

Partner Profile: Fundación Paraguaya



Photos courtesy of Fundación Paraguaya



In Paraguay, an estimated 50 percent of low-income adults and 40 percent of women do not have access to formal financial services.¹

Fundación Paraguaya de Cooperación y Desarrollo (Fundación Paraguaya) is a social enterprise in Paraguay and a partner in Global Partnerships' Women-Centered Finance with Education and Health initiatives.²

Who is Served

As of December 31, 2025, Fundación Paraguaya currently serves over 100,000 clients. Approximately 36 percent of their clients live in rural areas, and approximately 91 percent identify as women.³

What is Delivered

Fundación Paraguaya provides group and individual microloans primarily to women who otherwise lack access to formal financial services, complemented by entrepreneurial and financial education as well as healthcare services for its clients. Entrepreneur Women's Committees (the institution's village-bank model) receive financial education through an approach that reflects a strong understanding of clients' needs. To support this, Fundación Paraguaya has developed 14 education modules covering topics such as personal and family budgeting, business planning

and environmental stewardship.

Fundación Paraguaya offers medical services through partnerships with health providers located near client communities, focusing on specialties that respond to clients' most common needs. Services include diagnostic lab tests, X-rays, and specialized studies such as mammography and gynecological ultrasounds.

Finally, clients can also benefit from a micro-franchise model in which Fundación Paraguaya prepares and sells business starter kits to help clients launch small enterprises and diversify their income. Each kit includes the inputs needed to produce batches of products, step-by-step preparation instructions, and suggested pricing. Fundación Paraguaya offers 10 kit categories, including cleaning products, accessories, and digital products.

Fundación Paraguaya is a distinctive partner as the creator of the Poverty Spotlight, a diagnostic and monitoring tool that measures poverty through a multidimensional lens widely used across multiple organizations in many countries. The Poverty Spotlight breaks down the concept of poverty into six dimensions that can be addressed through interventions specific to each dimension. truly unique.

Why it is Impactful

Gender-informed financial and educational services empower women to make more informed business decisions and invest in opportunities to sustain or grow their income. A study Fundación Paraguaya conducted on the evolution of households' monetary income among 20,000 village bank members found that families increased their income by an average of 28 percent after engaging with Fundación Paraguaya.

"My first loan allowed me to invest in a hamburger griddle and grow my business. Through the trainings, I learned how to manage my income more effectively,"⁴ says Dámaris, a young entrepreneur in María Auxiliadora, a district in Itapúa, Paraguay. Beyond income generation, Fundación Paraguaya also expands access to health information and services so clients can adopt healthier behaviors, practice prevention, and seek timely care—support that strengthens household health and resilience. For Liz Fernandez, this access made a decisive difference. "I was diagnosed with fibroids...it's never too late to get checked and have a medical exam," she says. "We have to take advantage of these opportunities, like the ones brought by Fundación Paraguaya here — the pediatricians and

1. "World Bank Group – Data 360." The World Bank, 2024. https://data360.worldbank.org/en/indicator/WB_FINDEX_AC-COUNT_T_D?country=PRY.
2. Fundación Paraguaya was a current borrower of Global Partnerships Impact-First Development Fund, LLC, as of December 31, 2025.
3. Data as of December 31, 2025, as reported by Fundación Paraguaya.
4. "#Concurso: Mi historia con Fundación Paraguaya | Microfinanzas." Fundación Paraguaya. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bp-7KTVcBymw>.
5. "#Memoria2023 | Semáforo de Eliminación de Pobreza." Fundación Paraguaya, April 15, 2024. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLAWnr8R6FI>.

