

Executive Summary

Summary of Key Activities

Impact Evaluation: As part of the incremental funding received during FY2021, and per the requirements of the Complex Crisis Funds (CCF), the Peacebuilding Project contracted an external evaluation firm to implement an outcome evaluation through a quasi-experimental design. The firm completed the final report this quarter; the main finding of the evaluation is that there is sufficient evidence that the project had positive impacts on the achievement of the project goal, objectives, and survey indicators during the period evaluated (2019 – 2021). Through the qualitative analysis, the evaluators noted a positive change in perception of trust among community members, in perception among community members of the government’s role in local conflict resolution, and in percent of people who believe their communities are peaceful, safe, and secure. There was also a decrease in citizens' perception of levels of conflict in their communities.

Youth Migration: One of the qualitative findings of the impact evaluation is that migration reduces youth engagement and poses a challenge for continuity in working with youth, which is the population most inclined to migrate. One project participant shared with the evaluations that “many people prefer to migrate; we [the community] have seen establishments that are left without young people since they have left their communities due to lack of opportunities.” The project continues to engage with youth from the Western Highlands through the Network of *Voceros Juveniles para la Paz*. The network is an important space for youth to engage civically and create connections with other youth. This quarter, youth from the Network of *Voceros Juveniles*, with support from the Central American Institute of Studies for Social Democracy (*Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios para la Democracia Social*, DEMOS), conducted outreach with Municipal Youth Offices (*Oficinas Municipal de la Juventud*, OMJs) in their municipalities to better understand the functions, plans, and contacts within the offices as well as to present the work of the network and to link the youth-led initiatives with municipal offices and commissions. Please see Annex A for a success story on a *vocera juvenil* who decided not to migrate after participating in the network and receiving a scholarship to attend college.

Women’s Civic Participation and Prevention of Gender-Based Violence: March 8 marks the annual commemoration of International Women’s Day. Given the important role of women in peacebuilding and conflict mitigation, the project organized various activities throughout the month of March. The project ensured youth participation in these activities, specifically in screening one of their films, *Sueño Despierta*. The project held a conference on the meaning of March 8 and women’s economic rights and coordinated with other United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded projects in the implementation of the discussion “Women Inspiring Other Women.”



This quarter, the project also strengthened relationships and alliances with institutional counterparts responsible for the advancement of women, implementing activities with the Presidential Secretariat for Women (*Secretaría Presidencial de la Mujer*, SEPREM), the Office for the Protection of Indigenous Women (*Defensoría de la Mujer Indígena*, DEMI), and the Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Human Trafficking (*Secretaría Contra la Violencia Sexual, Explotación y Trata de Personas*, SVET). For example, during FY22Q2, the project began implementing a healing process for women survivors and victims of violence in Totoncapán with the DEMI. The project has focused on providing women and conference participants with information on mechanisms for reporting gender-based violence (GBV) and accessing resources. Finally, this quarter, project partner Foundation for Education and Social Development (*Fundación de Educación y Desarrollo Social*, FUDESA) completed their communication campaign "*Yo respeto a mi familia, vivo sin violencia*," which focused on changing attitudes, increasing awareness, and strengthening knowledge around types of domestic violence and reporting mechanisms. Please see Annex B for a success story on four women from Comitancillo, San Marcos who are contributing to peacebuilding in their municipality and communities.



Indigenous Engagement: The project finalized a training process this quarter with 79 members (24 women and 55 men) of 48 *Cantones*, who are indigenous authorities from Totoncapán. The trainings strengthened their capacity for the peaceful resolution of social conflict. Indigenous authorities are key partners in resolving social conflict and preventing conflict from escalating into crisis and violence. Their ancestral knowledge, systems and practices are fundamental for the implementation of effective, alternative mechanisms of dialogue, mediation, and negotiation. Please see Annex C for a short blurb published by Creative on the importance of art, culture, and shared traditions in constructing social cohesion, which focuses on an activity held with 48 *Cantones*.



Challenges

One of the main challenges faced this quarter was turnover within partner government institutions. The Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (*Comisión de Paz y Derechos Humanos*, COPADEH), Ministry of the Interior (*Ministerio de Gobernación*, MINGOB), SVET, and Community Violence Prevention Unit (*Unidad de Prevención Comunitaria de la Violencia*, UPCV) all saw turnover in senior-level officials. This turnover causes delays in the implementation of activities as the project needs to be presented to the incoming Government of

Guatemala (GoG) representatives to ensure their continued buy-in and support. Changes to authorities at the community level also took place this quarter as there are often changes at the beginning of the calendar year. These types of changes will continue to take place leading up to the electoral period, which starts next year.

COVID-19 continues to remain a challenge, although cases decreased this quarter. As of the end of March, only 33 percent of the population has received two doses of a vaccine; the vaccination of minors has been especially slow. The project continues to implement a mix of virtual and in-person activities; however, requests for in-person activities from project participants and partners have increased.

Indicator Data

During FY22Q2,

- 3,173 unique individuals (1,574 women and 1,575 men, 24 not identified) participated in activities addressing the peaceful management and resolution of conflict;
- 161 events, trainings, or activities designed to build support for peace or reconciliation were implemented;
- 109 ancestral authorities (42 women and 67 men) demonstrated increased capacity to respond to and resolve local and municipal conflicts;
- 207 women participated in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process;
- 780 people (394 women and 386 men) engaged in cooperative community dialogue; and
- 43 women were reached by a United States Government (USG) funded intervention providing GBV services.



USAID
DEL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS
UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA

CREATIVE

