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Peacebuilding Project *Proyecto Tejiendo Paz*

Annual Performance Report **FY2021**

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Acronym List

AGEXPORT	Association of Guatemalan Exporters (<i>Asociación de Exportadores de Guatemala</i>)
AGER	Association of Renewable Energy Generators (<i>Asociación de Generadores de Energía Renovable</i>)
AGAAI	Guatemala Association of Indigenous Mayors and Authorities (<i>Asociación Guatemalteca de Alcaldes y Autoridades Indígenas</i>)
ANAM	National Association of Mayors (<i>Asociación Nacional de Municipalidades</i>)
AOR	Agreement Officers Representative
ASASAPNE	Farmers Association “El Esfuerzo” of San Pedro Necta (<i>Asociación de Agricultores El Esfuerzo de San Pedro Necta</i>)
AYSSA	<i>Acuerdos y Soluciones, Sociedad Anónima</i>
CARSI	Central America Regional Security Initiative
CCF	Complex Crisis Fund
CDRO	Cooperation for the Rural Development of the Western Highlands, (<i>Cooperación para el Desarrollo Rural de Occidente</i>)
CEIDEPAZ	Center for Research and Projects for Development and Peace (<i>Centro de Investigaciones y Proyectos para el Desarrollo y la Paz</i>)
CENDES	Center for Studies on Conflict, Power, and Violence (<i>Centro de Estudios sobre Conflictividad, Poder y Violencia</i>)
CF	Community Facilitator
CENTRARSE	Center for the Action of Corporate Social Responsibility in Guatemala (<i>Centro para la Acción de la Responsabilidad Social Empresarial en Guatemala</i>)
CF	Community Facilitators
CLD	Communities Leading Development
COCODE	Community Development Council (<i>Consejo Comunitario de Desarrollo</i>)
COCOPRE	Community Violence Prevention Commission (<i>Comisión Comunitaria de Prevención de la Violencia</i>)
CODEDE	Departmental Development Council (<i>Consejo Departamental de Desarrollo</i>)
CODESAC	Departmental Commission on Security and Conflict Management (<i>Comisión Departamental de Seguridad y Atención de Conflictos</i>)
COMUDE	Municipal Development Council (<i>Consejo Municipal de Desarrollo</i>)
COMUPRE	Municipal Violence Prevention Commission (<i>Comisión Municipal de Prevención de la Violencia</i>)
COPADEH	Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (<i>Comisión de Paz y Derechos Humanos</i>)
COPREDEH	Presidential Coordinating Commission for Executive Policy on Human Rights (<i>Comisión Presidencial Coordinadora de la Política del Ejecutivo en Materia de Derechos Humanos</i>)
CRA	Conflict and resilience analysis
CV	Community Vision
DEC	Development Experience Clearinghouse
DEMOS	Central American Institute of Studies for Social Democracy (<i>Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios para la Democracia Social</i>)
DEMI	Office for the Protection of Indigenous Women (<i>Defensoría de la Mujer Indígena</i>)

DMM	Municipal Women’s Office (<i>Dirección Municipal de la Mujer</i>)
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
EWRS	Early Warning and Response System
FECI	Special Prosecutor’s Office Against Impunity (<i>Fiscalía Especial contra la Impunidad</i> ,
FUDESA	Foundation for Education and Social Development (<i>Fundación de Educación y Desarrollo Social</i>)
FUNDAZUCAR	Guatemalan Foundation of Sugar Mills (<i>Fundación de los Ingenios Azucareros de Guatemala</i>)
GBV	Gender-based violence
GIZ	<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit</i>
GoG	Government of Guatemala
HRGF	Human Rights Grants Fund
IEPADES	Institute for Sustainable Development (<i>Instituto de Enseñanza para el Desarrollo Sostenible</i>)
ILO	International Labour Organization
INDE	National Electrification Institute (<i>Instituto Nacional de Electrificación</i>)
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEDESACH	Departmental Working Group on Security and Conflict Management (<i>Mesa Departamental de Seguridad y Atención a la Conflictividad</i>)
MEM	Ministry of Energy and Mines (<i>Ministerio de Energía y Minas</i>)
MINGOB	Ministry of the Interior (<i>Ministerio de Gobernación</i>)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Attorney General (<i>Ministerio Público</i>)
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NIMD	Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy
OMJ	Municipal Youth Office (<i>Oficina Municipal de la Juventud</i>)
PDH	Human Rights Ombudsmen (<i>Procurador de los Derechos Humanos</i>)
PNC	National Civil Police (<i>Policía Nacional Civil, PNC</i>)
RFA	Request for Application
SAA	Secretariate for Agrarian Affairs (<i>Secretaría de Asuntos Agrarios</i>)
SEPAZ	Secretariat for Peace (<i>Secretaría de la Paz</i>)
SEPREM	Presidential Secretariat for Women (<i>Secretaría Presidencial de la Mujer</i>)
SESAN	Secretariat of Food and Nutritional Security (<i>Secretaría de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional</i>)
SIDA	Swedish Agency for International Development Agency
SUI	Consolidated Information System (<i>Sistema Único de Información</i>)
SVET	Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Human Trafficking (<i>Secretaría Contra la Violencia Sexual, Explotacion y Trata de Personas</i>)
TEA	Total estimated amount
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UPCV	Community Violence Prevention Unit (<i>Unidad de Prevención Comunitaria de la Violencia</i>)
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government

Executive Summary

The Peacebuilding Project, known as *Proyecto Tejiendo Paz* in Spanish, is a 6.5-year (May 2018 – November 2024) United States Agency for International Development (USAID) cooperative agreement implemented by Creative Associates International, Inc. (Creative) in partnership with approved subrecipients PartnersGlobal and ProPaz. The project is designed to reduce social conflict and violence and strengthen social cohesion, with a specific focus on the Western Highlands. The project addresses the underlying causes of social conflict by focusing on four general categories: 1) youth, gender, and families; 2) governance; 3) land; and 4) natural resources.

The main challenge faced by the project this fiscal year was that the project faced uncertainty around incremental funding, both the amount and timing. Per USAID's request, the Peacebuilding Project presented and received approval for FY21Q1-Q2 and FY21Q3 contingency plans that demonstrated the activities that the project was carrying out with the remaining funds. A FY21Q4 contingency plan was later submitted and approved following incremental funding received in May 2021. The project then received a total estimated amount (TEA) increase in September, which extended the period of performance by 18 months through November 2024. A second major challenge FY2021 was implementing effectively in the face of an evolving COVID-19 Crisis. Compliance with the COVID-19 prevention measures is still a challenge in communities, particularly maintaining social distancing and using masks. In addition, many communities still have very low vaccination rates.

The on-going COVID-19 Pandemic, uncertainty around funding, and the need to implement under contingency plans for the entire fiscal year limited the scope of project implementation and resulted in some indicators not being met. However, despite these challenges, the project was able to achieve important results that lay the ground for implementation over the next three years.

Summary of Key Achievements

Geographic expansion and requests for ongoing support: This fiscal year, the project expanded into six new municipalities, bringing the total to 10, and signed memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with each mayor (or his representative). The MOUs focus on strengthening municipal capacity for conflict management and peacebuilding, as well as providing a general framework for action between local authorities and the project. In addition, MOUs were re-signed with the four municipalities in which the project has already been working. The project team presented on advances to date to each city council. In two of the four municipalities, Chiantla and Totonicapán, the mayor requested Peacebuilding Project support in addressing conflicts in new communities. Please see the success story [USAID Peacebuilding Project Expands Coverage in the Western Highlands](#) for more information.

Building bridges between communities and governments to reduce conflict and violence: Implementing sustainable plans that address the drivers, structural and institutional causes, and contributing factors of social conflict, requires coordination with diverse Government of Guatemala (GoG) institutions and municipal governments who are responsible for public policies and services. A key success of the project has been facilitating coordination between government entities and rural communities, creating bridges between communities, local governments, and national entities which did not previously exist. For example, in response to a community vision

(CV) in the indigenous community of Tepán in San Pedro Necta, Huehuetenango, the Peacebuilding Project collaborated with the Municipal Commission for Food and Nutritional Security, the Municipal Women's Offices (*Direcciones Municipal de la Mujer*, DMM), and Secretariat of Food and Nutritional Security (*Secretaria de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional*, SESAN), organized a three-part workshop with 40 women on weaving traditional Mayan patterns into footwear. The purpose of the workshop was to promote economic agency and eliminate barriers to participation. The women had also shared that they were experiencing discrimination; not being able to afford traditional clothing has prevented them from participating in leadership roles and decision making in their communities. The Peacebuilding Project supports women in strengthening their capacity as leaders so that they can take on more active roles in community decision-making and therefore in supporting the resolution of social conflict. Please see the success story [Guatemalan Women Protect Cultural Identity and Promote Gender Equity](#) for more information.

