES AND 2021'S SUCCESS

WINGS began providing tubal ligations and vasectomies in mid-2015 as the vision of our then-Executive Director, Rodrigo Barillas, and our newly appointed Medical Director, Dr. Michelle Dubón, came to fruition. Michelle remembers what others told her about our plan to provide vasectomies as well as tubal ligations at that time: “People told us that we were crazy and that we would probably only be able to operate on a couple of men each month. People told us it was impossible to even think about taking vasectomy services to rural areas, let alone providing vasectomies to hundreds of men as we were planning.” But Rodrigo and Michelle persevered, aiming to provide more and more vasectomies each year.

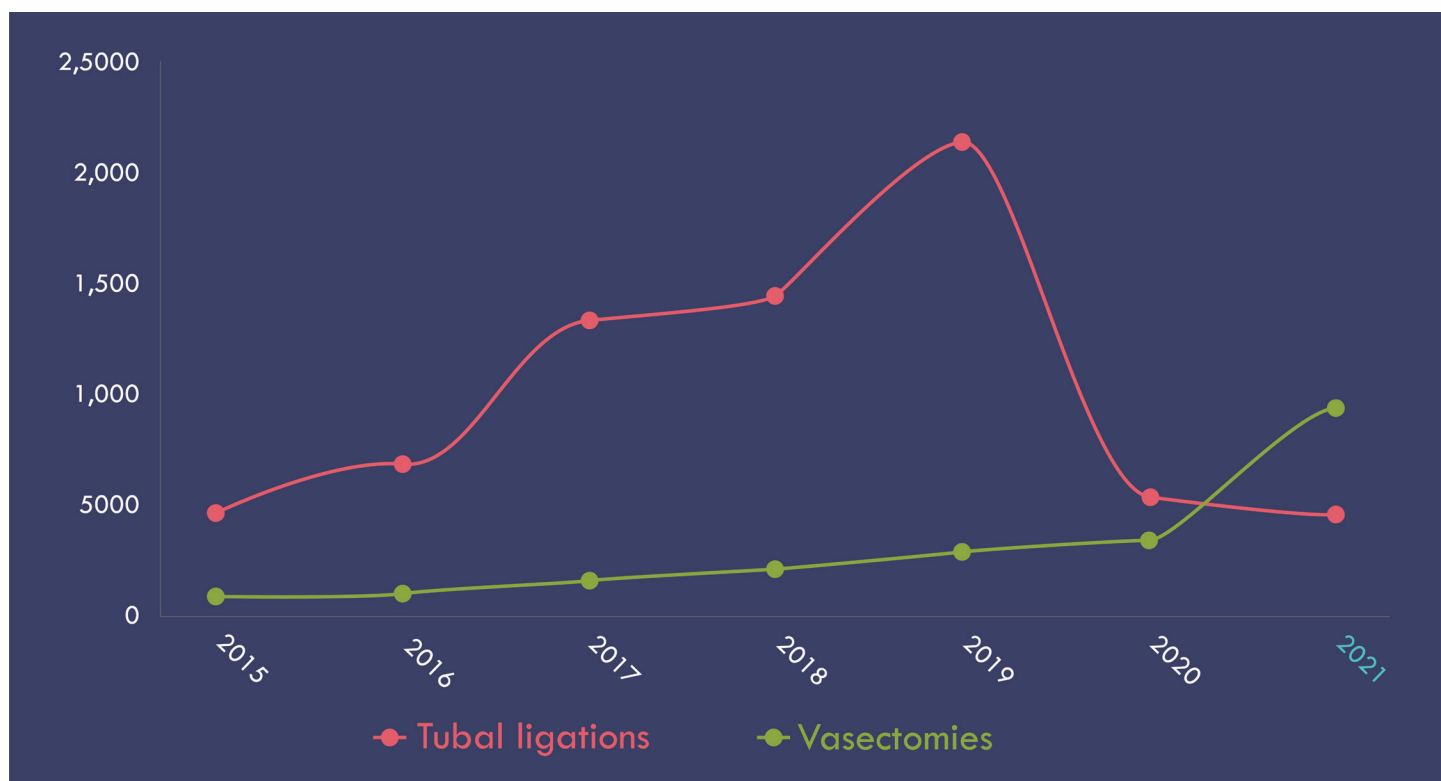
Vasectomy is the most effective contraceptive method there is, using a precise and simple procedure. It usually lasts on average half an hour and is performed under local anesthesia. The biggest myth about the vasectomy is that it causes impotence which is totally false. On the contrary, there are studies that show that some men report greater sexual pleasure after

having a vasectomy because of the peace of mind of not running the risk of getting their partner pregnant. At WINGS, we use the best available technology and we are aligned with what is considered internationally as the best clinical practice: scalpel-free vasectomy with cauterization of the vas deferens.

In 2020, we saw all of our ambitious clinical projections collapse in the face of the pandemic. EXCEPT for our projections for vasectomies – we performed 61% of our projected vasectomies despite restrictions that kept us from providing tubal ligations.

