



USAID
DEL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS
UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA

Alianzas
Invirtiendo en Guatemala

Multi-sector Alliances Program

Small Grants Final Report
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Submitted By

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Acronym List

<i>ASODEP</i>	<i>Asociación de Permacultura</i> (Permaculture Association)
CA	Cooperative Agreement
<i>CADISOGUA</i>	<i>Coordinadora de Asociaciones de Desarrollo Integral del Suroccidente de Guatemala</i> (Coordinator for Integral Development Associations in Southwestern Guatemala)
<i>CONAP</i>	<i>Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas</i> (National Council of Protected Areas)
<i>FUNSEPA</i>	<i>Fundación Sergio Paiz Andrade</i>
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
RTI	Research Triangle Institute
SO	Strategic objective
US/ USA	United States, United States of America
USAID	The United States Agency for International Development
<i>USAC</i>	<i>Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala</i>
USG	U.S. Government
<i>UVG</i>	<i>Universidad del Valle de Guatemala</i>

1. Background

In November 2010, RTI International (RTI) was awarded Modification No. 4 to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Multi-sector Alliances Program (*Alianzas*) Cooperative Agreement (CA) No. 520-A-00-10-00031-00 to manage the Small Grants Program, with the purpose of implementing an effective mechanism for supporting grassroots organizations in underserved areas to improve the lives of people in poor, remote communities. In Guatemala, the U.S. Government (USG)-sponsored Small Grants Program allowed the USAID Mission and the U.S. Embassy to use streamlined procedures to finance quick-impact development activities and provide an agile and effective response to community needs, in response to the dozens of unsolicited requests received monthly from different community-based groups. The program was demand-driven, responding to the short-term needs of communities with limited access to public, private, or donor funding. Unlike the core *Alianzas* program, the Small Grants Program did not incorporate any outreach campaign or call for proposals and RTI did not generate grant proposals apart from those that USAID or the US Embassy identified for the program.

The overall goal of the Small-Grants Program was to support groups working to improve the lives of citizens in underserved communities throughout Guatemala. The purpose was to resolve specific, self-identified problems in underdeveloped communities through small grants. The objectives were to:

1. Finance small development activities, to respond to immediate needs of poor Guatemalans in ways that contribute to improvements in the economic livelihoods, education, health, governance and stability of targeted communities.
2. Contribute to promoting better understanding of the USG and its development assistance through people-level impact activities.

The program supported all three of USAID/Guatemala's strategic objectives (SOs), SO 1: More Responsive, Transparent, Governance; SO 2: An Open, Diversified, Expanding Economy; and SO 3: Healthier, Better Educated People. Grant projects contributed to improving beneficiary communities and to the specific goals assigned by each SO team.

Originally, the Small Grants Program was planned to be implemented over a 2-year period, to fund approximately 25 small projects per year, ranging in size from US\$2,000 to US\$20,000. However, the program was closed after one year of implementation per USAID request.

2. Management and Staffing

To coordinate the program, RTI recruited and hired a dedicated small grants coordinator to oversee activities with grantees and provide day-to-day management of the Small Grants Program. The coordinator was part of the *Alianzas* team for the duration of the program. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), finance and administrative support, and technical inputs were provided by core *Alianzas* program staff. In cases where the technical expertise was not

available in house (such as with governance and environment proposals), support was provided from external experts.

The Small Grants Coordinator oversaw the grants application process from the perspective of the potential partners, and coordinated with USAID to select beneficiary projects. Although potential proposals were directed to the *Alianzas* team from the Mission or from the Embassy, *Alianzas* assisted potential grantees to develop proposals that met USAID criteria under the simplified grants process developed for the component. Initial project eligibility assessments were based on specific criteria such as pertinence, efficiency, sustainability, and additionality. This allowed *Alianzas* and the committee to verify whether the proposed activities matched USAID's strategic objectives. The partner evaluation process generally started upon receipt of the original request (usually in letter form). Once a contact person at the applicant organization was identified, required application forms were sent to the organization or group, including offers of assistance (phone, email or other appropriate correspondence) for completing them.

Upon receipt of a complete grant application and supporting documentation, all projects were evaluated relative to the objectives stated in the application. Depending on the results of the initial analysis, *Alianzas* staff visited potential project sites to better understand the local situation and community interest with regards to the proposed activities. Visits were always facilitated by one or several of the following: board of directors, organization's representative or the pertinent technical representative. The site visits had the following purposes:

- Analyze the proposal activities and their potential for sustainability;
- Establish feasibility, possible modifications to project design, and implementation steps; and
- Establish leverage.

After the site visits, the final step in this selection process involved supporting applicants in the completion of any additional supporting documents.