Strategic partnerships for impact, sustainability, and local ownership: The project has established successful alliances with more than 25 partners from different sectors, including community authorities, municipal and departmental governments, public institutions, civil society, indigenous organizations, the private sector and other international development agencies. These alliances have created spaces for collaborative work and have brought financial, technical, and in-kind resources that are contributing the projects objectives. These alliances have also positioned the project as a reliable and relevant partner in conflict transformation and peacebuilding.

Respectful engagement with indigenous peoples and authorities to empower them as key actors for conflict transformation and peacebuilding: The project has maintained regular interaction with community mayors, ancestral authorities, midwives, and other indigenous leaders to address conflict across all four categories and in strengthening their capacity to address conflict in accordance with their worldview. The Peacebuilding Project design is intrinsically focused on engagement with indigenous peoples as project partners. The project area of intervention is predominantly indigenous, and the historic marginalization of indigenous peoples has resulted in communities that are particularly vulnerable to conflict and violence. The participation of indigenous peoples is essential for effective peacebuilding processes and conflict transformation. Indigenous authorities are key partners in resolving social conflict and preventing conflict from escalating into crisis and violence. Their ancestral knowledge, systems and practices are fundamental for the implementation of effective, alternative mechanism of dialogue, mediation, and negotiation. The Peacebuilding Project has intentionally recruited a community implementation team that is fluent in the indigenous languages where the project works. This is critical in ensuring that the identity and promotion of indigenous practices and rights is fully integrated into project implementation. This year, the project formed an Indigenous Advisory Group that provides Peacebuilding Project with advice, guidance, and feedback through respected leaders from different indigenous groups in the Western Highlands.

Strengthening departmental governments to address local conflict. Department governments are on the front line in addressing social conflict. They represent the GoG in the interior of the country and play a fundamental role in early, peaceful, and constructive responses to social conflict. Departmental Commissions on Security and Conflict Management (*Comisiones Departamental de Seguridad y Atención de Conflictos* (CODESACs) are spaces where representatives from different sectors and institutions meet to analyze social conflict and formulate

coordinated strategies to respond to conflict. They are key in preventing the escalation of conflicts and the emergence of violence. The Peacebuilding Project successfully strengthened four CODESACs in in the early, peaceful, and constructive prevention of social conflict and violence.

Promoting consultations with indigenous peoples: The Peacebuilding Project provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) for the elaboration of the methodological procedures to socialize, receive feedback and validate the draft of the regulations for the consultations with indigenous people related to the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 169. According to ILO Convention 169, the government has the responsibility to apply the provisions of the convention, including consultations with indigenous peoples. In Guatemala, MEM is leading the process, ensuring government ownership and sustainability. Appropriate implementation of consultation mechanisms prevents conflict and violence and ensures respect for human rights.

Indicator Data

Please see Annex A_Peacebuilding Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Annual Report for an analysis of the indicator data. Key indicator data results during FY2021 include:

- Two (2) civil society organizations (CSOs) receiving United States Government (USG) assistance engaged in advocacy interventions.
- Ten (10) youth-led initiatives to prevent or reduce violence and conflict, or promote social development, were implemented with USG assistance.
- Three (3) activities designed to promote or strengthen the civic participation of women were implemented by the Peacebuilding Project.
- A total of 592 local women participated in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process supported with USG assistance.
- A total of 3194 unique individuals (1360 women and 1834 men) participated in project activities that addressed the peaceful management and resolution of conflicts.
- A total of 547 citizens were engaged in cooperative community dialogue.
- Forty-seven (47) women were reached by a USG funded intervention providing gender-based violence (GBV) services.
- Fifteen (15) community strategies were implemented to address identified sources of conflict during FY2021.
- 100 percent of those strategies were implemented with external support.
- Eighty-three (83) trainings, exchanges, and coordination meetings with GoG and/or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) related to preventing, managing, and resolving conflict took place.
- Eight-five (85) national and local authorities (governmental and ancestral) and non-governmental actors demonstrated increased capacity to respond to and resolve conflicts at the local, municipal, and/ or national levels.

Please see Annex B for the translation of the Executive Summary in Spanish.

Program Overview and Background

Problem Statement

The proliferation of social conflict marks the social and political landscape of Guatemala. These conflicts manifest themselves in many different ways: road blocks and public protests are common examples. In some cases, these conflicts lead to dialogue, and in others, they escalate into further conflict and violence. These tensions play out against a backdrop of endemic poverty, inequality, insecurity, and weak institutions, which can be seen as results of entrenched corruption. GoG institutions, many of which have been recently restructured, struggle with low levels of citizen confidence due to challenges in serving rural communities¹. The historic marginalization of indigenous people in Guatemala magnifies these issues and weakens the social fabric of these communities. Having suffered devastating losses during the internal armed conflict, communities in the Western Highlands are particularly vulnerable to conflict and violence. This unbroken cycle of insecurity and conflict feeds directly into the high levels of migration from this region of Guatemala. The youth have very limited access to economic and civic participation opportunities, and gang and criminal violence further threaten stability. Family violence and GBV are common, and the full involvement of women in social, political, and economic development is limited by interconnected territorial, ethnic, and gender inequalities. These issues are being further exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic, illuminating the need to address underlying conflicts and increase trust and social cohesion. To address these challenges and achieve the goal of conflict reduction and improved social cohesion, the Peacebuilding Project will effect change at the individual and group levels (i.e., relationship-building) and the socio-political level (i.e., institutional strengthening).

Theory of Change, Goal, and Objectives

To achieve the goal of reducing social conflict and violence and improving social cohesion and peacebuilding in Guatemala, with a specific focus on the Western Highlands, the Peacebuilding Project is guided by the following theory of change, which was updated as through Modification 05 of the cooperative agreement:

If authorities have increased capacity and coordination to effectively respond to local conflicts, **if** inclusive local-level engagement is generated and sustained, and **if** diverse actors identify and work together to address conflicts, **then** local leaders will engage in formal mechanisms to address social conflict, relationships and trust will be strengthened, and cooperation in resolving conflict peacefully will increase, **thereby** reducing social conflict and violence and improving peacebuilding and social cohesion in Guatemala.

The Peacebuilding Project has three mutually reinforcing objectives:

Objective 1: Establish and/or strengthen inclusive locally-led engagement, dialogue, and mapping to identify, prioritize, and develop action plans addressing sources of and increase resilience to social conflict and the impacts of COVID-19 on social cohesion;

Objective 2: Build partnerships between communities, municipalities, and other stakeholders to implement peacebuilding and conflict mitigation priorities; and

Objective 3: Strengthen GoG and non-governmental capacity to participate in managing, responding to, and resolving local conflicts, including long-standing grievances and new instability linked to COVID-19.

Context and Analysis

In response to the global COVID-19 Crisis, the President of Guatemala declared a state of calamity from March 2020 through September 2020, providing the GoG with powers to take exceptional measures, such as closing borders and imposing curfews. Although the state of calamity was lifted, some measures remained in effect this fiscal year. COVID-19 cases continue to rise, reaching all-time highs in September 2021. While prevention measures are necessary to stem the spread of the virus, the GoG has struggled to respond to the increasing citizen needs resulting from the measures.

Since the beginning of 2021, civil society has raised concerns about access to COVID-19 vaccines and the capacity of the health system to vaccinate the most vulnerable populations, particularly in rural areas. Tensions and conflicts are expected to rise around the country in relation to vaccine distribution and access. Other potential triggers for conflict escalation related to the ongoing COVID-19 Crisis include students and teachers returning to schools, the increasing cost of public transportation, and the reinstatement of some restrictions as cases rise. The progressive return to normality and the inevitable termination of restrictions on freedom of assembly and movement has increased public expressions of social demands related to the implementation of public policies, social reforms, and transparent and effective public administration.

