

Learning what School Teachers

And Students Wish to Receive as Assistance to improve Teaching & Learning

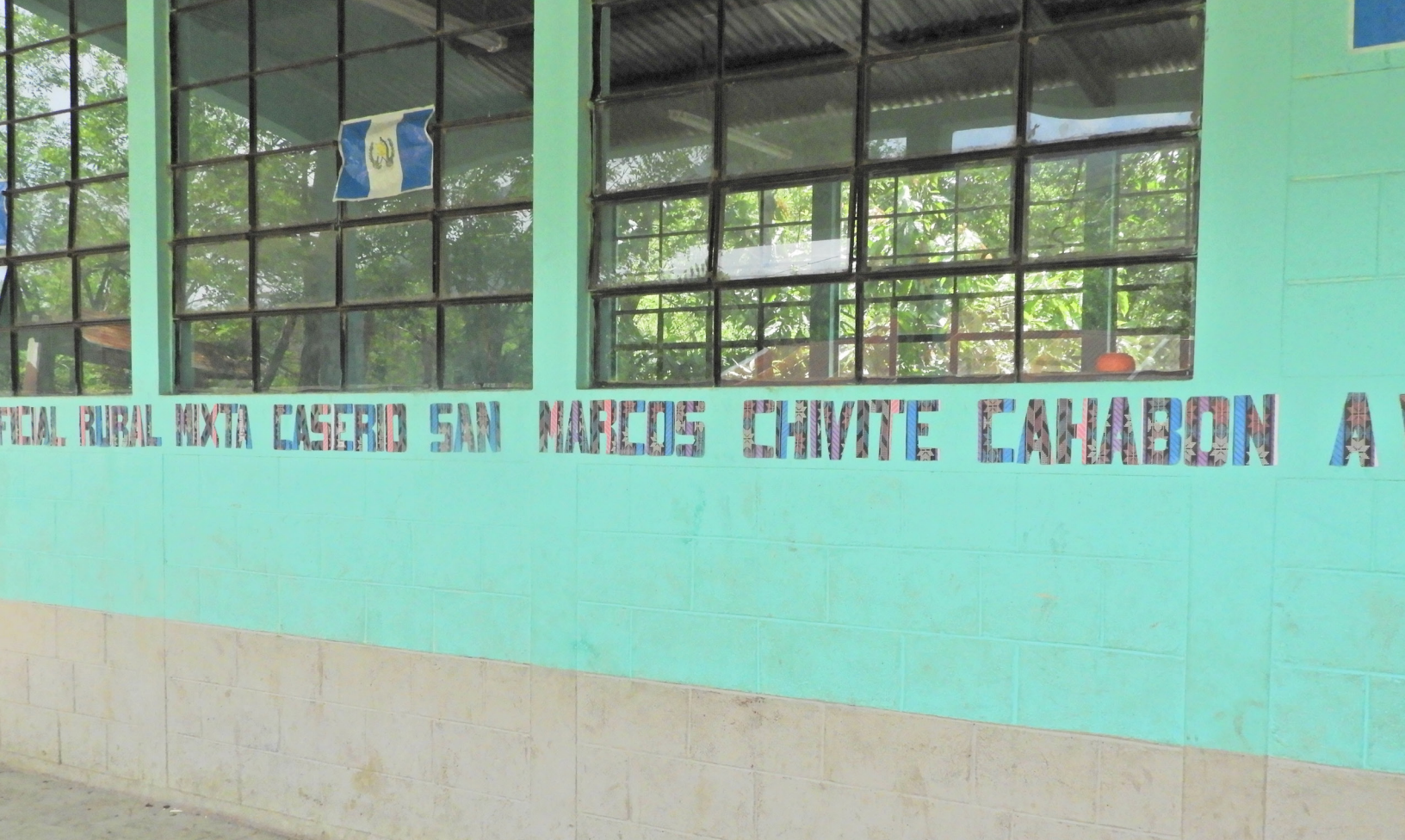


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To learn what the Q'eqchi' school teachers and students want and need in their schools, we visited three Q'eqchi' area schools during late September:

- Seamay, on the edge of Senahu (near Finca Seamay)
- Chivite, several kilometers from Cahabon
- San Marcos Chivite, a few kilometers away from Chivite

This present PDF will be on San Marcos Chivite.

How to reach a primary school in the mountains of **Alta Verapaz**?

To get here, you drive to Cahabon. In the 17th century this was one of the more active and important towns in Guatemala. Today it is a pleasant peaceful Q'eqchi' town. From Cahabon there are two roads leading to the tourist areas of Lanquin: one goes through the mountains; the other is parallel but is along the river. You take the scenic river route (has very little traffic since most people use the mountain route).

