



**International Justice Mission** (IJM)

Location: GUATEMALA

Ministry: Protecting people in poverty from violence

More Information: International Justice Mission (IJM) is a global Christian organization that protects the poor from violence. They accomplish this by partnering with local authorities to rescue victims of violence, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors, and strengthen justice systems. Our church has formally partnered with IJM since 2014 and, beginning in 2020, we decided to focus our support on their Guatemala project. While Guatemala is a place of natural beauty, IJM reports that “there is a hidden plague of sexual violence against women and children.” They report that 1 in 5 girls are sexually abused at least once in their lives and 65% of victims in reported cases of sexual violence are children. Human rights experts said the system was too broken in Guatemala to protect people in poverty, but IJM has worked tirelessly since 2005 to meet this challenge. Their efforts have resulted in stronger laws against sexual violence and a new Sex Crimes Unit being launched, evidence of a country getting serious about tackling this crime. The IJM Guatemala field office has now asserted themselves as a strategic hub of operations in Central America, and we are joining their efforts to establish a Northern Triangle Hub, which encompasses the countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. This regional hub will allow IJM to scale its work and footprint in Central America and ignite a transformational movement of justice and protection for women and children across the region.

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