Communities in the Western Highlands of Guatemala suffer from high levels of gender-based and domestic violence. There are reports of this type of violence increasing as aggressors and victims were confined to their homes during COVID-19 curfews. Due to the confinement measures resulting in limited mobility, women and girls were not able to go to the National Civil Police (*Policia Nacional Civil*, PNC) or the Attorney General (*Ministerio Publico*, MP) to file reports. Huehuetenango, San Marcos, Quetzaltenango, and Quiche are within the ten departments that show the highest numbers of GBV reported cases during the last three years per the MP.¹

The approval of the 2021 national budget, which took place behind closed doors, triggered nationwide protests. Protesters were angry that that budget did not include line items for social programs and a comprehensive response to the COVID-19 Pandemic but did include funds for expenses that they considered to be corrupt. This social conflict occurred in a context of public discontent due to the government's lack of response to social needs exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic and the disasters caused by hurricanes Eta and Iota. President Giammattei ultimately vetoed the 2021 national budget, but sporadic protests continued to take place.

In July 2021, Attorney General Consuelo Porras dismissed Juan Francisco Sandoval from his role as the head of the Special Prosecutor's Office Against Impunity (*Fiscalía Especial contra la Impunidad*, FECI), the country's main anti-corruption institution. Sandoval fled the country and citizen protests were almost immediate. A national strike took place the next week, calling for the resignation of President Giammattei and Attorney General Porras.

¹ Source: [SICOMP: Sistema Informático de Control de la Investigación del Ministerio Público](#)

The escalation of conflicts will test the institutional framework for managing conflict in the country. In July 2020, President Giammattei announced the creation of a new Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (*Comisión Presidencial de Paz y Derechos Humanos*, COPADEH). The announcement included the immediate closure of the Presidential Coordinating Commission for Executive Policy on Human Rights (*Comisión Presidencial Coordinadora de la Política del Ejecutivo en Materia de Derechos Humanos*, COPREDEH), Secretariate for Agrarian Affairs (*Secretaria de Asuntos Agrarios*, SAA) and Secretariate of Peace (*Secretaria de la Paz*, SEPAZ). The creation of a commission with a lifespan of four years, and the closure of institutions with a strong presence in rural areas, presents challenges to institutional strengthening efforts around human rights, peacebuilding, and conflict management in the country. However, there is also a critical window of opportunity to work with the new commission to ensure the continuity and to support a strong institutional structure.

For an external analysis of social conflict in the Western Highlands from January – September 2021, please see Annex C.²

Analysis of Project Implementation

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenge #1: A significant challenge this fiscal year was that the project faced uncertainty around incremental funding, both the amount and timing. Per USAID’s request, the Peacebuilding Project presented and received approval for FY21Q1-Q2 and FY21Q3 contingency plans that demonstrated the activities that the project was carrying out with the remaining funds. A FY21Q4 contingency plan was later submitted and approved following a modification to the cooperative agreement in May 2021, which obligated Complex Crisis Funds (CCF) to the project. The project received a TEA increase in September. The TEA increase includes funds from different earmark (CCF, Human Rights Grants Fund (HRGF), and Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI)) and extended the period of performance by 18 months through November 2024, with activities concluding by September 2024 and a two-month close out period.

The uncertainty around funding and the need to implement under contingency plans for the entire fiscal year limited the scope of project implementation and resulted in some indicators not being met. The leadership team focused ensuring close coordination and communication with the team as well as establishing short- and medium-term priorities based on the funding available. This helped mitigate uncertainty and concern within the team and allowed the project to deliver results to partners and communities.

Challenge #2: The main challenge during FY2021 was implementing effectively in the face of an evolving COVID-19 Crisis. Compliance with the COVID-19 prevention measures is still a challenge in communities, particularly maintaining social distancing and using masks. In response,

² The report is in Spanish. The information included in the report was generated by the Social Conflict Analysis System of Ayssa and do not necessarily reflect the views of Creative Associates or the Peacebuilding Project.

the project has taken the following actions: a) providing participants with masks, b) using out-door spaces or rooms big enough to allow social distancing, c) positioning a banner with prevention measures at activities, and d) disinfecting hands and taking the temperature of every participant.

Challenge #3: A related challenge was that for much of FY2021, the project team was not able to access vaccines. This presented serious challenges for the field implementation team that needed to engage with multiple municipal and community leaders regularly during the implementation of project activities. Peacebuilding Project leadership provided regular updates to the staff on times and places where they could receive the vaccination according to their eligibility. Currently, 83 percent of the team is fully vaccinated and 15 percent of have one dose. By the end of FY22Q1, 90 percent of the team should be fully vaccinated.

Lesson Learned #1: Based on lessons learned from the first implementation in the first group of municipalities/ communities and taking into consideration the new context of an ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, the project updated its methodologies and proposed changes to its logical framework, which were incorporated into Modifications 4 and 5 of the cooperative agreement. The changes do not fundamentally alter the project design, but they do recognize the need to be adaptive in an evolving implementing environment. For example, in the context of the COVID-19 Crisis, the project identified an opportunity to strengthen work with municipal authorities as an effective means of reaching communities. Another way in which the project adapted was by working with departmental authorities as part of institutional strengthening efforts. This was in part in response to the closure of key national institutions that the project had originally planned on working with, but it was also in response to interest by governors in the context of increased conflict around COVID-19 related restrictions.

Lesson Learned #2: The formal, in-person presentation of the project and the implementation cycle to community authorities, including auxiliary mayors, Community Development Councils (*Consejos Comunitarios de Desarrollo*, COCODEs) and ancestral authorities, as well as giving them the time they need to reflect and make decisions in consensus, was perceived as a sign of respect and recognition by communities authorities and has laid the foundation for the development of strategic relationships between the project and the communities. The support of community authorities is key for the involvement of different sectors of the community in the analysis of resilience and conflict and the development and implementation of the community visions (CVs).

Lesson Learned #3: A key lesson learned was the need to reduce the time between community vision development and the implementation of conflict mitigation strategies. Given the challenging context, it is important that the project engages quickly with communities and can respond to their identified priorities in a timely manner.

Lesson Learned #4: Recognizing that conflicts exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic require trained mediators at all levels, the project decided to expand the mediator network and virtually train mediators at the departmental, municipal, and communities' levels (not just the community level as originally planned). The initial training program included 12 sessions (2 sessions, each 2.5 hours-long, per week). The sessions were held from 10:00-12:30, which limited the participation of some of the mediators, given that many work in public institutions or civil society organizations. In addition, the virtual dynamic was challenging for some of the participants. In total, 32 of the 41

people selected completed the course. For follow-on virtual trainings, the Peacebuilding Project team held the sessions during hours that interfered less with work schedules. In addition, for the follow-on trainings, the team began implementing a combination of virtual and in-person trainings. Virtual sessions have the advantage of bringing large groups of people together from distinct parts of the country, but in-person sessions are important for many of the topics that require practical exercises. The project will implement a second round of the initial training with a second cohort next fiscal year and will take these lessons learned into consideration.

Social Inclusion and Gender Integration

Social exclusion is an important structural factor related to social conflict. Women, indigenous people, and youth are within the most excluded groups in Guatemala. These groups may find themselves in situations that can trigger social conflict and generally suffer the most negative impacts. As such, these groups are also key actors for peaceful and sustainable resolution of social conflicts. Because of that, the effective participation and representation of historically marginalized groups is a key aspect of Peacebuilding Project activities.

- **Gender Representation:** 43 percent of the Peacebuilding Project participants in FY2021 were women. During certain activities, such as engagement with municipal authorities or COCODE leaders, male participation exceeds female participation due to dynamics outside of the projects control. However, in implementing activities such as the conflict and resilience analysis (CRA), *voceros juveniles* trainings, forums, etc., the project makes a concerted effort to include at least 50 percent women. The project exceeded the target number of women participating in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process, with 387 women (or 189 percent of female participants) engaging substantively.
- **Youth Representation:** Approximately 29 percent of Peacebuilding Project participants in FY2021 were under 30 (16 percent of participants did not provide their age, so the actual percent of participants under 30 may be higher). A major challenge is that youth participation in decision-making bodies and civic spaces remains limited. The project has prioritized working with youth to provide them opportunities to implement peacebuilding activities that address their priorities and interests. See Activity 1.2.2 for more information on project engagement with youth.
- **Indigenous Representation:** 66 percent of all Peacebuilding Project participants in FY2021 identified as indigenous (15 percent of participants did not provide their ethnicity, so the actual percent of participants identifying as indigenous may be higher). 94 percent of people who participated in community dialogue processes identified as indigenous. This figure reflects the fact that the Peacebuilding Projects area of intervention is predominately indigenous and that the project has made a concerted effort to include indigenous peoples as active partners in identifying the causes and responses to conflicts that impact their communities.

