

## Executive Summary

### *Summary of Key Achievements*

**Began community entry in fifteenth municipality, Cunen, El Quiché:** After experiencing complications working in the municipality of Nebaj, the Peacebuilding Project selected Cunen as the fifteenth target municipality. In FY23Q1, the project received both approval from USAID and acceptance from the municipality to begin work in Cunen. Immediately, the project got to work visiting 12 communities, one of which accepted, four of which did not, and seven that are pending responses. With the addition of Cunen, the Peacebuilding Project has reached its goal of 15 target municipalities in the Western Highlands. As of the end of FY23Q1, the project is working with 118 of 130 target communities and expects to finalize community entry in the 12 remaining communities by the end of FY23Q2.



**Commemorated International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence (GBV) with activities in the Western Highlands:** International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is commemorated on November 25 and International Human Rights Day is commemorated on December 10. The days between these important dates are known as 16 Days of Activism, an internationally recognized campaign that calls for the

prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. Within the framework of 16 Days of Activism, the project held five key activities to increase the visibility of GBV in Guatemala, amplify the voices of women affected by the violence, and highlight the project's work in the prevention of GBV. One of these activities included a dialogue with representatives from the National Movement of Midwives *Nim Alaxik* on preventing violence against women, obstetric violence and racism. In addition to providing a space for 23 midwives from the Western Highlands to discuss these important topics, the Peacebuilding Project was able to achieve three key objectives during the event: a) print and deliver a sixth training module (a complimentary module to the other five existing *Nim Alaxik* training modules) with topics on human rights, indigenous identity and practices, and the role of midwives in peacebuilding; b) provide space to discuss specific cases of obstetric racism and violence, during which representatives from *Nim Alaxik* committed to documenting the cases for follow-up; and c) discuss training for midwives on the National Policy for Midwives of the four ethnic groups of Guatemala 2015-2025 (*La Política Nacional de Comadronas de los Cuatro Pueblos de Guatemala 2015-2025*). For more information on the other activities that the Peacebuilding Project held within the framework of 16 Days of Activism, please see Annex A Success Story: Commemorating 16 Days of Activism in Guatemala.

**Initiated the third phase of Youth Voices for Peace (*Red de Voceros y Voceras Juveniles para la Paz*):** As part of the subgrant with the Central American Institute of Studies for Social Democracy (*Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios para la Democracia Social*, DEMOS), the Peacebuilding Project launched the third phase of *Voceros Juveniles* at the beginning of November, with 226 members from the project's 15 target municipalities. From November to December, DEMOS held 13 training sessions on topics such as communication and spokespersonship, informational digital technology, social conflict, electoral violence, and migration. These trainings will prepare *Voceros Juveniles* for the next component of phase three which is youth-led initiatives, set to begin in FY23Q2. Through participation in *Voceros Juveniles*, youth strengthen their leadership capacities and their commitment to actively participate in their communities, make their voices heard on a wider scale, and help to build safer and healthier communities in the Western Highlands.

**Launched LGBTQI+<sup>1</sup> training and support services through LGBTQI+ grantees:** In FY2022, the Peacebuilding project awarded small grants to civil society organizations Association We are Diverse Youth in Action (*Asociación Somos Jovenes Diversos en Acción*, SOMOS) and *Vidas Paralelas*. After developing their workplan, training staff, and finalizing methodologies, both SOMOS and *Vidas Paralelas* began implementation in FY23Q1. SOMOS trained Peacebuilding Project staff on topics of LGBTQI+ human rights and gender inclusion, in the first session of an ongoing training for Community Facilitators (CFs). In the next quarter, SOMOS will begin similar trainings for the Conflict Mediator Network, *Asesoras de Cambio*, and *Voceros Juveniles*. Likewise, in FY23Q1, *Vidas Paralelas* began implementation by building relationships with institutions within the public health system, municipal institutions, and civil society organizations to encourage them to refer survivors of bias-based violence to *Vidas Paralelas* to receive legal and psychosocial support services.



This quarter, *Vidas Paralelas* supported eight survivors (five women, three men) with legal guidance and psychosocial care. The Peacebuilding Project continued to provide spaces of exchange and encourage dialogue to strengthen the relationships among LGBTQI+ individuals and organizations within the Western Highlands.



**Continued strengthening the Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (*Comisión Presidencial por la Paz y los Derechos Humanos*, COPADEH):** In FY23Q1, the Peacebuilding Project signed a Fixed Amount Award (FAA) to extend COPADEH's in-kind grant until April 2023 to continue its institutional strengthening. The impact of the Peacebuilding Project's ongoing work with COPADEH was apparent this quarter when the Government of Guatemala (GoG) extended COPADEH's mandate for ten years<sup>2</sup>, according to GoG agreement 305-2022 published on December 9. The Director of

COPADEH believes this extension is in large part due to the 10-year strategic plan developed in FY2022 with support from the project. This strategic plan and the subsequent extension of COPADEH's mandate will provide stability and sustainability despite the upcoming political changes in the GoG.

### *Indicator Data*

During FY23Q1,

- 2900 unique individuals (1355 women and 1273 men, 269 no response and three who chose not to identify) participated in activities addressing the peaceful management and resolution of conflict;
- 153 events, trainings, or activities designed to build support for peace or reconciliation were implemented;
- 155 women participated in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process;
- 696 people (374 women, 320 men, one no response, and one who chose not to identify) engaged in cooperative community dialogue;
- 86 unique individuals (83 women and three men) were reached by a United States Government (USG) funded intervention providing GBV services.