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GUATEMALA

SNAPSHOT

Indigenous Women's Organization Strengthens Advocacy Skills to Improve the Provision of Services that Reduce Chronic Malnutrition in the Communities



Photos: USAID PRS Project
[Top] Meeting of the Deputy Secretary of SAN and community leaders.
[Bottom] Coordinator presenting the strategy to the Parliamentary against Hunger



The Forum for Consultation and Social Participation (INCOPAS, Spanish acronym), with support from the USAID Policy Regulatory Support for Economic Growth (PRS) Project developed its advocacy strategy for food and nutritional security (SAN, Spanish acronym). This strategy coordinates the actions of 10 INCOPAS sector representatives and their participation in the National Council of SAN. Specifically, the strategy focuses on ensuring the organizations and sectors actions successfully complement each other to ensure successful advocacy of their key issues: improved coverage, quality, and cultural relevance in the provision of integral services such as health, education, agriculture, water and sanitation. Evidence shows that attention to these issues successfully reduces children chronic malnutrition and gives sustainability to SAN.

To ensure the effective implementation of the strategy developed with INCOPAS the PRS project signed a Grant Agreement with ADIC Casa Feliz to develop a pilot advocacy program in 16 communities located in four municipalities (in the 30 prioritized in the framework of the Zero Hunger Pact Plan), in the departments of Quetzaltenango and San Marcos.

ADIC Casa Feliz is an organization of rural women established in 1992. It is part of the National Alliance of Indigenous Women Organizations for Reproductive Health, Nutrition and Education (ALIANMISAR, Spanish acronym) whose membership includes roughly 200 women organizations. Additionally, ADIC Casa Feliz is a member of the indigenous sector, which INCOPAS represents. The Grant Agreement, worth US\$40,000, contributed to the following:

- ADIC Casa Feliz's increased ability to manage a SAN advocacy program to improve public health, education, nutrition, agriculture, water, and sanitation services. The process is based on a methodology validated at the community, municipal, departmental, and central levels.
- ADIC Casa Feliz's ability to systematize the validated methodology, which will help the organization, as well as other rural organizations interested in this subject area.
- INCOPAS's greater awareness of the viability of strengthening its capacity to impact SAN, based on solid information coming from rural organizations, and to share this experience with other organizations.
- Communities, where this methodology was validated, strengthened their ability to organize, monitor and support the provision of public services of health, education, nutrition, agriculture, water, and sanitation.

Telling Our Story

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