Please see Cross-cutting activity 1 for more information on the Peacebuilding Project Gender Integration and Social Inclusion Plan, Indigenous Peoples Engagement Strategy, and Youth Participation Strategy

Gender Integration: The project implemented two main interventions focused on addressing gender-based violence: 1) *Pies de Occidente* provided support services to 47 survivors of GBV

(see Activity 2.1.1 for more information); and 2) FUDESA implemented a communication campaign focused on preventing domestic violence (see Activity 2.1.3 for more information). During the FY21Q4, the project conducted outreach with DMMs and Municipal Youth Offices (*Oficinas Municipal de la Juventud*, OMJs) in the target municipalities to identify the training needs. The Gender and Social Inclusion Advisor is analyzing this information to help inform support to these offices during FY2022.

Youth inclusion: This fiscal year, the project continued organizing groups of *Voceros Juveniles*, which are designed to support youth in strengthening their leadership skills as well as capacities to monitor the implementation of the community visions (see Activity 1.2.2 for more information).

Indigenous Peoples Engagement: The project focuses on engagement with indigenous peoples as project partners, which aligns with the USAID/Guatemala Indigenous Engagement Strategy. The project's principal area of intervention, the Western Highlands, is predominantly indigenous. The participation of indigenous peoples is essential for peacebuilding processes and transforming conflicts. Indigenous authorities are key partners in resolving social conflict and preventing conflict from escalating into crisis and violence. Their ancestral knowledge, systems and practices are fundamental for the implementation of effective, alternative mechanisms of dialogue, mediation, and negotiation. This fiscal year, the project established an Indigenous Advisory Group of respected leaders from different indigenous groups to provide the Peacebuilding Project with advice, guidance, and feedback. See Cross-cutting activity 4 for more information.

Migration

The issue of external migration from Guatemala to Mexico and the United States continues to be a priority issue for the United States Government (USG) and the GoG. The marginalization of communities in the Western Highlands of Guatemala has led to high levels of migration from this region, both internally to urban areas and externally to the United States. In July 2021, the U.S Strategy for Addressing the Root Causes of Migration was published. The Peacebuilding Project contributes to the following pillars of the strategy: Pillar II: Combating corruption, strengthening democratic governance, and advancing rule of law; Pillar III: Promoting respect for human rights, labor rights, and a free press; Pillar IV: Countering and preventing violence, extortion, and other crimes perpetrated by criminal gangs, trafficking networks, and other organized criminal organizations; and Pillar V: Combatting sexual, gender-based, and domestic violence

The Peacebuilding Project recognizes that social conflict is often a driver of migration and that migration can be a trigger of further conflict in communities, particularly in the context of returnees reintegrating into their communities during the COVID-19 Crisis. See Activity 3.2.2 for information on the communication campaign implemented by the project that focused on respecting human rights of migrants in the context of returning to their communities during the COVID-19 Crisis.

Through the impact evaluation baseline, the project was able to analyze quantitative information on community members' intention to migrate and some of the drivers of this intention to migrate. The analysis found that individuals who feel more secure in their community are less likely to want to migrate both internally and externally. Likewise, those individuals who think that their

community is more peaceful also have a lower probability of wanting to migrate. Individuals who have suffered threats of physical violence in their communities are more likely to want to migrate both abroad and internally. Finally, those individuals who think that their neighbors are trustworthy or highly trustworthy are less likely to migrate both internally and externally.

Sustained conflict has negative economic impacts which in turn results in the loss of jobs and steady income. Unemployment and lack of economic opportunities are regularly cited as the primary reasons for migration; however, a chief underlying cause of unemployment is often conflict and violence. In Guatemala, between 2014-2018, social conflict resulted in an estimated economic cost of US\$688 million.³

The role that GBV plays in contributing to migration is under-studied. The rate of women migrating northward, both alone and with children, has been increasing significantly in recent years⁴. At the same time, the rate of violence against women in the region continues to be staggering, stemming from a culture of violence that is deep-rooted in its subordination of women. Twenty percent of all homicide victims are women, but data show that females account for eighty-four (84) percent of homicides resulting from intimate partner violence. Yet rates of prosecution and sentencing are low, and the impunity rate is as high as ninety (90) percent. With few options, many women opt to migrate despite the risks of violence during the journey and little hope of obtaining asylum in the United States.⁵ Domestic violence is also a driver of youth migration to the United States, as they seek a safer environment and more opportunities. Please see Activity 2.1.1 for information on gender-based violence prevention services provided with support from the Peacebuilding Project and Activity 2.1.3 for information on the GBV prevention campaign supported by the Peacebuilding Project.

Private Sector Engagement and Cost Share/Leverage

Over FY2021, the project continued to establish strong relationships with the private sector. The project coordinated with the Association of Guatemalan Exporters (*Asociación de Exportadores de Guatemala*, AGEXPORT) in addressing COVID-19 related conflicts in municipal markets. The project also coordinated with Association of Renewable Energy Generators (*Asociación de Generadores de Energía Renovable*, AGER) and ENERGUATE in the context of the CODESACs around energy related conflicts at the departmental level. Representatives from Novella Foundation and Guatemalan Foundation of Sugar Mills (*Fundación de los Ingenios Azucareros de Guatemala* (FUNDAZUCAR) participated in comprehensive conversations and forums, providing the perspective of the private sector on how to address gender, youth, and familial conflicts. In addition, the project received cost share contributions from *Acuerdos y Soluciones, Sociedad Anónima* (AYSSA) and Nou’Jou, two private sector organizations contracted by the project. Finally, two representatives from the private sector participated in the Peacebuilding Project Advisory Council (Center for the Action of Corporate Social Responsibility in Guatemala (*Centro*

³ <https://ayssaestrategia.com/contenido/uploads/2019/08/cecs-documento.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.thedialogue.org/blogs/2019/09/violence-against-women-in-the-northern-triangle-how-the-phenomenon-manifests-and-how-the-trump-administrations-policies-are-exacerbating-insecurity-for-women/>

⁵ <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/18/world/americas/guatemala-violence-women-asylum.html>

para la Acción de la Responsabilidad Social Empresarial en Guatemala (CentraRSE) and AGER). Please see Activity 2.1.1 for more information on private sector outreach this fiscal year.

Through Modification 4 of the Peacebuilding Project cooperative agreement, the 10 percent cost share requirement was modified to the following: \$600,757 in cost share and \$899,331 in leverage. The Peacebuilding Project has made a concerted effort to identify sources of cost share and leverage across all three objectives and from diverse sources. To date, the project has received cost share and leverage contributions from community members, municipal authorities, government institutions, expert consultants, private sector, civil society organizations, indigenous organizations, universities, and other international donors/ organizations. Please see Annex D for a breakdown of cost share and leverage by activity, source, objective, and amount. Cost share is also reported in the quarterly financial report.

Table 1: Cost Share and Leverage, Life of Project

Cost Share	\$ 92,208.43
Leverage	\$ 37,842.21

Operational and Project Management Activities

Human Resources: During FY21Q1, given budgetary limitations and the lower number of procurement processes, the Purchasing and Logistics Coordinator position was terminated. Once the project received incremental funding in FY21Q2, the project beginning hiring multiple positions.

Table 2: Peacebuilding Project Hiring, FY2021

Position	Number	Quarter
Sr. Administrative Director	1	FY21Q2
Drivers	3	FY21Q2 and Q4
Monitoring and Evaluation Manager (Key Personnel)	1	FY21Q3
Procurement Officer	1	FY21Q3
Institutional Strengthening Sr. Specialist	1	FY21Q3
Community Supervisor	1	FY21Q3
Community Facilitators	3	FY21Q3 and Q4
Operations Coordinator	1	FY21Q3
Janitor	1	FY21Q3
Gender and Social Inclusion Advisor	1	FY21Q4
Grants Technical Coordinator	1	FY21Q4
Jr. Grants Officer	1	FY21Q4
Quantitative Analysis and Information Systems Officer	1	FY21Q4
Qualitative Analysis and Learning Officer	1	FY21Q4
Jr. Finance Assistant	1	FY21Q4
Sr. Program Assistant	1	FY21Q4

Environmental Compliance: As of FY2021, USAID/ Guatemala required its implementing partners to submit umbrella Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMPs) for the project and specific EMMPs for each sub-grantee. The Peacebuilding Project has followed-up on

the implementation of the EMMPs and has provided trainings to partners. In September, USAID/Guatemala shared the updated IEE/ETD, which is LAC-IEE-21-67,

Table 3: EMMPs, FY2021

Grant Number	Grantee Name	Current Status	Date of Approval
N/A	Peacebuilding Project: Mitigating and monitoring to prevent COVID-19 cases	Active	March 16, 2021
2021-895-05	PIES DE OCCIDENTE	Active	March 18, 2021
2021-1067-06	IPEADES	Closed	May 7, 2021
2021-1071-07	FUDESA	Active	May 26, 2021
2021-1089-08	DEMOS	Active	May 26, 2021
2021-1177-09	COPADEH	Active	July 29, 2021
2021-1240-10	CEIDPAZ	Active	Sep 10, 2021
2021-1234-11	AGAAI	Active	Sep 10, 2021

Subawards and Grants: As of the end of FY2021, the project had awarded 11 small grants (five currently open and six completed). Four small grants are pending award.

