



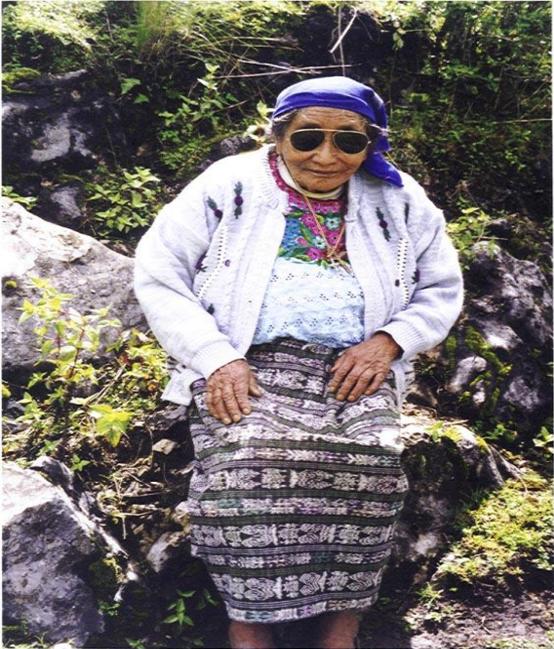
# *The Social and Cultural role of the Midwife in Guatemala*

*Dr. Hugo Icí Perén*

# Components of the Health Care System of indigenous people.

1. Principles and fundamentals: The cosmivision of the people: holistic vision, harmony, balance, complementarity. Health = Life
2. Responds to a socio-cultural epidemiology
3. It is an organized system with Therapists (among them the midwife),
4. It counts with therapeutic resources: natural and supernatural
5. A large part of the population accepts it and uses it for identity and not only as an alternative.





Midwife



Chayero/Blood healer



Healer/Medicine woman



Huesero/Bone healer



Spiritual Guide

# THE MIDWIFE



**From the point of view of the historical and cultural diversity of Guatemala, the performance of midwives, who have been equipped with gifts, energy and a mission, is recognized and appreciated. Their work has an impact on community health. They are social actors who support the solving of health problems especially in maternal, neonatal and child care, as well as of the family and the community.**



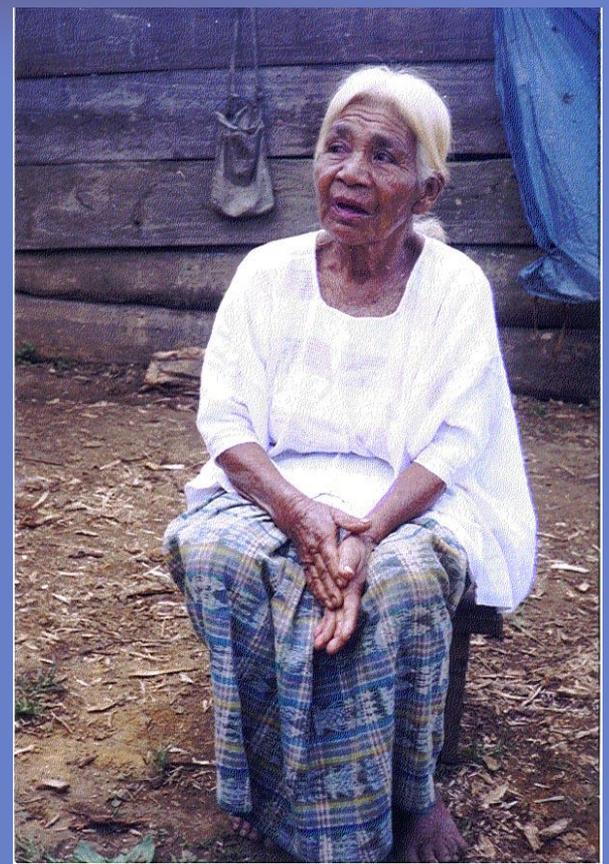
# Roles and functions of the midwife.....

In the family, at home she is the:

- Woman who understands her gender
- Mother who also has children and knows the process.
- Grandmother to generations.

In the community, she is the:

- Leader
- Authority
- Transmitter and defender of cultural identity through clothing, language, her medicine.



# The Midwife more than a birth attendant, she is a:

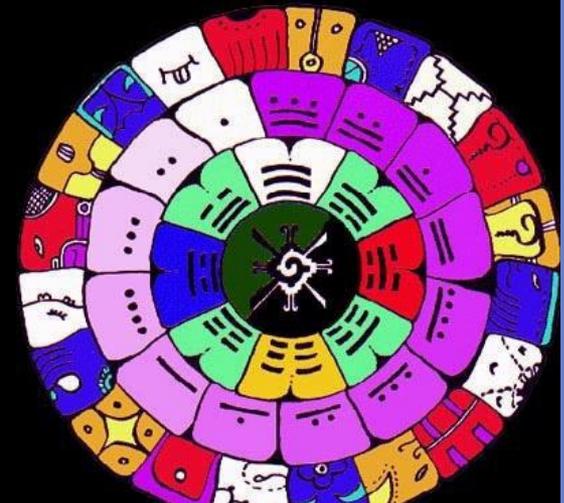
## Counselor

- Guide to girls and young women
- Community counselor
- Spritual guide to:
  - Mental health recovery and psychosocial support.



# Other elements that support her work.

- The midwife is born...not made
- She is more than a birth attendant.
- She is born under the logic of her cosmovision:
  - By: dreams, heritage, gift, emergence
- She fulfills a mission, not do a job
  - Guided by their Nawal, chumilal,
- Areas that drive her:
  - Health, justice, environment, politics and culture;



■ The midwife plays an important role in maternal and infant attention.

■ Attends 40% of all childbirths nationwide.

■ 100% in Mayan and rural communities

■ She also attends to the prenatal control.

■ She monitors mother and child post natal care for up to 40 days.





*THANK YOU.....*  
*MATIOSH.....*