

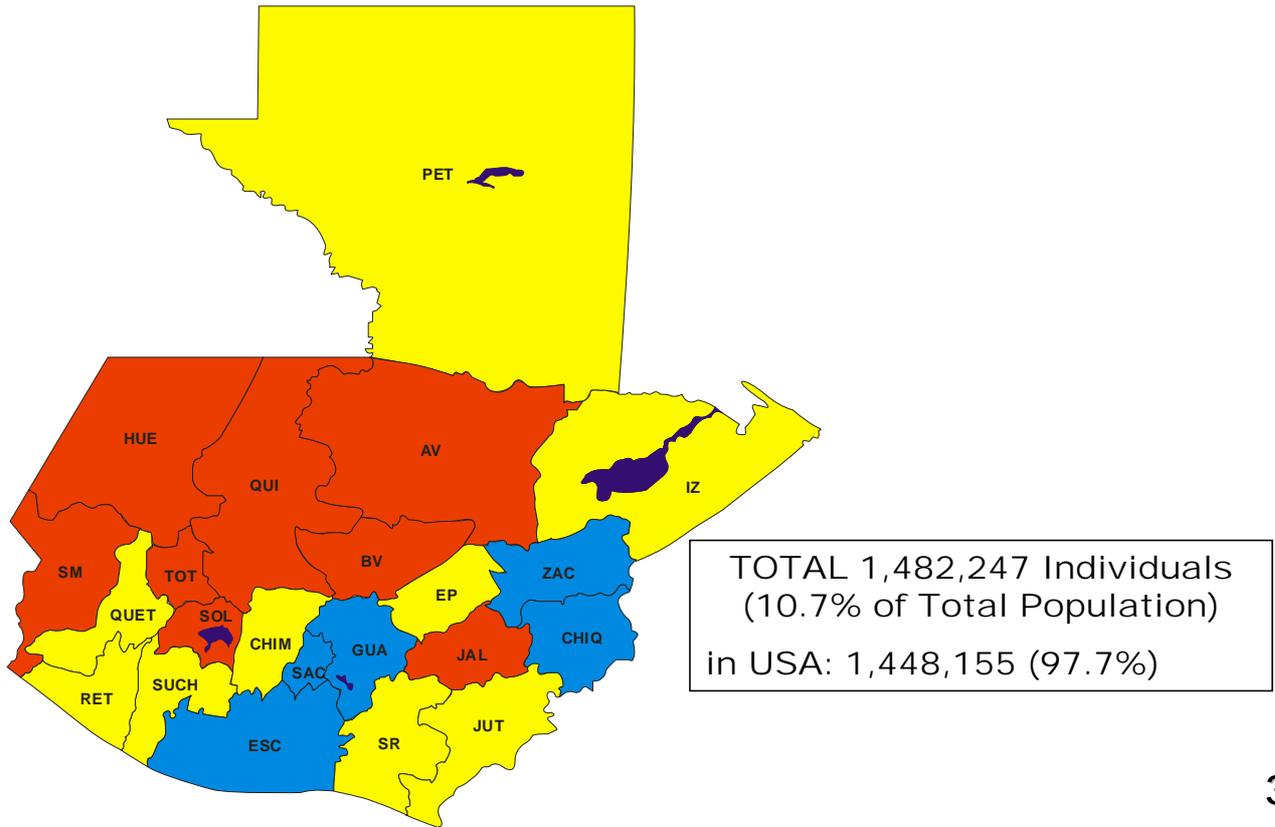
# MEDICAL INSURANCE FINANCED BY REMITTANCES