Full proposals were then submitted to the USAID Small Grants Committee for discussion and final approval. The Small Grants Coordinator participated in the committee project evaluation meetings in order to further clarify proposal details and information, and, in turn, shorten approval times. Those approved came back to *Alianzas* for processing into a grant award. Partners worked closely with the Small Grants Coordinator to resolve any outstanding issues and begin implementation. *Alianzas* monitored and proposed strategies and activities throughout the life of each project and ensured that projects met their objectives.

3. Key Results

By the end of the program, 12 projects were awarded out of 49 proposals received, with a total investment of US\$153,790 USG funds and US\$121,563 of leverage from partners. This represents a ratio of 1.29:1 on the USG investment for grantees. Detailed information on budget

execution and leverage can be found in *Annex A*. The full list of submitted proposals with details on their status is included in *Annex B*.

The twelve selected projects were implemented under three program elements as follows:

Program Element A: Education

- San José Pinula *Escuela Oficial Rural Mixta* 850
- *Jóvenes Arriba*
- *Escuela Oficial Urbana No. 69*
- *Escuela Oficial de Párvulos anexa a EORM*

Program Element B: Health

- *Pura Vida*
- *Comité Todos por el Lago*

Program Element C: Economic Development and Environment

- *Coordinadora de Asociaciones de Desarrollo Integral del Sur Occidente de Guatemala (Cadisogua* [Coordinator for Integral Development Associations in Southwestern Guatemala])
- *Asociación para el desarrollo de la Permacultura (Asodep* [Permaculture Association])
- *CasaSito*
- Conservation Imaging Inc.
- Opportunities for Youth

Program Element D: Governance and Democracy

- *Asociación de Abogados Mayas de Guatemala* [Association of Mayan Lawyers of Guatemala]

At the outset of the program, the Alianzas team did not specify targets for any particular technical indicators for the program, since it was demand-driven and thus impossible to anticipate the technical components covered in any grants. Instead, indicators were decided on a case-by-case basis upon grant award and were then incorporated into the Alianzas Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP). The results of these 12 projects feed Alianzas indicators as detailed in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Small Grants Results

Indicators	Results
Improved quality and equity of basic education	
Number of children and youth with access to improved learning opportunities	640
Number of learners enrolled in USG-supported pre-primary schools or equivalent non-school based settings	90

Indicators	Results
Number of learners enrolled in USG-supported primary schools or equivalent non-school based settings	550
Number of students receiving post-secondary and university scholarships.	21
Number of host-country individuals receiving USG-funded scholarships to attend higher education institutions for basic education strengthening.	21
Number of textbooks and other teaching and learning materials provided with USG assistance.	428
Improved nutrition, reproductive and maternal child health care	
Number of children reached by USG-supported nutrition programs.	255
Liters of drinking water disinfected with USG-supported point-of-use treatment products.	90,000

Detailed results on each of the 12 projects can be found in **Annex C: Small Grants Fact Sheets**.

4. Leveraging

Since this program was awarded under its own conditions, the required leveraging ratio of 2:1 on core *Alianzas* activities was waived by USAID. Instead, on a case-by-case basis, communities receiving support were expected to provide substantial in-kind contributions that would at least match the value of the grant received. The overall leverage ratio for the Small Grants Program was 1.1:1. Leverage information is included for each grantee in the annexes.

5. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

Although the Small Grants Program was suspended early after USAID determined that their technical offices had other mechanisms to provide a rapid response to small grants requests, there were important lessons learned that can be applied in any small grants program working with community-based organizations. We outline these lessons learned and recommendations here.

Small Grants, despite their small size, require a significant amount of time investment in their development. The Small Grants program was particularly time-intensive because potential partners seldom possessed experience with USG funds and regulations. Most of the requests that were presented for Small Grants support were letters that requested a donation allowing the implementation of their ideas. To qualify for funding, even under the simplified grant application process, partners needed additional time investment from *Alianzas* staff to explain how the program worked, how viability was evaluated, which documents were needed to formulate the project and how to establish an appropriate budget. Similarly, because of the small size of the community-based organizations, potential partners frequently lack skilled or experienced

personnel versed in formal request and proposal processes. Some organizations required more intensive technical support to develop their project proposals, while others that had a formal management structure and more volunteers had clearer proposals that only required minor modifications. As a consequence, the negotiations often prolonged response time and process. Field visits also demonstrated the intensive support required in order to prepare documents required, support which took an average of two months for each project. The Small Grants Coordinator's technical assistance to improve proposal quality was crucial for the successful presentation and approval of concept papers.

