

## Executive Summary

### Summary of Key Activities

**Community and Municipal Implementation:** The main focus at the community and municipal level this quarter was conducting entry into the six new municipalities and starting entry at the community level. This quarter, the project presented the project to city councils, municipal offices, and Municipal Development Councils (*Consejos Municipales de Desarrollo*, COMUDEs) in all six new municipalities (Santo Tomás Chichicastenango, Quiché; San Andrés Sajcabajá, Quiché; San Gaspar Chajul, Quiché; San Juan Cotzal, Quiché; San Miguel Ixtahucán, San Marcos; and Huehuetenango, Huehuetenango). The process at the municipal level will be completed during FY21Q4, cumulating in the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs).

Once initial contact was made with municipal authorities, the community implementation team began preliminary engagement with community leaders. During FY21Q3, the community implementation team visited 40 communities in four municipalities: Huehuetenango, San Gaspar Chajul, San Juan Cotzal, and San Miguel Ixtahuacan. In each community, the team met with community authorities and leaders to present the objectives and scope of the project. The team also anticipates completing the process in FY21Q4.

Working with youth for effective civic participation and identifying ways for them to tangibly contribute to their communities remains a priority for the Peacebuilding Project. The second phase of the grant to the Central American Institute of Studies for Social Democracy (*Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios para la Democracia Social*, DEMOS) to expand the Network of *Voceros Juveniles* in the six new municipalities



and to continue working in the four current municipalities was awarded. In addition, Peacebuilding Project partner ProPaz implemented a Citizenship for Peace and Democracy training with 49 youth. This training is being implemented cost share from the Swiss Embassy.

**Institutional Strengthening:** This quarter, PartnersGlobal concluded the second version of the capacity-building program on *Crisis and Conflict Management in the Western Highlands*. This updated version focused on providing new knowledge, strengthening key competencies, and developing appropriate mindsets to better coordinate and respond effectively to emerging conflict dynamics and crises linked to the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. This second version targeted both government officials (18 participants) and civil society actors (six participants). Please see this quarter's success story for more information on the course.

At the departmental level, the Departmental Commissions on Security and Conflict Management (*Comisiones Departamental de Seguridad y Atención de Conflictos*, CODESACs) (in the case of Huehuetenango, known as the Departmental Working Group on Security and Conflict Management (*Mesa Departamental de Seguridad y Atención a la Conflictividad*, MEDESACH)) play an important role in managing, responding to, and resolving local conflict. As such, the Peacebuilding Project has prioritized working with these commissions as part of its efforts to strengthen Government of Guatemala's (GoG) capacity in preventing and addressing local conflict. This quarter, the project provided technical assistance through 12 meetings with the CODESACs/ MEDESACH in the four departments. The Quiché CODESAC is making progress in addressing conflicts such as illegal logging, territorial/border disputes, and electricity distribution, as well as in updating their internal regulations. The Quiché CODESAC presented their conflict mapping to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Democracy and Governance Office Director and other staff this quarter.



*Challenges and Lessons Learned:* Implementing effectively in the face of an evolving COVID-19 Crisis remains the biggest challenge. Given that restrictions to movement remain largely lifted and project partners and participants continue to request in-person support, the team has increased the implementation of in-person activities. Municipal and community entry requires in-person activities in order to generate trust and buy-in. The team has adapted the community entry methodologies to work in open spaces, hold sessions with fewer participants, and use the shortest possible time while maintaining substantial participation of all actors. While challenging, the team is adapting to this new reality. However, lack of access to vaccines for project staff under 50 remains a serious concern given that they are in regular contact with multiple communities.

### *Indicator Data*

During FY21Q3:

- 246 women participated in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process.
- 1133 unique individuals (401 women and 732 men) participated in activities addressing the peaceful management and resolution of conflict.
- Forty-seven women were reached by a United States Government (USG) funded intervention providing gender-based violence (GBV) services.
- 25 trainings, exchanges, and/or coordination meetings with GoG and/or non-governmental organizations related to preventing, managing, and resolving conflict were held.
- 24 government and non-governmental actors (eight women and 16 men) demonstrated increased capacity to respond to and resolve conflicts.