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## SNAPSHOT

# Construction of Rural Roads in the Highlands



*The Minister of Communications, Infrastructure and Housing [MICIVI], Alejandro Sinibaldi.  
Photo: USAID PRS Project*

*Rural roads are already part of the Integral Rural Development Policy and of the promotion strategy for infrastructure, along with irrigation.*

*Access to financial services, agricultural research, and expansion, as well as investment opportunities and rural employment, are elements of such strategy. They are also part of the Zero Hunger Pact Plan that prioritizes geographic areas and most vulnerable populations, especially rural and indigenous populations.*

### Telling Our Story

U.S. Agency for International Development  
Washington, DC 20523-1000  
<http://stories.usaid.gov>

In 2013, the Ministers of Agriculture and Communications announced their support of proposals to improve the construction and maintenance of rural roads. This announcement was presented by the USAID Policy Regulatory Support for Economic Growth (PRS) Project, in conjunction with the two ministers, at an event held in Guatemala City on August 18, 2013.

At the event, the Minister of Communications, Alejandro Sinibaldi, stated that the Government of Guatemala was contemplating the investment of Q1,500 million (over \$185 million) to construct 621 miles of roads in rural areas. The proposal was to be submitted for approval to the Cabinet of Rural Development, which is composed of several ministries and governmental agencies responsible for Rural Development Policy in Guatemala.

Both Ministers indicated that infrastructure is one of the pillars of rural development, set out by Government of Guatemala through the Zero Hunger Pact Plan and the Integral Rural Development Policy.

USAID/Guatemala, via its PRS Project, provided support to the Ministry of Communications, Infrastructure and Housing (MICIVI, Spanish acronym) in the development of a proposed strategy and institutional measures to improve the construction of rural roads. In addition, a prioritization plan for rural road infrastructure in the Western Highlands (which aligns with the focus of Feed the Future) was presented to various government ministers, private sector representatives, and other organizations active in the rural development sector.

Among the recommendations made in the proposal, and presented at the event, one of key importance is the creation of the Rural Road Unit in the MICIVI's General Directorate of Roads and the development of the Rural Roads Plan. The PRS Project also worked with MAGA to develop the National Irrigation Promotion Policy, approved in April 2013.