

Executive Summary

Summary of Key Activities

Community Implementation: Despite restrictions on mobilization and in-person meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Peacebuilding Project created strategies to continue community dialogue to address social conflict. The team recognizes that returning to communities that have been impacted by the pandemic will require a conflict sensitive approach to avoid unintentionally contributing to or reinforcing conflict dynamics. As such, the project published Conflict Sensitivity and Do No Harm technical documents that include an analysis of COVID-19 on social conflict at the national level and within the Western Highlands to guide re-entry. The project has prioritized strengthening the community implementation team by conducting nine virtual trainings on project topics and technical areas this quarter.



This quarter, the project signed two Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with two mayors. The Peacebuilding Project held a meeting with the mayor of Comitancillo on June 20 to present project progress in the municipality, discuss priorities around social conflict, and sign the MOU. The Peacebuilding Project Chief of Party (COP) also held a meeting with the mayor of Chiantla during the kit delivery (see Grants

and Partnerships below) on June 25 to sign the MOU. Given restrictions on in-person meetings, the project adapted the conflict and resilience analysis (CRA) to hold virtual key informant interviews and focus groups. In total, interviews or focus groups were held with 132 community members in 20 communities. The community facilitators are using the information from CRA sessions held before the pandemic and the interviews/focus groups to finish drafting community visions (CVs) for the 27 project communities.

Grants and Partnerships: As part of the outreach to communities, the team worked with community members to identify strategies to address sources of conflict during the pandemic. As a result, the project delivered prevention kits to community leaders in 27 communities in the four target municipalities so that community authorities can continue to engage in governance activities and respond to social conflict during the COVID-19

pandemic. The kits included materials such as reusable masks, antibacterial gel, a megaphone, and informational brochures with information on measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and information on preventing domestic violence. One of types of conflicts that is increasing during the COVID-19 pandemic is domestic and gender-based violence (GBV). In response, the project awarded a small grant this quarter to *Fundación de Educación y Desarrollo Social (FUDESA)* to design and implement a social behavior change communication campaign (SBCC) for the prevention and reduction of GBV.

As part of efforts to foster partnerships to respond to conflict in the Western Highlands, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project held virtual meetings this quarter with the *Asociación de Exportadores de Guatemala (AGEXPORT)*, the German *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)* project Transforming Social Conflicts, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) responsible for implanting their Peacebuilding Program to discuss areas of collaboration. In addition, ProPaz signed an agreement with the Swiss Embassy this quarter to purchase matching kits for the 27 project communities.



Institutional Strengthening: Government of Guatemala (GoG) institutions are playing a critical role in responding to local conflict during the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the project overhauled the design of the GoG capacity building program to enable a fully virtual implementation and to better respond to the emerging needs during the pandemic. The project also updated the strategic communication intervention planned with the *Procurador de los Derechos Humanos (PDH)*. Both interventions will be implemented next quarter.

The Peacebuilding Project submitted and received approval for a reprogramming request from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to work with *Comisión Presidencial de Derechos Humanos (COPREDEH)* to implement a communication campaign related to respecting human rights of migrants in the context of returning to their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The project worked with COPREDEH to validate communication concepts that will be launched next quarter.

The Peacebuilding Project formally signed the agreement with the *Instituto de Enseñanza para el Desarrollo Sostenible (IEPADES)* to conduct an assessment on the strengths and weaknesses of existing GoG early warning and response systems (EWRS). One of the most effective ways to prevent and mitigate conflict and violence is through an EWRS that allow government authorities to recognize and respond to conflicts before they become acute crises.



Challenges and Lessons Learned

The main challenge faced by the project this quarter was adapting to working remotely and identifying mechanisms to keep implementing the project. The Peacebuilding Project continues to work remotely from their homes, holding weekly coordination meetings. Project staff attend small, in-person (up to 10 people) meetings when those meetings are requested by project participants and other stakeholders and when they comply with sanitary requirements.

Despite some challenges and the need to adapt methodologies, the project has successfully transitioned to implementing largely virtually. For example, the two comprehensive conversations this quarter were held in a virtual format, which facilitated the participation of presenters from different parts of the country. The Peacebuilding Project team also decided to make changes to how the project will organize the conflict mediator network. Recognizing that conflicts exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic will require trained mediator at all levels, the project decided to expand the network from 20 to 50 mediators and will virtually train mediators (providing data to participants if necessary) at the departmental, municipal and community levels.



Indicator Data

During FY20Q3:

- A total of 282 people (111 women and 171 men) participated in project activities that addressed the peaceful management and resolution of conflicts.
- 132 people (62 women and 70 men) participated in cooperative community dialogue related to developing community visions.
- One community strategy was implemented to address identified sources of conflict, specifically the delivery of COVID-19 prevention kits.
- The project held three coordination meetings related to preventing, managing, and resolving conflict with GoG and non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives.