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A Solution to Poverty in the Republic of Guatemala



Brandin Samuel



Abstract

In the Republic of Guatemala, poverty is a widespread and ongoing problem. Approximately 51 percent of the population lives in the rural area and is responsible for the majority of the country's poorest people (Ruralpovertyportal.org, 2015). Spending time in this underdeveloped country has truly been a humbling experience. From my time spent at the preschool to eating meals in the homes of the families with no electricity, I understood exactly how this population lives on a daily basis. Young people are most at risk in these indigenous countries and account for over 40 percent of the total population.

A recent government figure indicates that 7 of 10 people of indigenous descent live in poverty (Figure 4). Solving the problem of poverty has been a long unsuccessful process that if solved, could open up completely new doors for the civilization.

The purpose of this research is to find solutions to this ongoing problem. Guatemala is currently ranked 131 out of 187 countries on the United Nations Development program (Ruralpovertyportal.org, 2015).



Figure 2. Founder Ed Bullard in Adidome, Ghana

Background

- In 1968, Ed Bullard launched Technoserve, short for "technology in the service of mankind" (Figure 2)
- Ed Bullard's idea to launch Technoserve stems back to his volunteer visit to the village of Adidome, Ghana in 1963
- Intrigued by the character and spirit of the Ghanaian village, Ed realized the only thing the village lacked was the proper skills and tools needed to lift themselves out of poverty
- Technoserve has worked with over 40 countries across Latin America, Asia and Africa

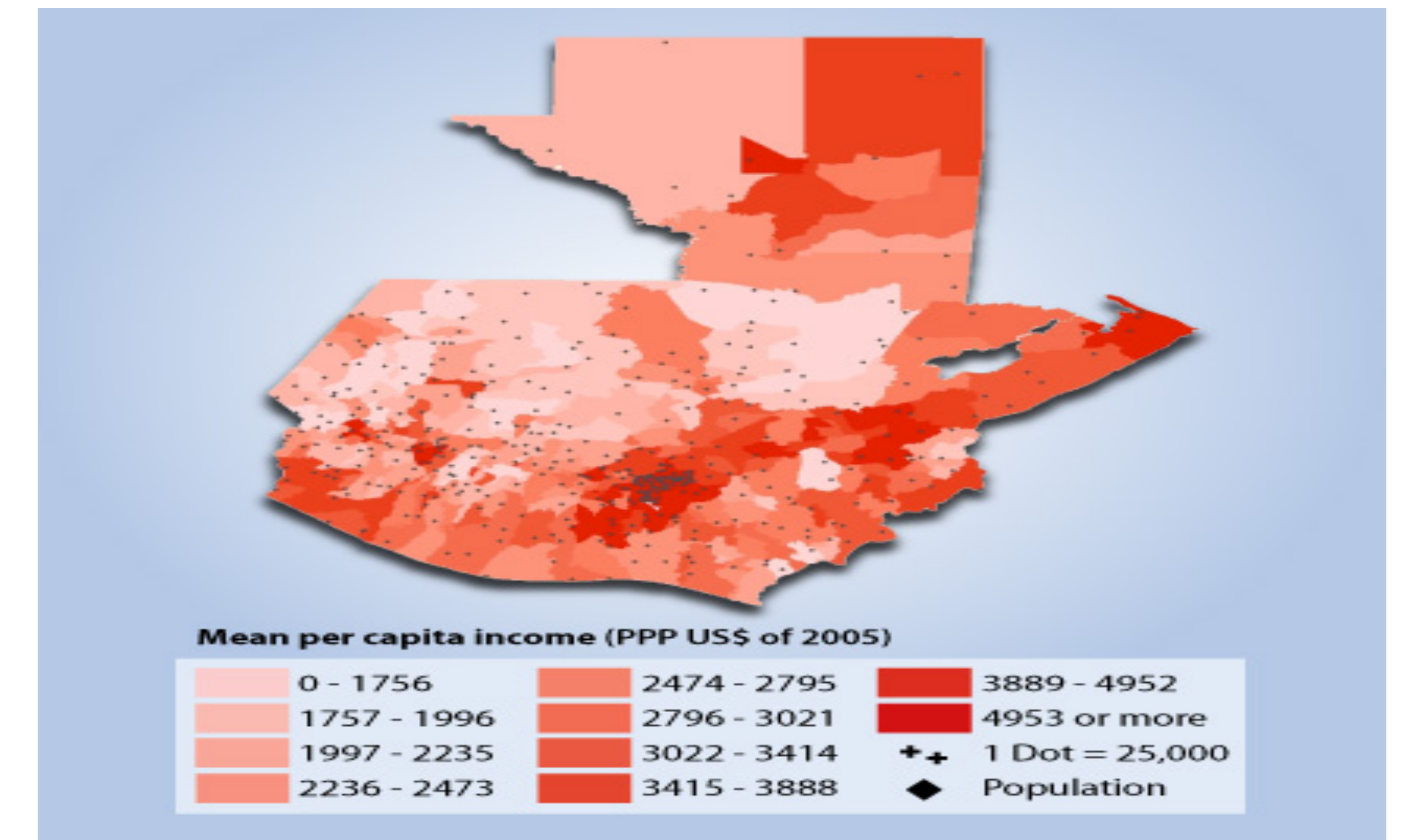


Figure 4. Mean per capita income Guatemala

Conclusion

In conclusion, the on going problem of poverty in the republic of Guatemala can be improved by utilizing the country's abundance of natural resources and its substantial climate advantage. Companies such as Technoserve have been capitalizing on and strengthening the coffee value chain, which in turn has created steady incomes for poor rural producers and has also significantly helped existing agricultural businesses (Figure 1). Partnering with over 12,000 small producers Technoserve has promoted change across the coffee, biodiesel and vegetable markets in Guatemala (Technoserve.org, 2015). By utilizing the strengths of this country they can continue to grow and stabilize their economy opening up endless opportunities for this small country.

Acknowledgments

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Figure 1. Technoserve Coffee Bean Plantation



Figure 3. Typical living situation in Republic of Guatemala