



**CWS** | Intergal Rural Development *in Paraguay*

## FOOD SECURITY THROUGH RESILIENCE

Chronic food insecurity is a major issue in the Paraguayan Lower Chaco. There is an almost complete absence of basic social services such as healthcare or education in the area, where 28% of the population is indigenous. Climate change is also creating adversity by increasing soil erosion and desertification. It is also changing rainfall patterns, leading to more extreme climate events like droughts and floods.

CWS and our partners, including Pastoral Social Benjamin Aceval, are the midst of a five-year program that will continue through 2023. We're working with 580 families in six indigenous communities to promote integral rural development. The program seeks significant changes in four areas: food security; water access and care; community organization; and women's participation and community-led advocacy.

The program's food security component includes 150 families. Expert agronomists work with families to start or expand vegetable gardens and agricultural plots through climate-smart agriculture. We also focus on helping families care for their livestock, grow sheep herds and cultivate beehives to produce and sell honey. The program focuses on improving family diets by expanding access to locally-grown vegetables and providing nutrition education.



The Gran Chaco is a vast tri-national region in the heart of South America. It includes parts of Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay. A major eco-system, it has great cultural diversity and is home to 25 different indigenous ethnic groups.

For more than 15 years, CWS has partnered with a group of ecumenical and civil society organizations and is part of long-term initiatives in favor of justice, eradicating poverty and all forms of violence; and defending and promoting human rights.