

Executive Summary

Summary of Key Activities

Community Implementation: This quarter, the Peacebuilding Project concluded community entry and the rapid stakeholder analysis in the municipalities and communities in the first entry group. The project also updated the community entry strategy based on lessons learned from the first group of communities. The project began the conflict and resilience analysis (CRA) in all 27 target communities. The project also started engaging with potential youth participants that will form the *Voceros Juveniles* networks. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the project suspended community level work in mid-March, but has stayed in touch with project participants to understand the evolving situation in their communities and to assess potential sources of social conflict that may arise due to the virus. The communications team also published key messages related to mitigating conflict due to the health crisis in Spanish, Mam and K'iche on project social media pages.



Grants and Partnerships: As of March 2020, the Peacebuilding Project was ready to award the following small grants that are designed to building partnerships and respond to initial conflict assessments: 1) assessment of Government of Guatemala (GoG) early warning systems; 2) formation of community mediator network; 3) assessment of *Comisión Presidencial de Derechos Humanos* (COPREDEH) psychological support needs; 4) design of a behavior change campaign focused on inter-familial violence; and 5) implementation of municipal peace fairs. Some of the small grants include desk work and interviews that can be done remotely but given the inability of partners to travel to the areas of intervention and uncertainty over the severity of the crisis, the project reevaluated which small grants should be currently awarded in light of the COVID-19 crisis. The project determined that two of small grants can be implemented in the short-term at least in part virtually and are the most relevant in the context of the widespread health crisis: inter-familial violence prevention campaign and GoG early warning systems. The remaining grants will be awarded when appropriate.

Institutional Strengthening: The project reaffirmed relationships with incoming representatives from GoG entities responsible for managing, responding to, and resolving local conflicts, particularly COPREDEH, *Comisión Presidencial del Diálogo* (CPD), *Procurador de los Derechos Humanos* (PDH) and *Secretaría de Asuntos Agrarios* (SAA). The project organized the first departmental inter-institutional meeting this quarter, which took place in Huehuetenango and focused on conflicts related to natural resources. The project also continued to work with the PDH on strategic communications around social conflict, holding



two meetings in FY20Q2. The team was prepared to implement a capacity building program with the GoG and NGOs and was finalizing materials for a *conversación comprehensiva* on conflict related to youth and migration. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, these activities are on hold, although the project is continuing to document and finalize the methodologies and/curricula and will be ready to resume when feasible.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

The biggest challenge this quarter was the need to respond quickly and responsibly to a rapidly evolving COVID-19 crisis. The entire Peacebuilding Project began working remotely on Tuesday, March 17, in compliance with government instructions. The project community facilitators are in regular communication via telephone with community leaders and members to understand the evolving COVID-19 situation in their communities, providing regular updates to the USAID and GoG partners. The team has developed a robust remote workplan and holds regular virtual check-ins. All in-person activities are currently on hold and as such the FY2020 implementation timeline is likely to shift.

Indicator Data

Number of people participating in project activities that address the peaceful management and resolution of conflicts: During FY20Q2, a total of 933 unique individuals (533 women and 400 men) participated in project activities that addressed the peaceful management and resolution of conflicts.

Indicator 1.0: Number of citizens engaged in cooperative community dialogue, including community vision (CV) development: During FY20Q2, 772 citizens (443 women and 329 men) engaged in cooperative community dialogue through the conflict and resilience analysis and first session of the *vocero juvenil* methodology.

Indicator 3.0: Number of trainings, exchanges, and coordination meetings with GoG and/or non-governmental organizations related to preventing, managing, and resolving conflict: During FY20Q2, the Peacebuilding Project held five coordination meetings related to preventing, managing, and resolving conflict with GoG and NGO representatives.