Community-based grantees need additional support and mentoring on sustainable technical design of their programs. A challenge that was faced on numerous occasions was limited analysis or consideration of project sustainability in design by potential partners. The applicants' socioeconomic conditions seldom predispose them to consider and plan projects that have an impact beyond everyday life. The challenge for partners and the project was to envision and implement mechanisms that evolved beyond project activities to develop long term sustainable projects. A key aspect of this sustainability related to the negotiation of the leverage requirement, since many of the applicant entities did not have the financial capacity to add their own economic contributions as part of the project.

Clearly established and streamlined decision-making and administration procedures from start-up help ensure that grants are awarded in a timely manner concomitant to the scale of the investment. During the year the program was implemented, the committee leader in USAID changed twice, which delayed awards and modified the process since each person had a different view of what the program should be and prioritize. Modifications to the presentation and approval procedures by USAID's SGC resulted in a delay of more than two months in some cases such as Conservation Inc. and Association of Mayan Lawyers of Guatemala. The changes also resulted in the cancellation of proposals that had previously been approved such as Escuintla Industrial School. Similarly, there should be enough flexibility and responsiveness built into the program in order to readily adapt to unforeseen situations. The criteria for grant processing should be defined so that a higher proportion of potential applicants are likely to meet the program's objectives. We received nearly 50 proposals and only 12 were approved.

Despite the small scale of the investment and interventions, the administrative load remains relatively constant when compared to grants of much larger magnitude. This results in a large resource requirement for grant management in proportion to the grant size, thus much less efficiency per dollar. The management costs for this component were largely fixed (consisting mainly of the salary of the Small Grants Coordinator and a percentage of other administrative costs under the larger Alianzas program). Since the number of grants approved was small in relation to the original budget amount and the project was suspended early, the management percentage of this component was higher than anticipated at 40% of the total investment. In addition to these management challenges, we recommend that for future projects additional resources should be allocated for M&E, since staff visits to project sites requires similar resource investment regardless of the size of the grant.

For future projects, we recommend that small grants be awarded only as in-kind grants and processed through purchase orders. This recommendation stems from the fact that most awardees were grassroots organizations that did not have the capabilities to report on use of USG funds adequately which resulted in an extraordinary amount of time invested by project staff to maintain proper controls.

Annex B: Small Grants Proposal Summary

No.	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	TIMEFRAME FROM APPLICATION TO APPROVAL				TOTAL COST			OBSERVATIONS
		Department	RTI	Sent to USAID committee	Changes required by USAID	Approval	Amount Requested	Approved Grant Value	Leverage to Date	
1	Escuela Oficial de Párulos	Guatemala	1/18/11	1/28/11	2/15/11		\$8,125.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Not approved: classroom construction
2	Telesecundaria	Escuintla	1/18/11	1/28/11	2/15/11		\$5,625.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Not approved: classroom construction
3	Escuela No. 850	Guatemala	1/18/11	1/28/11	2/15/11	2/15/11	\$10,000.00	\$8,926.44	\$832.00	APPROVED
4	Guardería Tierra Abierta	Guatemala	1/18/11	1/28/11	2/15/11		\$31,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Not approved: land purchase
5	Cooperativa de Mujeres	Alta Verapaz	1/18/11	1/28/11	2/15/11		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Only a letter of application was received
6	Instituto Normal Mixto Privado San Andrés	Huehuetenango	1/18/11	1/28/11	2/15/11		\$18,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Not approved: computer purchase
7	Red Huista	Huehuetenango	1/18/11	1/28/11	2/15/11 2/25/11 3/11/11 4/14/11 5/4/11		\$19,450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Not approved: a) new organization, it is not known by USAID partners; b) not suitable in the long term
8	Grupo de Mujeres	Alta Verapaz	1/18/11	1/28/11	2/15/11		\$3,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	They didn't follow the process
9	Organización Tzununa	Sololá	1/18/11	1/28/11	2/15/11			\$0.00	\$0.00	Only a letter of application was received
10	CADISOGUA	Quetzaltenango	1/18/11	1/28/11	2/15/11	2/15/11	\$12,156.88	\$12,716.29	\$22,820.36	APPROVED
11	Escuela Oficial de Primaria	Quiché	1/18/11	1/28/11	2/15/11		\$9,375.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Not approved: classroom construction
12	ASODEP	Sololá	2/3/11	3/15/11	4/14/11 4/27/11	4/28/11	\$6,341.00	\$5,512.53	\$6,163.00	APPROVED
13	Comisión Municipal de la Mujer	Quiché	2/3/11	4/26/11	4/14/11		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Only a letter of application was received
14	Grupo de Mujeres	Quiché	2/3/11	2/9/11	2/15/11 8/29/11		\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	The proposal was modified and USAID requested other changes
15	Pura Vida	Sololá	1/28/11	2/9/11	2/15/11 2/25/11	3/15/11	\$5,000.00	\$4,691.80	\$7,471.00	APPROVED
16	Municipalidad de Guatemala	Guatemala	2/3/11	4/14/11	4/26/11		\$8,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	The committee considers that Small Grants funds do not have oral health as a priority. Community should look for support either in the municipality, the MOH or other organizations
17	Conservation Imaging	Quiché	3/15/11	6/20/11	7/21/11 8/29/11	9/21/11	\$5,361.88	\$4,679.74	\$13,600.00	APPROVED
18	Escuela de Amor IMO	Guatemala	3/17/11	8/17/11			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	The proposal was submitted to USAID Alianzas education area
19	COCODE	Sololá	3/18/11	7/14/11	6/28/11		\$19,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Not approved: construction materials
20	ADCS	Sacatepéquez	4/12/11	7/14/11	6/28/11		\$23,473.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Not approved: community should search other funding partners
21	Jóvenes Arriba	Baja Verapaz	3/29/11	4/27/11	4/14/11	4/26/11	\$21,000.00	\$21,507.29	\$13,751.00	APPROVED

