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GUATEMALA

SNAPSHOT

Aligning MAGA's Budget and Operational Plan to the Zero Hunger Pact

USAID provides technical assistance to the Guatemalan Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA)



*The diversification of agrarian production improves the quality of rural families food consumption.
Photo: USAID PRS Project*

Evidence shows that to effectively improve the quality of food consumed by rural families, the diversification of agrarian production and/or generation of incomes must be supplemented with communication efforts that focus on changing eating habits.

Telling Our Story

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Between 2013 and 2015, the Government of Guatemala (GOG) began developing plans and budgets using a results-focused approach. In particular this approach was used to develop operational plans and annual and multi-annual budgets, prioritizing results established for three pacts that cover the most important topics: i) Zero Hunger; ii) Peace, Security and Justice; and iii) Tax and Competitiveness.

In the case of the Zero Hunger Pact Plan, the GOG determined four main outcomes: i) reduction of chronic malnutrition in children under five years of age by 10 percent in four years; ii) reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality by 10 percent in four years; iii) increase of protein-caloric consumption by families; and iv) increase of family income. These results translate into budgetary programs that allow the integration of goods and services provided by different institutions thus achieving results more quickly and efficiently.

According to budget rules, goods and services that prove to be effective are considered strategic and will have protected budgetary resources. Therefore, the USAID Policy Regulatory Support for Economic Growth (PRS) Project provided technical evidence to support the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA, Spanish acronym) in the negotiation of a protected 2014 budget for infra and subsistence farmers, the Project also provided technical assistance to MAGA to show evidence of strategic goods and service that in their competition framework, contribute to the increase of protein caloric consumption and rural family incomes. These goods and services are part of the Family Support Program for Rural Economy (PAFEC, Spanish acronym).

Due to this absence of quantitative evidence at the national and international levels, the PRS Project worked with officials from MAGA to analyze the evidence and results gathered from external impact evaluations of four projects.

MAGA presented its annual operating plan and a budget proposal to the Planning and Programming Secretariat of the Presidency (SEGEPLAN, Spanish acronym) and to the Ministry of Public Finance (MINFIN, Spanish acronym), fulfilling the requirements established.