

Voices OF HOPE

Mexico

Adelaida Leonides learned to be a midwife, or *partera*, from her mother. She works at the Indigenous Women's House (CAMI) in San Luis Acatlan, Guerrero State, which is supported by PWRDF partner Kinal Antzetik.

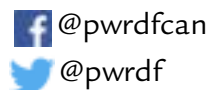
Kinal developed a training program for community health practitioners and traditional midwives. Leonides attended the training with her daughter who helped her with reading and writing. Kinal also adapted its training to include illustrations and symbols so that Leonides and other illiterate midwives could still learn.

CAMI serves as a delivery centre, teaching site, health clinic and social hub for Indigenous women in the region. It offers advice and checkups throughout pregnancy, and if the delivery is high risk, Leonides encourages the mother to visit the local hospital, and volunteers to accompany her on the journey.

"Now I'm very careful to wear gloves during delivery," she said. "The training has also helped me in teaching the community how to avoid maternal mortality." By 2015, the maternal death rate in Mexico had dropped to 38 per 100,000 from 67 per 100,000 in 2011.



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