No.	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	TIMEFRAME FROM APPLICATION TO APPROVAL				TOTAL COST			OBSERVATIONS
		Department	RTI	Sent to USAID committee	Changes required by USAID	Approval	Amount Requested	Approved Grant Value	Leverage to Date	
22	Asociación Rostro Maya	Sololá	3/16/11				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	They didn't follow the process and didn't have a budget
23	Escuela Oficial de Primaria	Quetzaltenango	3/10/11				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	They didn't follow the process and didn't have a budget
24	Municipalidad de Jocotán	Chiquimula	4/12/11				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	They didn't follow the process
25	Comité Todos por el Lago	Sololá	4/5/11	5/25/11	7/22/11	8/17/11	\$20,000.00	\$18,550.16	\$19,200.83	APPROVED
26	ASOPUENTE	Alta Verapaz	3/28/11		7/22/11		\$20,625.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Not approved: submitted directly to RTI
27	Escuela Oficial Las Brisas	Escuintla	4/1/11				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	They didn't follow the process and didn't have a budget
28	Escuela privada de Barillas	Quiché	4/20/11				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Did not present a complete proposal
29	Asociación de Abogados Mayas	Alta Verapaz	5/9/11	6/7/11	6/8/11 8/8/11 8/29/11	9/14/11	\$15,150.00	\$5,277.42	\$7,342.50	APPROVED
30	FUNDENOR	Baja Verapaz	5/18/11				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Did not present a complete proposal
31	AEINVEST	Sacatepéquez	5/2/11				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	They didn't follow the process and didn't have a budget
32	CasaSito	Sacatepéquez	3/28/11	6/2/11	6/8/11 6/21/11	6/21/11	\$8,475.00	\$3,261.28	\$5,950.00	APPROVED
33	AGG	Guatemala	6/1/11	6/8/11	6/21/11		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
34	REDNADS	Guatemala	6/1/11	7/14/11	7/22/11		\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
35	Asociación de Huehuetenango	Huehuetenango	5/6/11				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Did not present a complete proposal
36	Comisión de la Mujer	Huehuetenango	5/12/11		8/19/11		\$4,000.00			
37	Escuela de Párvulos No. 69	Guatemala	5/15/11	6/9/11		6/21/11	\$1,712.50	\$1,585.93	\$2,275.00	APPROVED
38	Helps de Guatemala	Escuintla	5/25/11	7/7/11	7/22/11		\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
39	Greenpeace	Izabal	5/5/11				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	They didn't follow the process and didn't have a budget
40	Transactel	Guatemala	5/19/11				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	They didn't follow the process and didn't have a budget
41	Iglesia Católica	Santa Rosa	3/18/11				\$36,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
42	Club Rotario	Sololá	3/18/11				\$43,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
43	Escuela La Industria	Escuintla	5/15/11	7/7/11	7/22/11		\$1,993.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
44	Escuela Comunidad Agraria	Escuintla	5/18/11				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	They didn't follow the process and didn't have a budget
45	Escuela de Párvulos anexa Santa Rosa	Escuintla	5/18/11	7/15/11		8/17/11	\$1,678.75	\$1,058.08	\$816.00	APPROVED
46	Centro Educativo Kastajibal	Chimaltenango	7/21/11				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Did not present a complete proposal
47	Cantón Chulumul II	Quiché	7/18/11				\$17,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	

No.	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	TIMEFRAME FROM APPLICATION TO APPROVAL				TOTAL COST			OBSERVATIONS
		Department	RTI	Sent to USAID committee	Changes required by USAID	Approval	Amount Requested	Approved Grant Value	Leverage to Date	
48	Escuela Oficial de Coatepeque	Quetzaltenango	8/2/11				\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
49	Opportunities for Youth	Guatemala	11/14/11			11/14/11	\$1,432.50	\$1,698.05	\$2,650.00	APPROVED

