

Executive Summary

Summary of Key Achievements



Reached geographic coverage goal, completing community entry in 134 communities in 15 municipalities: The Peacebuilding Project completed community entry and gained acceptance in 134 total communities in 15 municipalities, surpassing its original goal of 130 communities (providing a buffer if any drop out). While communities are at different stages in the process, 126 communities have participated in the rapid stakeholder assessment, 116 have participated in the Conflict and Resilience Analysis (CRA), and 86 have finalized Community Visions (CV). The CVs serve as an important tool in the long-term, well after the Peacebuilding Project has finished, as they map out routes to effectively address community triggers for conflict.

Began capacity-building activities to prevent and mitigate electoral conflict: Recognizing that electoral conflict is a reoccurring phenomenon in Guatemala, particularly in communities in the rural Western Highlands that are already vulnerable to social conflict and knowing that electoral conflicts can become the foundation for the emergence of new social conflicts, this quarter the Peacebuilding Project began building capacity of key actors to address, prevent and mitigate electoral conflict. To do this, the project is working to strengthen institutional coordination and capacity and to promote inclusive civic participation and a culture of peace.

During FY23Q2, the project increased capacity at various levels and among diverse actors, training the following groups on electoral process (civic participation, electoral conflict, identifying and reporting electoral crimes and offenses): a) national institutions, specifically the Community Violence Prevention Unit (*Unidad de Prevención Comunitaria de la Violencia*, UPCV) and the Human Rights Ombudsmen (*Procurador de los Derechos Humanos*, PDH); b) departmental level entities including departmental governments and the Departmental Commissions on Security and Conflict Management (*Comisión Departamental de Seguridad y Atención de Conflictos*, CODESACs); c) municipal level entities including Municipal Commissions in 10 municipalities through trainings with UPCV; d) young people reached through the project's Youth Voices for Peace Network (*Red de Voceros y Voceras Juveniles para la Paz*) and electoral process diploma course youth participants from Guatemala, Huehuetenango, and Quiché in conjunction with the Research Center for the Prevention of Violence in Central America (*Centro de Investigación para la Prevención de la Violencia en Centroamérica*, CIPREVICA); and e) the Conflict Mediator Network.

By building the capacity of a large group of diverse key actors to understand and engage in the electoral process at a deeper level, these actors will be more likely to identify potential electoral crimes and offenses early on and report electoral conflict in the departments and municipalities where they work, contributing to the prevention of larger electoral conflict at a national level. These efforts also contribute to inclusive participation by traditional marginalized groups.

Substantively engaged ancestral authorities: The Peacebuilding Project continued to operationalize USAID’s Indigenous People’s Engagement Strategy in FY23Q2 by working to integrate indigenous peoples’ knowledge systems with national systems through an exchange held on March 22 between ancestral and state authorities. The goal for the exchange was for participants to identify opportunities for communication and coordination to effectively address conflict. Through roundtable discussions, ancestral authorities presented real life conflicts they had addressed, mediated, and resolved as well as their lived experiences and challenges with state representatives in managing these conflicts. Following the roundtable discussions, the group came together and discussed the cases, identifying common elements and differences between the two systems, asking questions to learn more about each system, and brainstorming opportunities to improve collaboration. The dialogue was clearly valued by both ancestral and state authorities because at the end of the event, both ancestral and state authorities proposed replicating the exchange at the departmental level. Through this exchange, the project contributed to creating substantive partnerships between indigenous entities and Government of Guatemala (GoG) representatives and elevating indigenous peoples’ knowledge systems for state authorities.



Commemorated International Women’s Day: Acknowledging the important role women must play for inclusive peacebuilding processes, the project works to increase women’s substantive participation, strengthen women’s leadership skills and provide them with access to resources, and promote behavior change to reduce gender-based violence (GBV). The Peacebuilding Project held eight activities throughout the Western Highlands and in Guatemala City to commemorate International Women’s Day and contribute to gender inclusion. One important activity was held on March 8 by the Municipal Women’s Office (*Dirección Municipal de la Mujer, DMM*) of Comitancillo, San Marcos in which the DMM discussed the municipal policy for women that would promote women’s rights and create opportunities for women’s active participation in the

municipality. The DMM began working in November to develop the policy which will be aligned with the National Policy for the Promotion and Integral Development of Women (*Política Nacional de Promoción y Desarrollo Integral de las Mujeres*, PNPDIM). Once the policy is finalized, the DMM will advocate to reach a municipal agreement to validate and implement the municipal policy for women. The implementation of this policy will have a significant impact because it will increase women's substantive participation within the municipality of Comitancillo in the long-term.

Coordinated with other USAID/ United States Government (USG) projects: The Peacebuilding Project is uniquely placed to link other USAID projects with key regional actors from the Western Highlands given that the project main office is in Quetzaltenango but has staff in Guatemala City and throughout the highlands. The Peacebuilding Project is committed to coordinating with other USAID projects to maximize resources and to enhance development outcomes. The project is currently coordinating the USAID *Red de Redes*, seeking to connect youth from multiple projects with opportunities for learning and participation. The project has agreed to following up on outcomes from the *Nexos Locales* project, such as the strengthening of municipal Indigenous Advisory Councils (*Consejo Asesor Indígena*, CAI) and maintaining the [Center of Technical Assistance](#). During the electoral period, the project is coordinating with the Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS) partners in the implementation of activities aimed at mitigating electoral conflict.

Continued to operationalize USAID's localization strategy: This quarter, the Peacebuilding Project held an exchange to increase alliances and effective collaboration between the project's 12 local civil society partner organizations and project staff. During the two-day event, participants exchanged experiences and local knowledge around conflict mitigation, violence prevention, and peacebuilding. They also participated in activities that provided them with the opportunity to visualize how their work overlaps, strengthen their working relationships, and open the door for future collaboration. For more information on this event and how localization is a key element to the Peacebuilding Project's success in building trust and strong relationships in communities in the Western Highlands, read [Success Story: Nothing about us, without us](#).



Indicator Data

During FY23Q2,

- 4,918 unique individuals (3,013 women and 1,709 men, 183 no response and 13 who chose not to identify) participated in activities addressing the peaceful management and resolution of conflict;

- 229 events, trainings, or activities designed to build support for peace or reconciliation were implemented;
- 24 authorities and non-governmental actors (16 women, 8 men) demonstrated an increased capacity to respond to and resolve conflicts at the local, municipal, and/or national levels;
- 443 women participated in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process;
- 437 people (171 women, 249 men, 17 no response) engaged in cooperative community dialogue;
- 150 unique individuals (all women) were reached by a United States Government (USG) funded intervention providing GBV services.