Table 4: Peacebuilding Project Small Grants, FY2021

Name of Award	Award dates	Grantee	Amount
Open Awards			
Implementation of a communication strategy for social and behavioral change for the prevention and reduction of domestic violence in the Western Highlands (Phase 2)	June 07 - December 31, 2021	Foundation for Education and Social Development (<i>Fundación de Educación y Desarrollo Social</i> , FUDESA)	\$80,778.57
Expansion and strengthening of the Network of Youth Spokespersons for Peace (Phase 2)	June 08, 2021 - February 28, 2022	Central American Institute of Studies for Social Democracy (<i>Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios para la Democracia Social</i> , DEMOS)	\$138,262.99
Institutional strengthening of COPADEH	August 16, 2021 - August 16, 2022	In-kind grant to COPADEH	\$100,375.00
Strengthening of skills for managing social conflict for Community Mayors and Authorities from 48 Cantones, Totonicapán	September 06, 2021 - March 06, 2022	Center for Research and Projects for Development and Peace (<i>Centro de Investigaciones y Proyectos para el Desarrollo y la Paz</i> , CEIDPAZ)	\$59,867.47
Strengthening of Indigenous and Ancestral Authorities for Conflict Management and Peacebuilding	September 27, 2021 - July 29, 2022	Guatemala Association of Indigenous Mayors and Authorities (<i>Asociación Guatemalteca de Alcaldes y Autoridades Indígenas</i> , AGAAI)	\$46,548.06
Closed Awards			

Assessment of GoG early warning systems	May 25 – October 30, 2020	Institute for Sustainable Development (<i>Instituto de Enseñanza para el Desarrollo Sostenible, IEPADES</i>)	\$54,247.00
Behavior change campaign, strategy and assessment focused on preventing and reducing inter-familial violence (Phase 1)	July 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021	FUDESA	\$50,930.81
Assessment of COPREDEH psychological support needs	July 15 – December 18, 2020	Center for Studies on Conflict, Power, and Violence (<i>Centro de Estudios sobre Conflictividad, Poder y Violencia, CENDES</i>)	\$14,258.49
Youth Spokespersons for Peace (Phase 1)	October 1, 2020 – January 29, 2021	DEMOS	\$ 9,921.67
Addressing gender-based violence	February 01 - May 31, 2021	PIES de Occidente	\$10,742.80
Support to the institutional strengthening for the management of social conflicts and for the installation of a National Early Warning and Response System Phase 2)	May 12 - September 30, 2021	IEPADES	\$85,532.87
Pending Awards (published but not yet awarded)			
Communication campaign on natural resources and the environment	06 months	Tentatively FUDESA	\$53,500.00
Contributing to the empowerment of youth in the promotion and consolidation of peace in the Western Highlands	18 months	Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) (sole source)	\$200,000.00
Addressing gender-based violence	24 months	TBD	\$250,000.00
Empowerment of women of the western highlands of Guatemala as actors in the promotion of peace	24 months	TBD	\$220,000.00

Geographic Plan/ Community Selection

Per the FY2019 annual workplan, the project planned to implement a phased entry into the municipalities and communities to ensure effective start-up. The first group of four was entered during FY19Q1; however, due to lack of incremental funding and the COVID-19 Crisis, no additional municipalities/ communities were entered until FY21Q3. During FY2021, the Peacebuilding Project finished municipal entry into six new municipalities, bringing the total to 10 municipalities. The project will finish community entry during FY22Q1 in the second entry group and will start municipal/ community entry in the third group in FY22Q2, bringing the total to 15 municipalities and 130 communities by the end of FY2022.

Of the 77 communities visited in FY2021, 42 agreed to work with the Peacebuilding Project, 27 decided not to engage with the project, and nine are pending a response (see Activity 1.1.2 for

more information on the community entry process). The Peacebuilding Project notes that the community entry process for the second group was different than the community entry process for the first group, which took place in FY20Q1. A major difference is that the requirements of the external impact evaluation were no longer a factor⁶. In response to impact evaluation requirements, the original community selection methodology was designed to select 195 communities in 15 municipalities, which were then randomized into 130 intervention communities and 65 control communities by the external evaluators. All communities were identified prior to community entry so that the evaluators could conduct the baseline. Taking into consideration Do No Harm principles, the Peacebuilding Project team did not hold community level interviews during the community selection process; instead, the team interviewed community representatives and a variety of other actors with community-level knowledge through municipal level activities. This meant that the project did not raise expectations in the 65 communities that were randomly selected by the external evaluators for the control group. However, it also meant that there was a possibility of communities deciding not to participate in the project during the community entry stage. In addition, the evaluators noted that for the impact evaluation to be statistically valid, the project needed to make every effort not to lose communities. The original community entry strategy took these limitations into consideration. However, with the second group of municipalities, the project visited all the communities approved by USAID (including the ones that were originally identified as control) and presented participation in the project as optional. The implementation team understood that meant that a higher number of communities visited would ultimately not participate in the project. However, as noted in the lessons learned section, giving community leaders time to reflect and make decisions in consensus, was perceived as a sign of respect. The project would not change the process used in the first group of communities given the restrictions of the impact evaluation and the need to take Do No Harm principals into consideration but believes that the methodology used in the second group is more effective.

Another significant difference is the amount of time that has passed since the community selection process, which took place in FY2019. The conflict situation at the community and municipal levels have changed over the past two years, particularly given the COVID-19 Pandemic. The community entry process in the second group of communities took this into consideration. Some communities are experiencing less conflict, while new communities (outside of the approved communities) are experiencing new conflicts. The project will seek Agreement Officers Representative (AOR) approval to expand to any communities identified outside of the 195 approved communities.

Table 5: Municipal Entry Groups

No.	Department	Municipality	Number of communities to date
First entry group: FY19Q1			
1	Huehuetenango	Chiantla ⁷	5
2		San Pedro Necta	7
3	San Marcos	Comitancillo	7
4	Totonicapán	Totonicapán	7
Total			26

⁶The external evaluation, which was designed as a randomized control trial, was canceled by USAID in January 2020. See Annex A_M&E Report for more information.

⁷ The community of Sibila Capilla decided not to continue participating in the project as of August 2021, citing that due to COVID-19 Pandemic they did not have enough time to dedicate to the project. This brings the total number of communities in the first group to 26.

Second Entry Group: FY21Q3			
5	Huehuetenango	Huehuetenango	5
6	Quiché	San Andrés Sajcabajá	8
7		San Gaspar Chajul	8
8		San Juan Cotzal	9
9		Santo Tomás Chichicastenango	5
10	San Marcos	San Miguel Ixtahuacán	7
Total			42
Third Entry Group: FY22Q2			
11	Huehuetenango	San Ildefonso Ixtahuacán	Not yet entered
12		San Sebastián	
13	Quiché	San Bartolomé Jocotenango	
14		Santa María Nebaj	
15	San Marcos	San Marcos	
Total			

Please see Annex E for a list of communities by municipality.