**Please Note: Totals may vary slightly from attached financial report due to rounding and exchange rates

Total Value of 49 Proposals Received	\$433,974.51
Total Value of Approved Grants	\$89,465.02
Total Leverage	\$102,871.69

Annex C: Small Grants Fact Sheets

Strengthening Food Security in Families from the Chirijmaza Village May–December 2011

Partners
Implementing Partner
<i>Asociación de Desarrollo Permacultural ASODEP</i>
Additional Partners
<i>Red de la Seguridad y Soberanía Alimentaria de Guatemala - REDSSAGCEIBA</i>

Objectives

- Increase agricultural production for 30 families in order to improve food security.

Project Description

ASODEP (*Asociación de Desarrollo Permacultural*) submitted its Strengthening Food Security proposal to

USAID/Guatemala. In February 2011, the request was transferred to the *Alianzas* Small Grants program for implementation. A total of 26 people were trained (12 women; 14 men) in agro-ecological techniques that reduce soil loss (especially during periods of intense rain) and increase productivity, thus improving quality of the family diet. One of the participants was able to make enough organic fertilizer from the compost in his parcels to cover five *cuerdas* (23.6m x 23.6m; 557m² each; 2,785 m²) of land.

Results	
Leverage:	\$ 6,162.63
Grant amount:	\$ 5,512.53
26 participants (12 women, 14 men) participated in all phases and established test parcels.	
SO2: Economic Development	

An added value in institutional strengthening is that although *ASODEP* was established five years ago, this was the first time they applied for international funding and planned accordingly. The grant experience evidenced their need for training standard procedures and specialized functions (accountant, secretary, coordinator and field technician) in order to properly implement and monitor field activities. Similarly, links were established with other entities that work in agro-ecological production, thus increasing the likelihood that this initiative will have continuity and participants will practice what they learned.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH
October–November 2011**

Partners
Implementing Partner
<i>Fundación Raxché</i>
Additional Partner
Walmart

Objective

- For participant youth to share success stories and aspirations for a brighter future.

Project Description

The Ambassador of the United States requested the support of the *Alianzas* Small Grants program in the organization of a Thanksgiving Dinner at his residence. The objective was to provide the opportunity for a meeting between youth supported through RTI's *Alianzas* and Crime Prevention programs. The official request was received in October 2011. *Raxché's* Junior Chefs were to prepare Thanksgiving Dinner for nearly 40 people, including the Ambassador and 25 youth from the Crime Prevention-supported *CEIBA* project. *Alianzas'* Education team coordinated logistics, travel, lodging, and grocery shopping, while seeking additional support from partners. Walmart provided the bulk of the ingredients. Participants included 13 young women and 12 young men from *CEIBA*, as well as 4 young women and 1 young man from *Raxché*. This was a positive experience for the Junior Chefs to demonstrate what they learned and for all youth participants to share the experiences gained from their studies.

Results	
Leverage:	\$ 2,650
USAID Funding:	\$ 1,698.05
First formal meeting of youth supported by different USAID-Guatemala programs.	
SO3: Education	

**CONSERVATION OF THE CERRO AMAY CLOUD FOREST
August–December 2011**

Partners
Implementing Partner
Conservation Imaging
Additional Partners
<i>Universidad de Madrid</i> volunteers <i>Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas- CONAP</i>

Objective

- Promote the establishment of a “Conservation Community,” based on systematic silviculture projects within the beneficiary communities.

Project Description

Conservation Imaging presented the Conservation of the Cerro Amayen Cloud Forest proposal in December 2010 to USAID/Guatemala. USAID transferred the request to the *Alianzas* Small Grants program for implementation in April 2011. Activities included developing native forest species nurseries, environmental education, and awareness presentations in schools and promoting market demand for non-lumber cloud forest products. The project’s success hinges on promoting awareness of the importance and sustainable use of the cloud forest among neighboring communities and on the economic viability of non-lumber forest products. Upon the completion of workshops (led by a local artisan) on the use of wicker to weave baskets and hats, participants took the initiative to sell these products at the Uspantán market in order to generate additional income.

Additional support and leadership was provided by *CONAP* technicians in Uspantán, as well as two environmental specialists (with experience in similar issues) and Spanish volunteers from the *Universidad de Madrid*.

Community leaders, youth, and children are now involved in the development and active management of community and school. The “*Conoce y protege tu bosque*” (Know and protect your forest) environmental education workshops promoted the participation of teachers and students that had never participated in such efforts in the past.

