



Turimiquire Foundation

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CUMANÁ, VENEZUELA

The following tables summarize the Turimiquire Foundation's activities in family planning, reproductive health and rural education, at selected public and private facilities in the city of Cumaná, and in nearby rural counties in the state of Sucre, from **May 1997** through **December 2022**. In this period, we have delivered a total of **239,255+** [Couple Years of Protection \(CYPs\)](#), the metric by which USAID measures family planning achievement, to the low-income rural and urban populations that we serve.

Family Planning Services: Our Story in Numbers

Year	Additional (new) Women served each year	Total Client Visits	Monthly Hormonal Birth Control Distributed	IUDs Placed	Average Age of Client	Average Number of Children
1997-2007	17289	59159	49717	4832	24.0	2.2
2008-2018	28584	151439	117090	3725	23.6	1.5
2019	4870	14609	5726	993	23.9	1.6
2020	4494	8541	7877	462	24.8	1.6
2021	8778	14919	14431	1183	24.9	1.7
2022	6508	15110	13925	586	25.7	1.7
TOTALS:	70522	263777	208766	11781	24.5	1.7

- The Foundation works in collaboration with Fundación ServYr (our sister Foundation in Venezuela), FundaSalud (the State Ministry of Public Health), and other public and private health organizations and clinics, to provide these services.
- Hormonal Birth Control includes birth control pills, emergency contraception, and the popular monthly injections and implants that are now available in Venezuela. We work with the state government and private health providers in the purchase, public distribution and social marketing of these hormonal methods in rural and urban areas.
- We extend a special Thank You to the **Eric E. and Edith H. Bergstrom Foundation** for their support of our programs starting in 2018, enabling us to reach many more women at a time in Venezuela when family planning services are scarce to non-existent.
- Our numbers vary yearly due to budget, as well as collaboration with (and current deterioration in) the state's public health infrastructure. We maintain reliable contraceptive supplies for the families we already serve, while expanding our services to additional women as we are able to.
- Lower average age and number of children of our clients in recent years reflects an increase in adolescent and young adult participation, often young women with one child or adolescents with no children.
- Since 1997, we have distributed more than **120,000 condoms** through our reproductive health education and family planning programs, primarily to adolescents in urban as well as rural areas.
- Since 1997, the Foundation has also facilitated more than **17,000 consultations** in family medicine, pediatrics and reproductive health, including gynecological and prenatal consultations, ultrasounds, and pap smears.
- **The unmet need for these reproductive health services continues to exceed our capacity to provide.**

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Educational Workshops in Responsible Sexuality, Reproductive Health and Family Planning

Cumaná and Four Rural Counties	# of Workshops	# of Participants
2002-2005	913	22392
2006 - 2016	1894	30891
2017	75	916
2018	88	776
2019	100	1532
2020	128	2595
2021	313	9845
2022	442	11706
Total	3953	80653

We supply basic information about healthy sexuality, reproductive health and family planning to low-income rural and urban populations, focusing on teenagers, young adults and students, and the adult personnel of public education, health and community facilities. We also use social media as a popular vehicle for sharing this information, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tubal Sterilizations and Vasectomies

Year	Patients	Average Age	Average # of Children
1997-2007	2459	28.8	4.0
2008-2018	4117	30.2	3.1
2019	1274	29.2	2.8
2020	1251	29.1	3.0
2021	1561	29.2	2.9
2022	2190	30.2	3.0
Totals	12852	29.5	3.1

Through December 2022, the Foundation has provided 12852 surgical sterilizations for mature, low-income women who desire this popular and permanent method of family planning. This service is provided to everyone on a strongly subsidized sliding-scale basis, with low-income rural women especially assisted. In 2005, we became the first (and only) provider of modern laparoscopic surgical sterilizations for low-income families in our State. We also provided 33 vasectomies in 2022 and plan to promote and increase this male option as well.

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With the severe economic crisis in Venezuela, we have extended the range of our surgery program to include hernia repairs, breast conditions, and a number of other outpatient procedures for low-income rural patients who can no longer count on the public health sector. In 2022, we performed 222 of these additional interventions, for a total of 1245 of these additional surgeries since 2015.

We are also expanding our health care services beyond reproductive health to include an accumulated 2000+ ophthalmological, cardiovascular, ENT and internal medicine consultations as well as facilitating lab work, imaging, biopsies, and other diagnostic procedures for low-income clients.

Rural Primary and High School Education

Once families control their fertility, they concentrate on giving their children the best possible future through schooling.

Since 2003, responding to this sequential dynamic, we have offered a yearly average of 50 scholarships for low-income rural high school students in one rural river valley. Before we instituted this program, most of these rural students abandoned their formal education at or before the sixth grade. Now, some 500+ students have attended high school, 100+ students have graduated, and some 30 of these graduates are or have been in college with our support. Several of our students have now graduated from college as nurses, teachers, and in other professions, and a few of these graduates continue to work with us as professionals in their communities.

Since 2005, the Foundation has maintained a *rural education center* with a small library and computers, originally located in Barrancas along the Cumaná-Cumanacoa highway. In 2015, we moved this center to a remote site up the Rio Brito valley, several walking hours from the road, in order to be closer to the recently established rural high school.

We have also maintained several outlets for subsidized school supplies for pre-school, primary and high school students from our rural area, and have served the communities of Brito, Barrancas, Tigre, Agua Santa, San Fernando, Tataracual, Guaripa, and Cumanacoita along the Via Cumanacoa. Mothers and their student daughters run these outlets out of their homes.

Educational programs have become harder to sustain in the last few years, given the serious deterioration and politicization of the public schools, the lack of security, food and even clothing for the students, and the recent onset of COVID-19 in 2020. School attrition rates are notoriously high throughout the country at all levels, but we have managed to sustain some of our activities at a reduced level. We focus especially on those students with the motivation to overcome the general malaise and so may have more chance of proceeding with their education in the long run.

College Education

We now support approximately 10 of our most motivated high school students continuing their studies at local community colleges and the state university under the difficult current circumstances. College attendance has dropped significantly, and attrition can be especially high for students coming from rural semi-literate communities. We offer personal tutoring for this difficult transition. College graduation has also been delayed as *higher education schedules have been severely disrupted by the current socio-economic crisis and by the COVID-19 pandemic starting in 2020*. We focus on rural student participation in one rural river valley, but we also support other students from urban low-income, *barrio* communities, who are first and second-generation immigrants from the countryside.

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*“When we dream alone, it is only a dream.
When we dream with others, it is the beginning of reality.”*

Dom Camera Helder