Narrative of FY2021 Activities by Objective/ Result

Cross-Cutting Activities

Activity 1: Develop and implement Peacebuilding Project Gender Integration and Social Inclusion Plan, Indigenous Peoples Engagement Strategy, and Youth Participation Strategy

During FY2021, the Peacebuilding Project updated and/or developed the following plans and strategies to guide social inclusion efforts: Gender Integration and Social Inclusion Plan, Indigenous Peoples Engagement Strategy, and Youth Participation Strategy. All three documents were submitted to USAID with the FY2022 Annual Workplan. During FY21Q3, the project held meetings with 13 delegates (seven women and six men) from OJMs and DMMs in target municipalities to present the Youth Participation Strategy and Gender Integration and Social Inclusion Plan. Specific activities related to gender integration, indigenous engagement and youth participation are reported under their respective objectives and results. For an analysis of social inclusion and gender integration this fiscal year, please see the above section under Analysis of Project Implementation.

Activity 2: Develop and implement the Peacebuilding Project Strategic Communication Plan

Strategic communication is a fully integrated component of the Peacebuilding Project design. The project communications team developed a strategic communications strategy in FY2019 to guide program communications across the three objectives. The project communications strategy is designed to allow the team to communicate issues around social conflict as they emerge and evolve. As such, the team continues to respond quickly in developing messages related to the evolving COVID-19 Pandemic and to social conflict. Given that the project works in rural communities in the Western Highlands, the project publishes key messages and materials in Spanish, K'iche', Mam, and Ixil.

The project team actively used two WhatsApp groups per municipality, one with authorities and the other with youth, during FY2201. The community facilitators used the groups to communicate messages and share information as well as to stay informed on the community context and to maintain contact with project participants. The project has also created WhatsApp groups with the municipal and departmental public affairs officers, strengthening those relationships and contributing to a greater reach of key project messages.

As part of the communication strategy, the project publishes key messages on social media related to relevant international days. The project is able to engage different stakeholders, such as youth and women, in developing and disseminating the messages related to conflict mitigation and peacebuilding. The Peacebuilding Project partners also shared the messages through their networks, reaching a wider audience.

Table 6: Days Commemorated by the Peacebuilding Project, FY2021

Day	Date
International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	November 25
International Anti-Corruption Day	December 9
Human Rights Day	December 10
International Migrants Day	December 18
International Education Day	January 24
World Day of Social Justice	February 20
International Women's Day	March 8
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	March 21
World Water Day	March 22
International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	April 6
International Mother Earth Day	April 22
International Day of the Midwife	May 5
International Day of Peaceful Coexistence	May 16
World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	May 21
World Environment Day	June 5
International LGBT Pride Day	June 28
World Youth Skills Day	July 15
World Day Against Trafficking	July 30
International Day of Indigenous Peoples	August 9
International Youth Day	August 12
International Day of Indigenous Women	September 5
International Day of Peace	September 21

This fiscal year, following USAID approval, the Creative launched the project website: <https://tejiendopaz.com/>

Activity 3: Publish Peacebuilding Project Bulletins and Analysis

Peacebuilding Project partner ProPaz is responsible for providing timely analysis on the most salient issues related to social conflict. The purpose of the analysis is to improve communication

and understanding around the topics and issues most relevant to the project. During FY2021, ProPaz published four reports related to political and social conflict, one per quarter. Please see Annex F for the ProPaz Report on Social Conflict, FY21Q4⁸ (please see previous quarterly reports for the other three reports). The purpose of the report is for internal project analysis and decision-making.

Please Annex G for the Peacebuilding Project External Bulletin⁹. The bulletin presents a chronology and general description of actions that shaped social conflict in Guatemala over FY2021.

Activity 4: Establish Peacebuilding Project Advisory Council and Indigenous Advisory Group

Peacebuilding Project Advisory Council: The Peacebuilding Project Advisory Council is a mechanism to facilitate the advancement of the Peacebuilding Project objectives and provide technical advice on issues related to peacebuilding and reduction of social conflict and violence. The Advisory Council is an important mechanism for the sustainability of the project and as such, includes members from different sectors with diverse experiences. The project held five advisory council meetings this fiscal year with a total of 21 unique participants (11 women and 10 men):

- **Presentation of FY2020 Results and Discussion of FY2021 Challenges:** The first meeting was held on October 29 and was attended by five members of the council as well as representatives from USAID and the Peacebuilding Project. The meeting focused on presenting the project results during FY2020 and discussing the challenges facing organizations and institutions that address social conflict.
- **Analysis of Citizen Protests:** The second meeting this fiscal year was an extraordinary meeting called on December 3 to analyze and reflect on the political crisis taking place in the country (see the Context and Analysis section). Five members of the council participated as well as representatives from USAID and the Peacebuilding Project. Representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ), and IEPADES participated as special guests.
- **Update on Project Implementation and Reflection on Conflict Context:** The third meeting was held on February 25, with six council members (three women and three men). The first part of the meeting focused on providing members an update on project implementation and the second part was a space to reflect on the conflict situation in the country, particularly related to conflicts within the context of the COVID-19 Crisis.
- **Update on Project Implementation and work with CODESACs:** The fourth meeting took place on June 29, with six council members (three women and three men). Peacebuilding Project team members presented on project progress and discussed the creation of the Indigenous Advisory Group. The project also presented its work with CODESACs.
- **Exchange between the Advisory Council and the Indigenous Advisory Group:** The fifth meeting took place on September 28, with fourteen people participating (six women

⁸ This report is produced in Spanish and the opinions expressed are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the views of Creative Associates or the Peacebuilding Project.

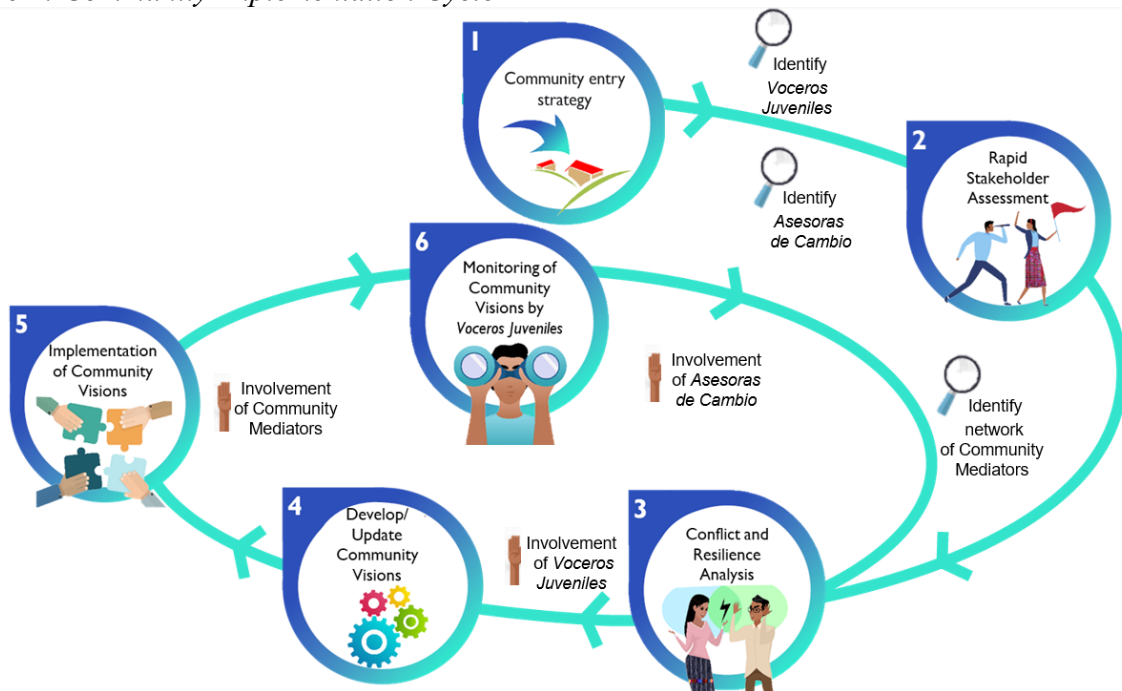
⁹ ProPaz prepared a bulletin during FY21Q2 but it was never published externally. As such, the Peacebuilding Project only has one external bulletin for FY2021.

and eight men). The main focus of the meeting was an exchange between the Peacebuilding Project Advisory Council and the Indigenous Advisory group that was formed in FY21Q3. During the exchange, participants reflected on the topic “indigenous peoples, governance and peace in the Western Highlands.” In addition, project staff presented the FY2022 workplan.

Indigenous Advisory Group: On April 6, which is the day 3 Q’anil from the Mayan calendar that symbolizes the seed that germinates and brings life, the Indigenous Advisory Group was formally created. The advisory group acknowledges the contribution of indigenous peoples to peacebuilding and conflict resolution in the Western Highlands. The Indigenous Advisory Group plays an advisory role, providing the Peacebuilding Project with advice, guidance, and feedback through respected leaders from different indigenous groups in the Western Highlands. This fiscal year, nine people (three women and six men) participated in the advisory group.