Results	
Leverage:	\$ 13,600
USAID Funding:	\$ 4,679.74
Results	
Four forest inventories from La Gloria, Chimel, El Soch, and San Pedro La Esperanza communities.	
Two native species nurseries functioning at the community level (Lajchimmel and Chimel), with a total of 12,000 plants.	
SO2: Economic Development	

**Preprimary School Improvement
June 15–July 15 2011**

Partners
Implementing Partner
<i>Escuela Oficial de Párvulos No. 69</i>
Additional Partners
<i>Lasert Servicio Técnico</i>
<i>Alfa Ediciones S.A.</i>

Objective

Improve the learning environment for six year-old, preschool level students through

- Coordination with stakeholders (parents, teachers) in order to generate activities that improve the learning process.
- Teamwork activities for teachers and students.
- Furnishing with basic equipment (e.g., desks, chairs, blackboards, and bookcases).

Project Description

Mixco’s *Escuela de Párvulos No. 69* (Pre-primary School #69), in the department of Guatemala, requested project funding from USAID, which chose for the process to be managed through *Alianzas’* Small Grants program. 80 age-appropriate desks, two blackboards, two teacher desks (with chairs), and two bookshelves were purchased and delivered. Furthermore, *Alianzas* facilitated collaboration from the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints for the donation of four mini-libraries.

Project approval motivated teachers to seek additional support to fund the purchase of a photocopier and installation of a roof over the corridor that leads from the school entrance to the classrooms. The achievements have contributed to an increasing sense of active participation, reflecting on their roles as stakeholders.

It is expected that this intervention and the model utilized to implement it broadened the vision of the participants and beneficiaries (parents, teachers, community) fomenting participation and ownership of activities and facilitating future collaboration.

Results	
Leverage:	\$ 2,275
USAID Funds:	\$ 1,585.93
55 six year-old, urban area, preschool students from the municipality of Mixco, Guatemala.	
Two classrooms equipped with desks (table and chair), blackboards, and bookcases.	
School staff and parents contributed \$2,127 to be used for office equipment (photocopier) and infrastructure (installation of roof over the corridor).	
SO3: Education – Improved Learning Environment.	

**PREPRIMARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
July–September 2011**

Partners
Implementing Partner
<i>Escuela Oficial de Párvulos anexa a E.O.R.M. Aldea Santa Rosa Puerto de San José</i>
Additional Partners
Parents and Students

Objective

Improve learning environment for preschool students.

Project Description

The Aldea Santa Rosa del Puerto de San José Official Preschool made a request to USAID. In July 2011, it was transferred to the *Alianzas*' Small Grants program for

implementation. 30 student desks, three blackboards, three bookshelves, and one teacher's desk were purchased and delivered.

As an added benefit, the project's success motivated school personnel to assess infrastructure needs, and in collaboration with parents, made improvements to the roof, painted the walls, purchased three ceiling fans, and made repairs to toilets. Despite the national teacher's strike, teachers still found a way enter the school outside the regular schedule in order to complete project activities.

Technical assistance provided by *Alianzas* included support in identifying suitable, potential partners. As a result, Puerto Quetzal Power will include a request in their 2012 budget. Teachers and parents will be monitoring further development.

Results

Leverage: \$ 816

USAID funds: \$ 1,058.08

35 students have age-appropriate desks and furniture.

3 classrooms are properly equipped to serve four, five and six-year old students.

SO3: Preschool education

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT March–April 2011

Partners
Implementing Partners
<i>Escuela Oficial Urbana Mixta No. 850 Tipo Federación</i>
Funding Partners
<i>Fundación Sergio Paiz Andrade-FUNSEPA Universidad Del Valle de Guatemala</i>

Objective

- Improve the learning environment by providing basic equipment (desks, chairs, blackboards, bookcases) and supporting coordination with stakeholders (parents, teachers) in order to generate activities that improve the learning process.

Project Description

San José Pinula No. 850 School (morning session) in the department of Guatemala submitted a proposal to the Embassy of the United States in Guatemala in September 2010. In 2011, it was decided that the request be managed through the *Alianzas* Small Grants program. The grant resulted in the delivery of 225 desks for first grade students, 24 blackboards, 24 teachers' desks, and 32 computer lab desks. Additional support was garnered through the *Alianzas* education team, who coordinated *FUNSEPA*'s delivery of 16 desktop computers and donation of a mini-library by *Universidad del Valle de Guatemala*.

School infrastructure is used during all three school sessions (morning, afternoon, night), thus increasing the number of effective beneficiaries and efficiency of the investment.

The project's success served as a springboard for additional contributions from teachers and parents, who felt motivated to invest \$2,237 of their own funds to refurbish a classroom to be used for audiovisual presentations for all morning session students.