You park along the road and hike across the eroded rotting remains of a wooden path held up by wires. These are the standard pedestrian suspension bridges throughout the mountains of Alta Verapaz, Guatemala.





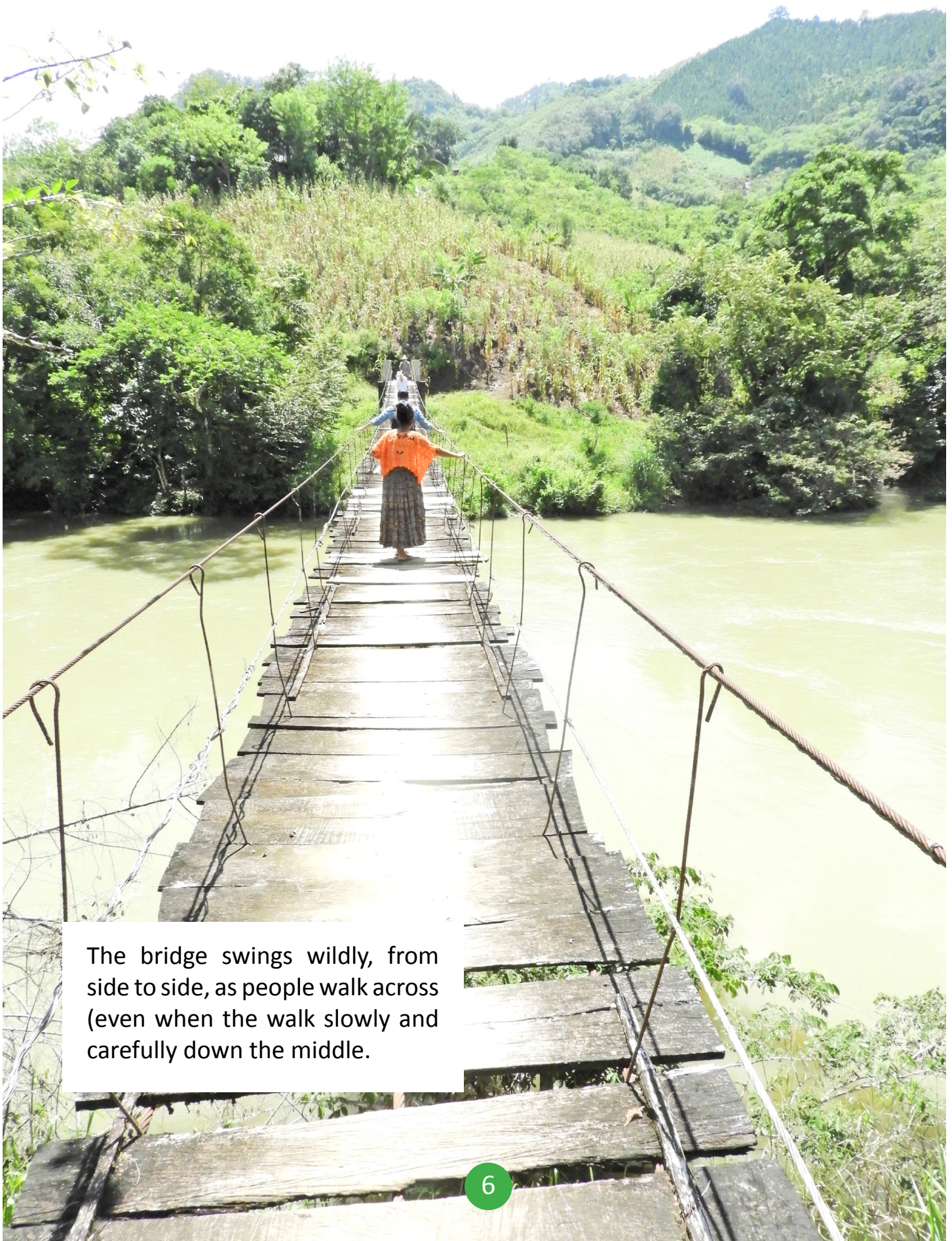
In local Spanish these are often called Puente hamaca, hammock bridge



When the river floods it washes away the soil under the concrete stairs to reach the level of the actual bridge.



The rivers are usually far below.



The bridge swings wildly, from side to side, as people walk across (even when the walk slowly and carefully down the middle).