Objective 1: Establish and/or strengthen inclusive locally-led engagement, dialogue, and mapping to identify, prioritize, and develop action plans addressing sources of and increase resilience to social conflict and the impacts of COVID-19 on social cohesion

Figure 1: Community Implementation Cycle



Result 1.1. Communities and local authorities¹⁰ are prepared to come together to discuss and address social conflict

Activity 1.1.1. Train Community Facilitators (CFs)

¹⁰ The Peacebuilding Project defines local authorities as community leaders, traditional authorities, and municipal authorities. Local authorities are those actors that play a leadership role at the municipal and community levels, whether formal or non-formal.

A strong community implementation team is key to the success of all Peacebuilding Project activities at the community level. In addition, building local capacity is one of the project’s core implementation principals and is critical to building long-term sustainability.

During FY21Q4, Peacebuilding Project partner ProPaz implemented their 10-day training for new community supervisors and facilitators to strengthen their capacity in key areas prior to community implementation. Four people completed the training, which was divided into two five-day sessions, including one supervisor (female) and three facilitators (all men). The methodology was participatory and focused on adult learning, combining practical activities with theoretical presentations. Throughout FY2021, ProPaz held virtual trainings with project staff; the trainings were designed primarily for the community implementation team of 11 people (four women and seven men) but was open to all staff.

Table 7: Community Facilitator Training Topics, FY2021

Date	Topic
Feb 1	Analyzing the 2020 conflict context and potential scenarios for 2021
Feb 22	Interculturality and Human Rights
March 1	Introduction to Training Program
March 15	Practical Exercise on Conflict Mediation
April 12	Practical Exercise on Conflict Mediation: presentation and discussion of studying a conflict
April 26	Method and methodologies, techniques, and systematization
May 3	Types of conflicts, from the project’s four general categories
May 17	Practical Exercise on Conflict Negotiation: types of land conflicts
May 31	Value of historical knowledge in conflict resolution and peace building processes
June 14	Practical Exercise on Conflict Negotiation: types of conflict related to youth, gender and family; governance; and natural resources.
July 12	Training on conflict typology
July 26	Youth and human rights
August 30	Interdependence
Sept 27	Restorative dialogue

Activity 1.1.2. Design and implement community and municipal entry strategy

The first step in the community implementation cycle is community and municipal entry. The entry strategy is designed to initiate contact with key stakeholders early on at all levels to generate interest and support, as well as ensure a shared vision of expectations. This process started in the six new municipalities in FY21Q3 and continued through FY21Q4. The total number of unique participants in the municipal and community entry process was 740 (101 women and 639 men), of which 337 (68 women and 269 men) participated in the municipal entry process, and 416 (33 women and 383 men) participated in the community entry process. Please see the Annual M&E Report (Annex A) for the number of participants in the community entry by community and municipality.

Departmental Level: The project starts the entry process by meeting with departmental authorities in the target departments (Huehuetenango, Quiché San Marcos, and Totonicapán) to provide updates on the project and generate buy-in for working in new municipalities. The process is done in collaboration with the institutional strengthening team that works closely with departmental

authorities through the CODESACs (see Objective 3). This fiscal year, the project presented the extended geographic coverage as planned to the departmental authorities and received letters of support from the governor's offices that were used during municipal entry. These relationships have facilitated entry at all levels.

Municipal Level: The community implementation team started engaging with municipal authorities in the six new municipalities during FY21Q3 and completed the process during FY21Q4. The presentations at the municipal level took place with three audiences:

- 1) **City Councils:** each city council expressed their willingness to collaborate with the project.
- 2) **Staff of relevant municipal offices (DMMs, OJMs, etc.):** The objective of these presentations was to begin to link the project with municipal offices (the exact offices vary between municipalities) that can help address conflicts that are identified in the communities, as well as support the inclusion of indigenous groups, women, and youth.
- 3) **Municipal Development Council (*Consejo Municipal de Desarrollo, COMUDEs*):** COMUDEs are an important space given that they are comprised of municipal authorities, civil society representatives, and community leaders. Each of the COMUDEs also expressed their willingness to collaborate with the project. The meeting with the San Andres Sajcabaja COMUDE was suspended due to a possible COVID-19 case and will be rescheduled for next fiscal year.

This process cumulated in the signing of MOUs between Creative and the mayor (or his representative). The MOUs focus on strengthening municipal capacity for conflict management and peacebuilding, as well as providing a general framework for action between local authorities and the project. In addition to MOUs in the six new municipalities, MOUs were re-signed with the four municipalities in the first entry group. The project team presented on advances to date to each city council in the first entry group. In two of the four municipalities, Chiantla and Totonicapán, the mayor requested Peacebuilding Project support in addressing conflicts in new communities. The Peacebuilding Project will seek AOR approval to expand to additional communities outside of the list of 195 approved communities.

Community Level: Once initial contact was made with municipal authorities, the community implementation team began preliminary engagement with community leaders. This is the first time that the project is engaging with new communities, so generating trust and buy-in was the main foci of the meetings. The team used these meetings to apply the community selection index, which includes: the presence of and vulnerability to conflict; community organization and political will; and potential strategic alliances/ opportunities for collaboration as well as the communities general interest in the project. Based on these visits, the project anticipates identifying 50 – 60 new communities in the six municipalities in the second entry group. In addition, during FY22Q1, the project will assess the possibility of expanding to additional communities in the four municipalities in the first entry group. As noted above, the project may expand to new communities (following USAID prior approval). The project will also assess the possibility of expanding to communities that were originally in the control group. The project anticipates bringing the total to 80 – 90 communities in the 10 municipalities. Once community entry is complete in the first two groups, the project will start municipal and community entry in the third group (FY22Q2), bringing the total to 15 municipalities and 130 communities by the end of FY2022.

During FY2021, the community implementation team visited 77 communities in the six new municipalities.¹¹ In each community, the team met with community authorities and leaders to present the objectives and scope of the project. Community leaders at this stage include COCODE representatives and community mayors (*alcaldes comunitarios*). The project makes every effort to include male and female representatives, although most of the representatives in these bodies are male.

Of the 77 communities, 42 agreed to work with the Peacebuilding Project, 27 will not engage with the project (this includes Salitre, San Miguel Ixtahuacan which was not visited), and nine are pending a response. See Geographic Plan/ Community Selection for more information. Please see Annex E for a list of communities by municipality.

Activity 1.1.3. Conduct Rapid Stakeholder Assessment

The second step in the community implementation cycle is the rapid stakeholder assessment. The purpose of the rapid stakeholder assessment exercise is to identify key actors for each of the types of conflicts in each community. It is also an opportunity to raise awareness about the project and its activities and start to build trust and momentum with participants.

The project started the rapid stakeholder assessment during FY21Q4, implementing the sessions in 30 communities in four municipalities: San Juan Cotzal, Quiché; San Gaspar Chajul, Quiché; Santo Tomás Chichicastenango, Quiché; and San Miguel Ixtahuacán, San Marcos. The total number of participants in the rapid stakeholder assessment process this fiscal year was 433 (194 women and 239 men). This process will continue in the six municipalities in the second entry group during FY22Q1. Please see the Annual M&E Report (Annex A) for the number of participants in the rapid stakeholder assessments by community.

Result 1.2. Communities and local authorities identify, prioritize, and devise strategies to address sources of and resilience to social conflict.

Activity 1.2.1. Facilitate community-driven conflict and resilience analysis and develop community visions

The third step and fourth steps in the community implementation cycle are the conflict and resilience analysis (CRA) and the development of community visions. CRA tools facilitate dialogue, reflections and analysis of sources and dynamics of community conflicts and resilience, impact and role of women, youth and indigenous people and relationships between conflict and migration. Results provide key information to develop community visions, with priority actions for conflict peaceful resolution. Following the experience in the first group of municipalities/communities and taking into consideration limitations due to the COVID-19 Pandemic (see the Challenges and Lessons Learned section), the team shortened the number of CRA/ CV development sessions. The CRA/ CV development process is now organized into five sessions: 1) conflict

¹¹ In the case of Salitre, San Miguel Ixtahuacán, the team assessed the possibility of working in the community with municipal authorities who recommended against it due to increased safety and security concerns. The project has two remaining communities (Talmiche, Huehuetenango and Ojo de Agua, San Juan Cotzal) to visit in FY22Q1 from the second entry group.

identification and analysis, 2) causes and prioritization of conflicts, 3) resilience and community vision development, 4) community validation of the CV, and 5) CV community presentation.