In 2021, we, along with the rest of the world, had hoped that pandemic restrictions would ease enough so that we could return to more ‘normal’ levels of productivity. This did not happen. As you can see from the chart below, leading up to 2020, tubal ligations had become one of our most sought-after services. But due to limited access to hospitals affected by COVID cases, we could not offer the number of tubal ligation clinics originally intended. We provided 466 out of a projected 1,609 tubal ligations (29%). Fortunately, vasectomies can be safely performed in out-of-hospital clinical settings. **As a result, we aimed to provide 580 and provided 945 vasectomies (163%)** – more than we ever could have imagined, especially if you had asked us in 2015! This success is not something we take lightly, but we are also realistic and do not anticipate achieving this same level of year-over-year growth into the future.

In 2022, as our tubal ligation services are reactivating, we are projecting 760 vasectomies and are well on our way to that goal.





TEEN REALITIES

Recall the first year of the pandemic – your world shrinking around you, keeping you away from friends and family. Now imagine that extreme isolation stretching on for over two years... as a teenager...in a small village facing strict governmental restrictions. In an interesting turn of events, the pandemic forced many Guatemalan youth to practice abstinence, hence decreasing the teen pregnancy rate, but those same quarantine and curfew mandates led to terrible isolation and depression.

The youth that we serve told us this story again and again – that yes, they were safe from COVID but that they just couldn't live like this with no external connections. Last year, we began to hear about increased violence in their homes, and something we had not yet dealt with: disclosures of suicidal thoughts. We stepped into action when it became clear that Guatemalan youth trusted WINGS staff with this vulnerable information. We hired a Youth Counselor to round out our Youth Program staff, providing one-on-one case management, including warm handoffs to local resources, when adolescents shared situations with us where we could help.

Additionally, teens had a hard time accessing our services in person because they no longer had the excuse of an after-school activity or study session to have an appointment with us. So, we continued the already-tried and true reliance on WhatsApp and social media to connect with teenagers. We started using Facebook LIVE to share pertinent information and connect in a new way. And our entire Youth Program staff kicked into high gear in terms of answering questions, being available, and finding creative ways to find solutions for youth.

The WINGS Board of Directors and staff have strived for years to increasingly meet the international standards of rights-based care for our patients and program participants. We have taken concrete measures to ensure quality of care and accessibility of our services for our target population. We have implemented policies and protocols that establish and protect the basic rights of our patients, and invested heavily in training staff on rights-based counseling. **In 2021, we took another step towards implementing the tenets of rights-based care: community participation in program design and monitoring.** To better meet this standard, we launched a Community Advisory Board in January 2021 based in Antigua Guatemala. This group included 9 representatives from Sacatepéquez, Chimaltenango and Escuintla – two Youth Leader graduates, three community partners, two patients, one Youth Leader parent, and one Volunteer Promoter, ranging in ages from 19 to 55.

The CAB met seven times in 2021, contributing feedback and community needs information that guided WINGS' 2022 work plans.



2021 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

EXPENSES: \$1,490,151

ADMINISTRATION

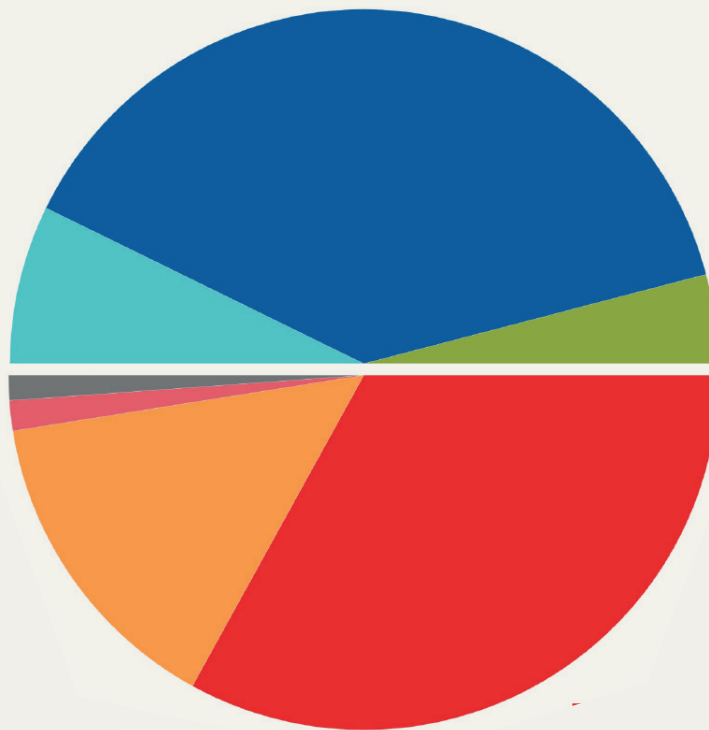
\$216,145

PROGRAMS

\$1,152,838

DEVELOPMENT

\$121,168



IN-KIND

\$6,748

OTHER

\$15,453

INDIVIDUALS

\$546,339

FOUNDATIONS

\$1,246,072

REVENUE: \$1,814,612

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO
BOARD-MANDATED
OPERATING RESERVE
\$90,104**

**NET FINANCIAL SURPLUS:
\$234,356**



THANK YOU!

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