

Executive Summary

Summary of Key Activities

Community vision development: As of FY22Q3, the Peacebuilding Project has been accepted in 103 in 14 municipalities, working in different stages of the community implementation cycle, including: community entry, rapid stakeholder assessment, conflict and resilience analysis, development of community visions, and implementation of community visions. There were 39 community visions developed this quarter, which are currently in the validation and approval stage and will be finalized and shared in FY22Q4. The Peacebuilding Project is on track to be implementing in the target 130 communities in 15 municipalities by the end of FY2022.

Community vision implementation: Even as the project is developing community visions in the new communities that have been entered this fiscal year, the team continues to implement actions in support of the community visions already developed in 26 communities in the first group of four municipalities. One example of community vision implementation comes from Comitancillo, where the municipality identified solid waste management as a trigger of conflict among the population. To strategically mitigate and address the conflict, the municipality took action by building capacity among young people through a training called “Ecological Guardians.”



The Peacebuilding Project coordinated with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (*Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, MARN*) to implement the four-part training, which 207 junior high and high school students participated in. The Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (*Comisión de Paz y Derechos Humanos, COPADEH*) also participated in the closing ceremony. COPADEH’s participation in the event is an example of how the Peacebuilding Project facilitates interinstitutional coordination between key government actors with local actors. During the closing ceremony, experts from COPADEH facilitated a session with the topic of “culture of peace and its impact on personal growth and development.” One of the COPADEH representatives that attended the graduation ceremony and participated in the session was a participant in the six-module training for COPADEH by the Peacebuilding Project. This is one of 21 activities implemented in support of 22 community visions in four municipalities this quarter.

Strengthening the role of midwives in conflict prevention: Midwives (*comadronas*) play a critical role as ancestral authorities in their communities and given how closely they work with women and families. Many mediate in the family environment and mentor young women. To leverage their unique position in the community, the project is working to strengthen midwives’ capacities and knowledge base to prevent and report sexual violence as well as to mediate intra-familial conflicts and combat discrimination within the health care system. In collaboration with the Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Human Trafficking (*Secretaría Contra*



la Violencia Sexual, Explotación y Trata de Personas, SVET) and the National Movement of Midwives *Nim Alaxik*, the project supported a training with 60 midwives in Quetzaltenango on preventing and referring cases of sexual violence, exploitation, and human trafficking. The event was attended by Vice President Guillermo Castillo and will be replicated in the other four project departments. In addition, in response to the community vision

developed in Nimapá, Totonicapán, the project completed a training process with 31 midwives from that community. The training was implemented in conjunction with the Office for the Protection of Indigenous Women (*Defensoría de la Mujer Indígena, DEMI*), Cooperation for the Rural Development of the Western Highlands (*Cooperación para el Desarrollo Rural de Occidente, CDRO*), and the Ministry of Health.

COPADEFH training finalized: In September 2021, the Peacebuilding Project and COPADEFH signed an agreement to strengthen the commission's capacity by training COPADEFH's executive and technical staff on approaches to effectively carry out dialogue, negotiate, and manage conflict, with a focus on peaceful and sustainable solutions. This training process began at the end of October 2021 and in May 2022, the last training module was held. COPADEFH demonstrated their commitment to the training by covering nearly 40 percent



of the costs, while requesting technical support from the Peacebuilding Project. Additionally, with support from the project, COPADEFH has received alerts about emerging conflicts as well as monthly reports on social conflict in the country, from the System for Social Conflict Actions (*Sistema de Acciones de Conflictividad Social, SACS*), software developed by external consulting firm *Acuerdos y Soluciones, Sociedad Anónima (AYSSA)* to track and report on social conflict.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex (LGBTQI+) human rights: June is LGBTQI+ pride month and the Peacebuilding Project began implementing in support of LGBTQI+ human rights. The project receives funding from the Human Rights Grants Program to implement activities addressing violence that LGBTQI+ individuals¹ suffer in targeted areas in the Western Highlands. In June, Peacebuilding Project staff participated in a training on basic concepts of sexual diversity and gender identity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of sexual

diversity and gender identity. The Peacebuilding Project also hosted an exchange between LGBTQI+ organizations in the Western Highlands. Representatives from *Trabajando Unidos*, *Asociación Vidas Paralelas*, and the Youth Voices for Peace Network participated in the exchange of experiences, perspectives, and opinions regarding the adverse situations that LGBTQI+ people confront in their communities.

Challenges

The greatest challenge to project implementation is the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. While 100 percent of staff are vaccinated and boosted, nationally only 37 percent of Guatemalans are fully vaccinated. The above-mentioned COPADEH training series took longer to implement than planned due to participants having COVID-19. The project has updated COVID-19 quarantine and testing protocols to respond to the uptick in cases.

Another challenge is the ongoing conflict between Ixchiguán and Tajumulco, San Marcos. In response, on June 7, the Government of Guatemala (GoG) implemented a month-long state of siege in the two municipalities which was then extended through August 7. Although the project does not implement in Ixchiguán or Tajumulco, the project is present in nearby communities in San Marcos, San Marcos.

Indicator Data

During FY22Q3,

- 2,960 unique individuals (1,279 women and 1,469 men, 212 no response) participated in activities addressing the peaceful management and resolution of conflict;
- 181 events, trainings, or activities designed to build support for peace or reconciliation were implemented;
- 40 local authorities (14 women and 26 men) demonstrated increased capacity to respond to and resolve local and municipal conflicts;
- 192 women participated in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process;
- 412 people (189 women and 223 men) engaged in cooperative community dialogue; and
- 64 women were reached by a United States Government (USG) funded intervention providing GBV services.