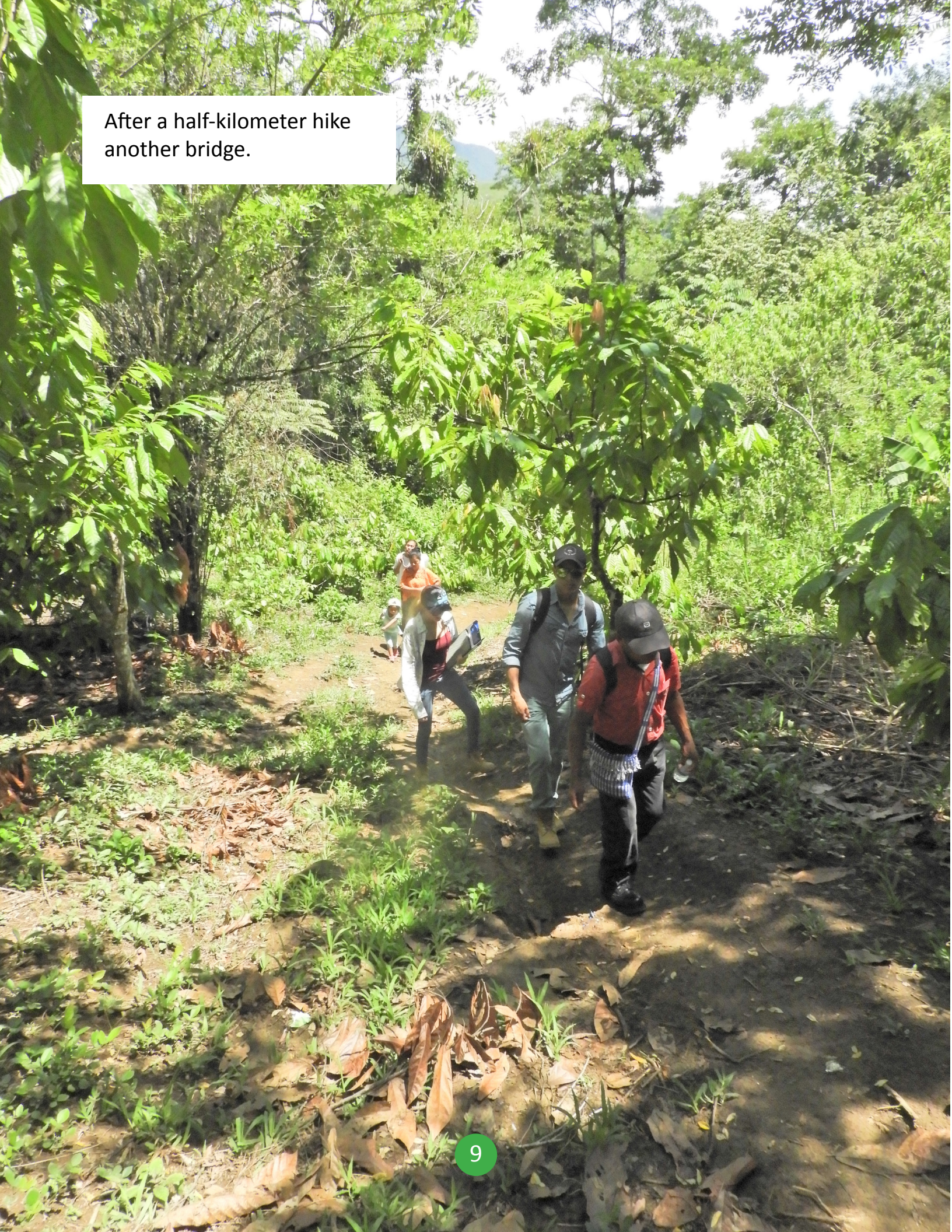
You need to be careful not to put your foot onto a board which is soft from constant rain.

One member of the team said she would prefer not to experience this kind of a swinging bridge, so we said she could wait by the road for us to return.



Now are have crossed the bridge, now we hike to the school.

After a half-kilometer hike
another bridge.





More exercise on the healthy hike to the community.



This part of Guatemala is absolutely beautiful.



School students wall posters.



Being with the teachers and students teaches the team at FLAAR how we can assist these maestros and students.

Not many people make the effort to reach these remote areas deep into the mountains of Alta Verapaz which is precisely why the team at FLAAR Mesoamerica focuses on the remote mountains many kilometers away from nearby towns.

We have also been to settlements in even higher mountains in adjacent Baja Verapaz (from Purulha into the mountains). And of course I have explored the awesome eco-systems of Sierra de Cuchumatanes (Huehuetenango). Huehuetenango is a fascinating departamento since it has a remarkable diversity of eco-systems from “jungles” to almost desert-like high mountains (too high for most vegetation); plus every elevation in between (and thus a fascinating range of eco-systems with noticeably different plants in each eco-system).

We are also interested in working in other areas of Guatemala, but since the local people of Alta Verapaz have welcomed us for so many years, we feel at home here. But there are dozens of other Mayan languages, plus Xinca and Garifuna, and we are open to discussion to all areas where we can assist.