Results

Leverage: \$ 832.00
USAID funds: \$ 8,926.44
 550 students and 67 teachers have appropriate school furniture (morning and afternoon sessions)
 One reading circle functioning to further support first grade students.
 One computer laboratory working for morning session students.
SO3: Education

**JÓVENES ARRIBA UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS
April–November 2011**

Partners
Implementing Partner
<i>Jóvenes Arriba</i>

Objective

- Support higher education for Rabinal, Cubulco and San Miguel Chicaj youth (Department of Baja Verapaz).

Project Description

Jóvenes Arriba, from Rabinal, Baja Verapaz, made a request to the United States Ambassador in March 2011 to support 21 students. The process was managed by the *Alianzas*' Small Grants program thereafter. As a result, 10 students in the education administration track and 9 students in the environmental track completed the academic cycle with all courses approved. One student graduated with a technical career diploma and has started the first semester in pedagogy degree track. One student finished her *Ejercicio de Practica Supervisada (EPS)*: obligatory social work component, required to graduate from university in Guatemala) and is preparing her *EPS* final report to complete her bachelor's degree.

This project made it possible to develop a community initiative to raise the funds necessary to provide half a scholarship (Q 5,000, approximately \$625) to an additional upper secondary student during 2012. Students have also pursued sustainability for their scholarships as the organization will not provide additional funding in the future.

Results	
Leverage:	\$ 13,750.79
USAID Funds:	\$ 21,507.29
•	19 students completed the 2011 academic cycle with all courses approved.
•	The students established a revolving fund to support half a scholarship (Q 5,000).
•	One student approved the admissions exam and will start during the 2012 academic cycle.
•	One student is completing her obligatory social work
SO3: Higher Education	

BETTER NUTRITION, LESS CONTAMINATION March–August 2011

Partners
Implementing Partner
<i>Movimiento Pura Vida</i>
Additional Partners
<i>Defensores de la Naturaleza</i>
<i>Mankatitlán</i>
<i>Cholsamaj</i>
<i>Manctzolojya</i>
<i>Universidad Rafael Landívar</i>
<i>Universidad San Carlos de Guatemala</i>

Objectives

- Diminish long-term air, soil, and water pollution, thus improving quality of life in the Lake Atitlán Basin by promoting awareness among the local population.
- Educate surrounding communities about pollution.
- Develop a nutrition manual to promote reflection and awareness that may result in behavior change and contribute to improving quality of life.

- Eco-brick building manual revised, published and distributed among organizations that work around the lake.

Project Description

The *Movimiento Pura Vida* presented the Better Nutrition, Less Contamination proposal to USAID Guatemala. In February 2011, it was submitted to the *Alianzas’* Small Grants program for implementation. The original request was limited to seeking support for an Eco-festival and editing both, a nutrition manual and an ecobrick building manual.

The project resulted in inter-municipal coordination, between Mactzolojya and Mankatitlán, aimed at promoting use of the nutrition manual for school-age children. Mactzolojya represents Sololá, San José Chacayam and Santa Lucia Uatlan. Makatitlan includes San Andrés Semetabaj, Panajachel and San Antonio Palopo. The manual was checked and approved by nutritionists from *Secretaría de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional (SESAN)* and architecture students from *Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala (USAC)* and *Universidad Rafael Landívar (URL)*. Students from the Communications Faculty donated their design work. *Defensores de la Naturaleza* made the technical revisions of the Eco-brick building manual.

Approximately 600 people attended the eco-walk and eco-festival. Five workshops were conducted, including organizations that work in the basin. Maktzolojya supported edition of the nutrition manual, and became responsible for distributing it at the departmental level. The Eco-brick building manual is distributed by all the organizations that work on this topic during activities designed to promote recycling and responsible utilization of waste in the area.

Results	
Leverage:	\$ 7,471.00
USAID funds:	\$ 4,691.80
Results	
First Maya nutrition workshop in San Marcos La Laguna, including regional organizations and groups of women.	
Eco-brick manual, revised, and distributed.	
SO3: Health - Nutrition	

**Strengthening marketing capacity for indigenous women -CADISOGUA
April 2010–January 2012**

Partners
Implementing Partner
<i>Coordinadora de Asociaciones de Desarrollo Integral del Suroccidente de Guatemala</i>

Objectives

- Promote marketing capacity of 30 women in the villages of Toj Chulub and Toj Chan, department of Quetzaltenango.

Project Description

CADISOGUA (Coordinadora de Asociaciones de Desarrollo Integral del Suroccidente de Guatemala) submitted their proposal to USAID/Alianzas during one of the Diaspora Community Conference in Quetzaltenango.