## BACKGROUND

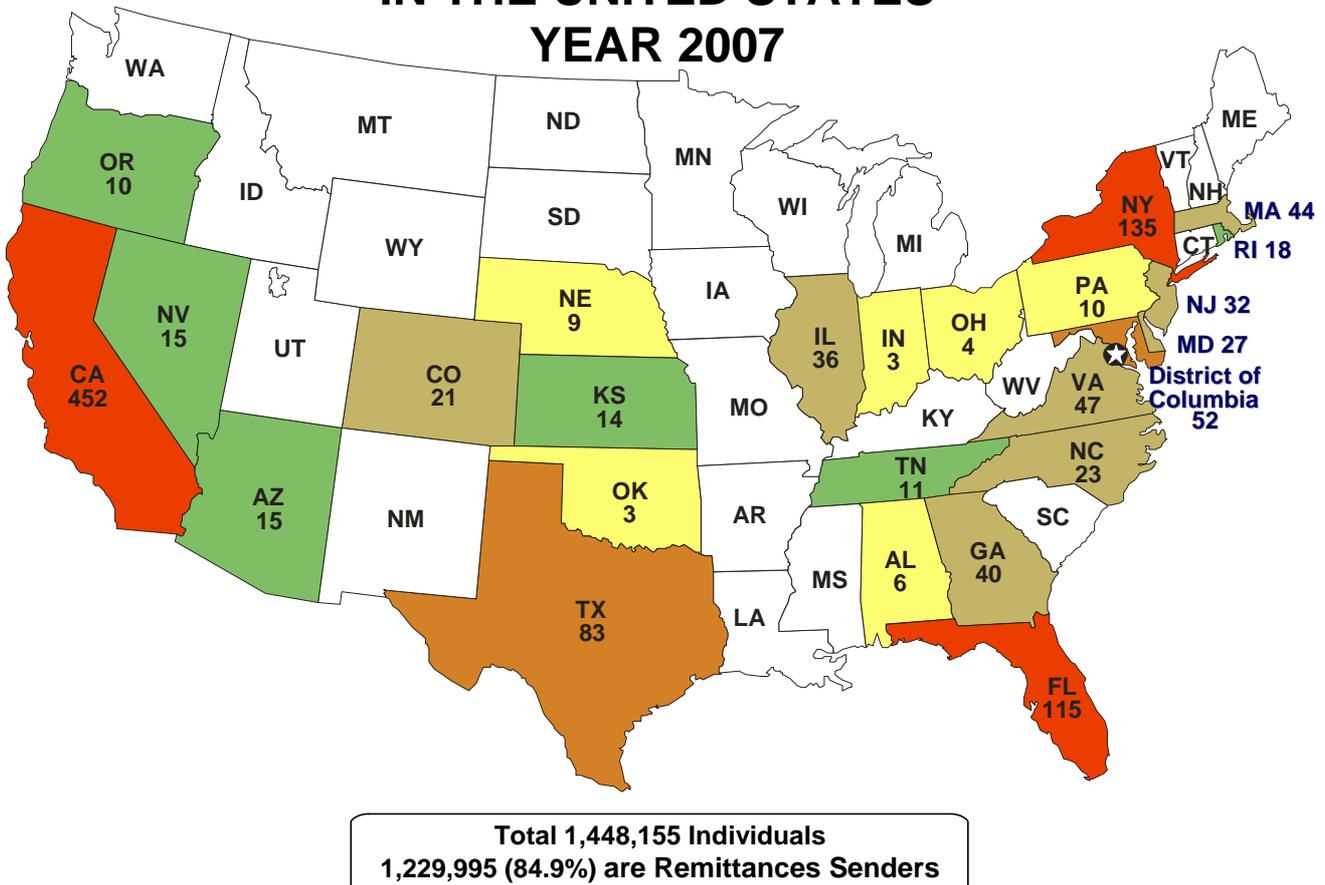
- Experience has shown that countries as Guatemala lack updated data on international migration and remittances. Thus, IOM carries out annual surveys since 2002 to study different issues proving the multidirectional relationship that exists between Guatemalan migrants living abroad, mainly in the United States, and their families in their communities of origin.
- These household surveys have been helpful to determine the number of Guatemalans living abroad, their place of birth and their socioeconomic level. Also, these surveys have been useful to establish the amounts of remittances received by families in Guatemala, as well as the use and impact of remittances in these households.

# PLACES OF ORIGIN OF GUATEMALAN MIGRANTS YEAR 2007



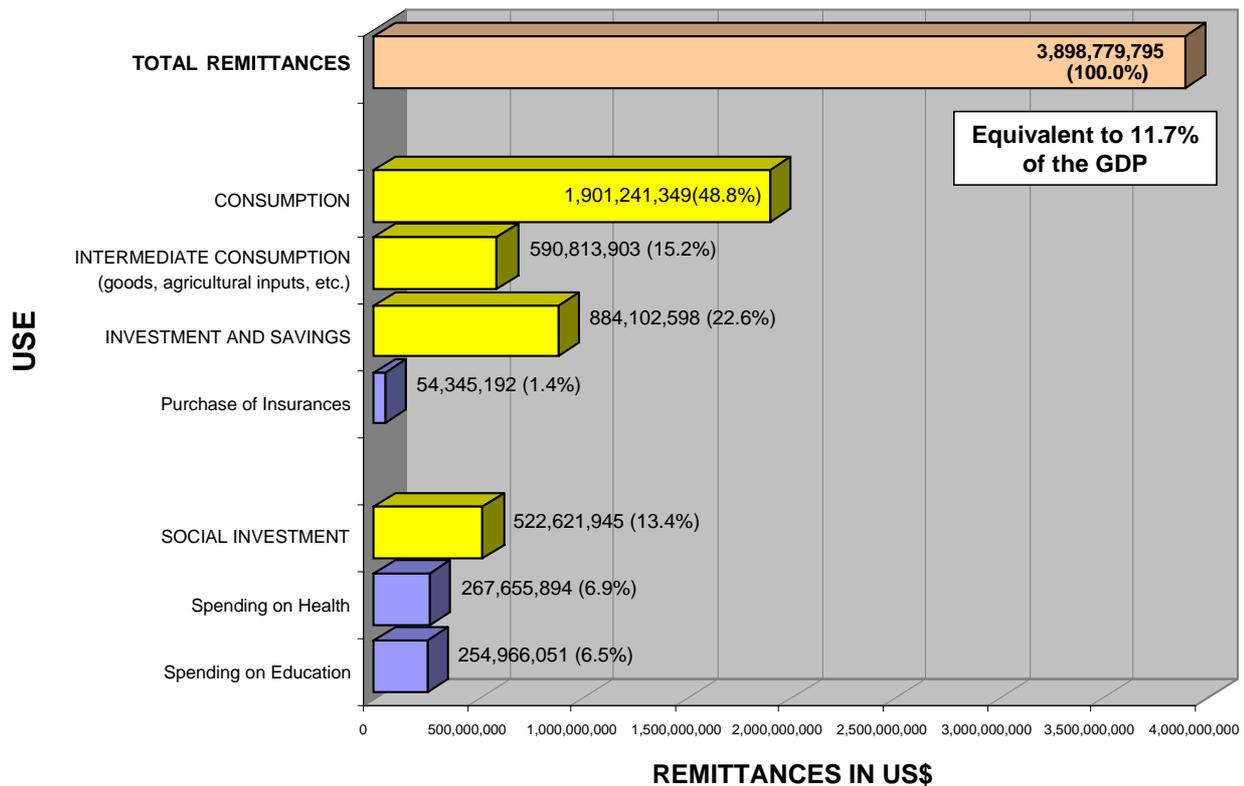
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# PLACES WHERE GUATEMALANS LIVE IN THE UNITED STATES YEAR 2007



