



**Cooperative of Women from the Chuacruz
Community
Waqxaqi`K`an**



The Chuacruz community is nestled in the cornfields about 30 minutes from Sololá. **Waqxaqi`K`an**, which means "The 8th Weaving Day" in the Mayan language Kaqchikel, is a cooperative of 22 Mayan weavers made up of widows and their daughters who formed in order to earn an income after the violence of the Civil War in the 1980's. In November of 2002, the women realized their goal of building their own cooperative center in Chuacruz. In 2010, they formed their own legal Association. And in March 2011, the cooperative won Oxlajuj B'atz' annual prize in honor of International Women's Day for the best participation and cooperative development in 2010.

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Alicia Guarcax Panjój, of the Chuacruz community

"Women today in Guatemala have the right to be independent, to leave the house, work and learn; before this wasn't possible, our women were totally closed off from life outside of our homes. Through the Oxlajuj B'atz' program, I have learned the skills needed to be a leader, how to organize the group and how to improve and publicize our products."