

Her mother's hard work means she has hope for the future

GUATEMALA – **Francisca is an excellent student** who excels in science. **She wants to be a teacher** and knows how important it is to continue her education. Yet her mother, Maria, worries about paying for uniforms and books while raising four girls on her own. **Maria eagerly participates in CARE-supported initiatives**, including serving as president of a group that is growing mushrooms as a cash crop. Maria says she gets more than economic benefits from the women's association – **she received much-needed emotional support** when her husband abandoned their family. Maria also has the opportunity to counsel and encourage women who are going through what she went through.

FAST FACTS

- Women and girls make up 75 percent of the poorest people in the world today; in Guatemala, of the poorest 10 percent of the population, 75 percent are women.
- Women produce half the world's food, but own only one percent of its farmland.
- CARE has economic development projects in 39 countries.



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Francisca