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# USE OF REMITTANCES YEAR 2007



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## THE SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

According to the UN System of National Accounts, expenditure can be categorized as follows:

- **Consumption:** These are the funds used to meet basic needs and other family consumption types, such as food, apparel, footwear, household appliances, etc.
- **Intermediate Consumption:** These are the expenses to purchase non-durable goods and services used by producers in the production process to generate aggregated value; this category includes inputs, materials, raw material, commodities, debts (travel expenses), repairs, rent and/or purchase of machinery, etc.
- **Investment:** This category includes the purchase of assets and real estate, regular savings, monetary deposits, long term deposits, pension fund, insurance and other financial assets.
- **Expenses in Health and Education** are given a separate treatment as no consensus has been reached for an agreement among National Accounts analysts. Some experts consider that these are consumption expenses, while others consider them as investments. Thus, IOM studies categorize this kind of expenses as a separate item that has been designated as Social Investment.

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# SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE PROGRAM

TYPE OF PLAN	SERVICES	ANNUAL COST IN US\$	
		PER FAMILY	INDIVIDUAL
<b>A) BASIC PLAN</b>	-General physician, -Gynecologist, -Pediatrician	36	18
<b>B) SILVER PLAN</b>	-Traumatologist	260	100
	- Laboratory: blood tests, urine tests, etc.		
	- Diagnostic images: X-rays		
	-Emergency services and -Transportation (ambulance, helicopter)		
	-Dentist (tooth extraction, fillings, etc.)		
<b>C) GOLD PLAN</b>	- Medical Specialists (Traumatologists, Gastroenterologists, etc.)	450	185
	-Maternity		
	-Hospitalization		

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## MEDICAL SERVICE PLAN "SALUD A SU ALCANCE"

- According to several surveys carried out by IOM Guatemala in recent years, 7% of all remittances received are spent on health. Based on these findings and the fact that health care services in Guatemala are deficient and in rural areas even non-existent, we decided to set up a Medical Service Plan to address these needs.
  - 3.8 million Guatemalans (27% of total population) have relatives abroad and benefit from remittances.
  - These households receive remittances for a monthly average of US\$ 338, of which US\$ 24 are monthly spent on health.
- This Medical Service Plan is an insurance for the families of migrants who remained in Guatemala and provides different health care services according to the plan they purchased. There is a Call Center where beneficiaries receive indications on where to be provided assistance. For that purpose a network of doctors and hospitals is available all over the country.

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# MEDICAL SERVICE PLAN "SALUD A SU ALCANCE" (CONTINUED)

- The programme provider in Guatemala is EPSS (Empresa Promotora de Servicios de Salud, S.A.), an institution that has enrolled more than 190,000 families, corresponding to 750,000 beneficiaries, mainly employees from the public sector.
- In order to promote this insurance for migrants in the United States, we have partnered with MFIC (Microfinance International Corporation), a microfinance and remittance processing institution based in Washington, DC. The purpose is to promote enrolment on the occasion of the remittance transfer.

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# MEDICAL SERVICE PLAN "SALUD A SU ALCANCE" (CONTINUED)

- We have an advantage for implementation of this insurance with respect to the Guatemala-Canada Labour Migration Programme. All temporary workers in 2008 (estimated 2,500) will be enrolled in this Medical Service Plan after having gained certain experience through a pilot phase with a group of the 2007-workers.
- In Guatemala, this insurance has been promoted among remittance receiving families in areas with high international emigration.
- Currently we are working on expanding the Plan through a Debit Card Company.

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