

Executive Summary

Summary of Key Activities

Institutional Strengthening: This quarter, the project held four inter-institutional meetings with *Comisiones Departamentales de Seguridad y Atención de Conflictos (CODESAC)* in Quiché (three meetings) and Totonicapán (one meeting). CODESAC representatives in Quiché requested support from the Peacebuilding Project in analyzing social conflict and scenarios for 2021. In the last meeting of the quarter, the project invited an expert from the *Instituto de Enseñanza para el Desarrollo Sostenible (IEPADES)* to present an analysis of social conflict and provide potential scenarios for 2021. In Totonicapán, in collaboration with the German cooperation agency *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)*, the project began working with authorities to prepare the Departmental Strategy for Attention to Conflict. As part of efforts to address social conflict, the Departmental Governor of Totonicapán is promoting the creation of a Departmental Commission for Conflict Management. These actions strengthen institutional coordination and will facilitate an improved response to conflict in the departments.

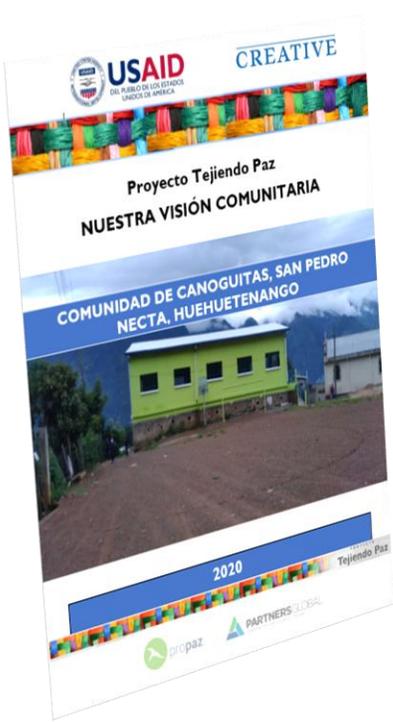
In commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the project held five discussions/ forums and one comprehensive conversation on topics related to preventing gender-based violence (GBV). Three of the discussions were held in coordination with the *Observatorio Indígena*, which presented reports on different types of violence against women in the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Municipal authorities and congressional representatives participated in many of the activities as the presenters advocated for prioritizing the elimination of violence against women in institutional agendas, the national budget, and municipal plans.



During FY21Q1, the project held a series of sessions on strategic and crisis communications with *Auxiliares and Defensores* and senior leadership (including the Ombudsman) of the *Procurador de los Derechos Humanos (PDH)*. The PDH has maintained a strong interest and active participation in project trainings on strategic communication.

IPEADES completed their advocacy plan that focuses on positioning a unified early warning and response system (EWRs) within key government institutions. This is particularly relevant given the context of the newly created *Comisión de Paz y Derechos Humanos* (COPADEF) and the closure of institutions that managed early warning systems. Although the IPEADES grant closed this quarter, the project will continue to look for opportunities to support COPADEF.

Community and Municipal Implementation: At the community level, the project prepared summary versions of the 26 Community Visions (CVs). The team distributed the complete long version and the summary versions to community leaders in the 26 communities. The project team then began preparing the four Municipal Plans for Peace for Chiantla, Comitancillo, San Pedro Necta and Tonicapán, which consolidates the CVs into a municipal plan. The consolidation of the CVs into a municipal plan recognizes that not only is there often overlap between conflict issues facing communities within the same municipality but that it is also a more effective means of managing the implementation of the actions identified by the communities. In addition, given the restrictions due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the updated geographic focus of working more closely with municipal leaders, the consolidated plans provide a starting point for engagement with municipal authorities. The project also made progress in working with municipal authorities in strengthening the capacity of municipal commissions to prevent and respond effectively and peacefully to social conflicts. The team participated in six meetings, three in San Pedro Necta, one in Chiantla and two in Comitancillo, this quarter.



This quarter, the Peacebuilding Project finalized the mediator training process with 32 participants. The network is designed to serve as a resource that communities, municipalities, and departmental authorities can call upon to generate conditions for dialogue or facilitate peaceful conflict resolution, particularly once the community visions are being implemented.



USAID
DEL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS
UNIDOS DE AMERICA

CREATIVE



PARTNERSGLOBAL
Together for Democratic Change

Through subgrantee *Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios para la Democracia Social (DEMOS)*, the project supported the creation of a network of 46 *voceros juveniles*, providing them with training on topics related to social conflict and conflict transformation as well as communication and the role of a spokesperson. As part of commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the *voceros juveniles* developed communication materials such as videos, audio recordings, press releases, and "life stories" related to preventing GBV. The *voceros juveniles* also developed messages related to the rights, challenges, and dangers for migrants to mark International Migrants Day.



Peacebuilding Project subgrantee *Fundación de Educación y Desarrollo Social (FUDESA)* began airing their social behavior change campaign on reducing domestic violence in the four target municipalities.

FUDESA held four launch events and is using local radio, local cable TV, loudspeakers, print media, and digital media to disseminate the prevention messages.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Implementing effectively in the face of an evolving COVID-19 Crisis remains the biggest challenge. As the government has lifted restrictions, and as project partners and participants have requested in-person support, the team has begun to implement some in-person activities. Most activities remain virtual, and most staff continue to work remotely. When in-person presence is required, the project follows the established COVID-19 prevention protocols. Based on lessons learned in implementing during the COVID-19 Pandemic during FY2020, the project is updating its methodologies and proposing changes to its logical framework. The proposed changes do not fundamentally alter the project design, but they do recognize the need to be adaptive in an evolving implementing environment.

Indicator Data

During FY21Q1:

- 91 women participated in a substantive role in a peacebuilding process.
- 502 people (265 women and 237 men) participated in activities addressing the peaceful management and resolution of conflict.
- 14 trainings, exchanges, and/or coordination meetings with Government of Guatemala (GoG) and/ or non-governmental organizations related to preventing, managing, and resolving conflict were held.
- 31 PDH representatives demonstrated an increased capacity to respond to conflict.