CADISOGUA has strengthened during several years the potential of organized indigenous women to produce and market their products at the national and international level. In 2010, the organization trained a group of 30 women on topics such as entrepreneurship and associativity. The group of women began their own business based on the production of crafts. With beads, the women made bracelets, necklaces, bags and earrings. When they try to sale their products in international markets, they faced difficulties with the quality of their products. Because of this problem, *CADISOGUA* designed one project to train this group of women in topics such as technical innovation and quality control processes.

The project was presented and approved in TRC to be funded by *Alianzas'* Small Grants Program. With the implementation of this project, a total of 30 women were trained in associativity and cooperation; marketing; cost management; business plan; product innovation and organization skills. As a result of these trainings, 20 new patterns were introduced to their production. Besides, a quality control committee was created in order to improve the quality of their products.

Today, these women sell their products to United States, Perú and Israel.

Results	
Leverage:	\$ 22,820.36
USAID Funds:	\$ 12,716.29
Beneficiaries:	30 Women
SO2:	Economic Development

Entrepreneurship for Youth June 2011 – January 2012

Partners
Implementing Partner
<i>Asociación Casa Sito (ACS)</i>

Objective

- Fostering youth's entrepreneurial spirit and give them the tools necessary to open up their own business and to prepare them for the job market.

Project Description

Casa Sito is an association that started operations in 2004, in Antigua Guatemala. In 2007 they expanded their operation to Quetzaltenango, Totonicapán, Quiché and Alta Verapaz. In 2009 they applied to obtain the status to NGO. Their mission is to increase educational opportunities in rural areas for indigenous children living in poverty giving them the opportunity to attend school, receive a quality instruction and obtain the skills they need to improve their lives. The vision of Casa Sito is that those who receive their support will become leaders in their families, communities and beyond.

In 2011, Casa Sito presented a project to USAID and the Mission transferred the request to the Alianzas Small Grants program for implementation in June 2011. The project consisted in funding a "Club de Empresarios" that develop business skills to students in the Casa Sito scholarship program and support them in developing their own business plans.

As a result, 17 rural students between the ages 12-18 participated in 4 hour weekly courses for a period of 15 weeks. During the project, the students received training in topics such as entrepreneurial skills; business plan and how to launch their own business. The final project consisted in a business plan and two of them received a loan to started their business called "Iced Freshed Granizadas".

Results
Leverage: \$5,950.00
USAID Funding: \$ 3,261.28
Beneficiaries: 17 students (8 women and 9 men) between ages 12-18
SO2: Economic Development

With this project, the students changed their attitudes and vision about what means and is required to be an entrepreneur and learnt to gain confidence on themselves and in their abilities to open a business and be successful in their personal and professional life.

Strengthening marketing capacity for indigenous women -CADISOGUA April 2010–January 2012

Partners
Implementing Partner
Coordinadora de Asociaciones de Desarrollo Integral del Suroccidente de Guatemala

Objectives

- Promote marketing capacity of 30 women in the villages of Toj Chulub and Toj Chan, department of Quetzaltenango.

Project Description

CADISOGUA (Coordinadora de Asociaciones de Desarrollo Integral del Suroccidente de Guatemala) submitted their proposal to USAID/Alianzas during one of the Diaspora Community Conference in Quetzaltenango.

CADISOGUA has strengthened during several years the potential of organized indigenous women to produce and market their products at the national and international level. In 2010, the organization trained a group of 30 women on topics such as entrepreneurship and associativity. The group of women began their own business based on the production of crafts. With beads, the women made bracelets, necklaces, bags and earrings. When they try to sale their products in international markets, they faced difficulties with the quality of their products. Because of this problem, *CADISOGUA* designed one project to train this group of women in topics such as technical innovation and quality control processes.

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Today, these women sell their products to United States, Perú and Israel.

Results	
Leverage:	\$ 22,820.36
USAID Funds:	\$ 12,716.29
Beneficiaries:	30 Women
SO2:	Economic Development

ASSOCIATION OF MAYAN LAWYERS OF GUATEMALA: COMMUNITY LAND RIGHTS
September 2011 – February 2012

Partners
Implementing Partner
Association of Mayan Lawyers of Guatemala

Objective

- Establish ownership and stewardship of the traditional communal lands.

Project Description

The association of Mayan Lawyers of Guatemala presented a request to the Ambassador of United States to support a community lands ownership initiative. The Ambassador transferred the request to the *Alianzas* Small Grants program. Activities included the selection of the consultant and the development of the proposal. The consultant develop a proposal consisted of registering deeds to establish ownership and stewardship of the traditional indigenous lands surrounding their communities. The final document with the legal path to award the community land rights were submitted to USAID as the final result.

Results

Leverage: \$ 7,342.50

USAID Funding: \$ 5,277.42

Results

A legal path proposals to register and stewardship the traditional indigenous lands surrounding their communities.

SO1: Governance and Democracy