

#### Light shines on indigenous communities in Guatemala

Like more than 40% of the Guatemalan population, Jorge Coojop is a farmer, and every year, he suffers from dwindling harvests. However, last September, Jorge received one of the best pieces of news of his life: electricity was coming to his community.

Jorge told his three sons, two of whom had migrated to the US in search of a better life: the four of them estimated that they could start the town's first internet business.

Jorge lives in La Taña, an isolated village in the Quiché Department of Guatemala, inhabited by the indigenous Maya-Q'eqchi (Kekchi) people. The village was severely affected by the civil war and remains one of the poorest places in the country with 78% of residents living in poverty; 41.7% in extreme poverty.



**This small, community-owned dam and hydropower plant provides enough electricity for more than 1,500 people in remote La Taña village.**

water and lighting at a cost of US\$4 per household and payments are pooled to cover maintenance costs and four local electricians to look after the equipment.

It has led to Jorge's internet café, with four computers, and the village's first ever freezer, bought by merchant Alvaro Hernández. The community embraced the novelty, with children eating home-made ice cream for the

first time. According to local health professional, Dr Ariel Pardo, in the health centre, electricity will enable use of ultrasound equipment, and a nebuliser for respiratory diseases.

**With the support of Commitment for Life, vulnerable and marginalised communities in rural Guatemala have access to a sustainable source of electric power and the benefits that brings. Thank you.**

#### 'Electricity is coming, let's start a business'

A four-day fiesta therefore greeted the arrival of electricity, which is produced by a small, community-owned hydroelectric power plant on the mountain above the village. It was installed by Christian Aid partner Colectivo Madreselva and a group of church organisations.

The plant produces environmentally friendly electric power from a renewable source, and is managed by the communities themselves. La Taña's 300 families have access to

#### Sourced campaign success

**Just over a year ago we launched a campaign asking supporters to contact their local council about tax transparency in their procurement processes.**

**In January 2017, the voluntary policy we asked councils to adopt was made mandatory by UK Government.**

**Councils spend billions of pounds each year on goods and services and now have to ask companies**

**tougher questions about their tax practices. This greater scrutiny of companies' tax affairs will prompt businesses to adopt more responsible tax practices, in the UK and in the world's poorest countries.**

**Thank you to all who supported this campaign. For more information on this and other ways you can help us campaign for global justice, please visit: [christianaid.org.uk/ActNow](http://christianaid.org.uk/ActNow)**