The project started the CRA during FY21Q4, implementing 37 sessions in 22 communities in four municipalities: San Juan Cotzal, Quiché; San Gaspar Chajul, Quiché; Santo Tomás Chichicastenango, Quiché; and San Miguel Ixtahuacán, San Marcos. The total number of unique participants in the community entry process this fiscal year was 384 (197 women and 187 men). Please see the Annual M&E Report (Annex A) for the number of participants in the CRA/ CV development process by community.

Delivery of the community visions: During FY21Q1, printed copies of the complete and summary versions¹² of the community visions were delivered to community leaders in the 26 project communities in the first group of communities. Those leaders agreed to share the community visions with other authorities, women and youth, particularly those that participated in the process of developing them. The original plan was to hold community-wide meetings to disseminate the visions; however, that was not feasible due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. In total, the number of participants in the deliveries were 67 (17 women and 50 men). The community authorities expressed their satisfaction in receiving copies of the community visions. They indicated that they will be useful in working with community members in resolving conflicts peacefully and early before they escalate into violence. See Activity 2.1.1 for more information on how the Peacebuilding Project has supported the communities in implementing the plans.

Activity 1.2.2. Support youth participation in local peacebuilding initiatives

Network of Voceros Juveniles para la Paz

DEMOS: This fiscal year, DEMOS implemented two phases of their *voceros juveniles* project. The *voceros juveniles* network is a space for youth to have a voice and to advocate for development and peacebuilding opportunities that benefit them and their peers. The network is also a space to share, communicate, and receive information.

The first phase (October 1, 2020- January 29, 2021) focused engaging youth from the first group of four municipalities. During FY21Q1, through an open selection process, 46 youth (28 women and 18 men) were selected. Forty of the *voceros juveniles* are from the project target municipalities. An additional six from other municipalities participated in the trainings given their strong qualifications and skill set. The curriculum for the first cohort of youth included theoretical content as well as practical exercises related to two main topics: 1) conflict analysis and transformation; and 2) communication and use of technology. All participants who started the process completed the training. The youth indicated that the training gave them new technological and communication skills that will help them to have substantive participation in civic activities as well as give them an advantage in finding employment. The training allowed the youth to understand the importance of peace and conflict resolution for the economic development of their communities.

¹² In FY2020, 26 communities finalized their community visions, which were reflected in the complete documents (between 40 – 60 pages). To facilitate their dissemination and understanding, short versions of the community visions were prepared by the Peacebuilding Project community implementation team during FY21Q1. These summary versions allow community authorities and members to visualize the plans in a more graphic format.

A sub-award agreement was signed on June 8 with DEMOS for the implementation of a follow-on grant aimed at expanding the network of *voceros juveniles* in the six new municipalities (through February 28, 2022). During FY21Q4, 160 youth (107 women and 53 men) were engaged from the 10 municipalities. DEMOS expanded the curriculum, which will continue to be implemented during FY2022.

Table 8: Workshops and sessions from the Voceros Juveniles training process

Topics	Sessions
Conflict Analysis and Transformation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Types of violence 2. Conflict and social conflict 3. Analysis, prevention, and conflict transformation, part I 4. Analysis, prevention, and conflict transformation, part II 5. Dialogue as a mechanism for peaceful resolution of conflicts
Communication	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Branding and communication content 2. Communication 3. Spokesmanship and message construction 4. Interviewing 5. Communication campaigns and social networks
Use of Información Communication Technologies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction and context analysis 2. Tools and resources 3. Practice I 4. Practice II
Irregular Migration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Causes of irregular migration 2. Irregular migration trends 3. Irregular migration risk and threats 4. Remittances from irregular migrants 5. Institutional approaches to irregular migration and associated problems
Forum Theater	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dramaturgy - Author's work 2. Dramaturgy – Collective creation 3. History and types of performance 4. Performance 5. Direction
Cultural Management and Body Expression	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Culture and body expression 2. Human culture and Expressive Resources Through the Body I 3. Human culture and Expressive Resources Through the Body II 4. Cultural manager, communication, and Body and Gestural Expression 5. The Project in cultural management, application of body and gestural expression

ProPaz: The Peacebuilding Project partner ProPaz implemented a training process known as “Citizenship for Peace and Democracy” with the *voceros juveniles* in the first group of four municipalities. In total, 49 youth (29 women and 20 men) participated in the trainings. The process has been held virtually due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The methodology in each session is designed for the most interaction possible, and the team maintains constant communication with participants through WhatsApp groups. The training process is funded by the Swiss Embassy in Guatemala and has been counted as cost share. After the training process, the youth implemented dialogue processes with other youth from their municipalities, discussing topics that they have identified. These youth-led dialogue initiatives started in September.

Table 9: “Citizenship for Peace and Democracy” training modules

Module	Topic
1	Peace Accords and citizen participation
2	Constructive communication
3	Dialogue
4	Intersectoral partnerships and project design

Table 10: “Citizenship for Peace and Democracy” training modules, FY2021

Department	Municipality	Module 1	Module 2		Module 3		Module 4
		Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6
Totonicapán	Totonicapán	April 24	May 15	May 29	June 12	June 26	July 10
Huehuetenango	Chiantla	May 19	May 26	June 9	June 23	July 7	July 28
	San Pedro Neta	May 19	May 26	June 9	June 23	July 7	July 28
San Marcos	Comitancillo	May 19	June 2	June 16	July 1	July 14	July 28

YouthLead Platform: During FY21Q3, the Peacebuilding Project supported the participation of *voceros juveniles* in the YouthLead platform. This is a platform for young agents of change to connect with other youth for mentorship, resources, and events¹³. A virtual workshop was held on June 11, with the participation of 48 *voceros juveniles* (27 women and 21 men) (in addition to the other participants).

Red de Redes: During FY2021, the Peacebuilding Project linked two *voceros juveniles* (one from Totonicapán and the other from Comitancillo) with the *Red de Redes* initiative being implemented by USAID projects with youth across the country. The delegates from each USAID project meet regularly to follow up on the actions identified by the group.

Support to the OMJs: During FY2021, the Peacebuilding Project support the participation of OMJ coordinators from Comitancillo, San Pedro Necta, Chiantla, and Totonicapán in the *Initial Political Training Program* implemented by IREX through their Transformative Action Project.

Activity 1.2.3. Support women's active role in community peacebuilding

During FY21Q4, the Peacebuilding Project began implementing a training process on citizen participation for young indigenous women in decision-making spaces in Totonicapán. The training is being implemented in coordination with the local Office for the Protection of Indigenous Women (*Defensoría de la Mujer Indígena*, DEMI). The trainings, which are held in-person, focus on providing young indigenous women with the skills and tools for effective civic participation, particularly participation in COCODES. Effective civic participation of women is key to changing gender paradigms, particularly related to conflict mitigation and peacebuilding. During FY21Q4, four of the nine sessions were implemented with 56 people (55 women and one man).

Table 11: Training Topics with Indigenous Women in Totonicapán

Date	Topic
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¹³ The other organizations/ projects that are supporting the platform are: Fedecocagua, HEP+ Osar Juvenil, HEP+ Jovenes Artistas por la Justicia Social, Nexos Locales, Proinnova, Glaswing, Comité Asesor de Profesionales Indígenas, and the International Republican Institute.

August 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General guidelines and objectives of the training process • Historical context of inequalities experienced by indigenous peoples and indigenous women
August 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements of historical claims from Mayans, Garífunas and Xinkas, principles and values • Struggles and resilience of indigenous women in facing the post-conflict crisis
Sept 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights of indigenous peoples • Specific rights of indigenous women • Self-identification
Sept 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporation of women to gender equality in response to the social crisis • Reality of indigenous women and local power • Articulated agenda of Mayan, Garífuna and Xinka women

Commemoration of key dates: Various women from the project communities participated in activities related to the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. They sent awareness-raising messages through photos and videos. Another key date to recognize and validate the active role of women in claiming their rights and participating in civic life is International Women’s Day. As such, the project collaborated with local organizations to implement activities that recognized the contributions of women.

- *Forum and Recognition of Mujeres Tejedores de Paz:* The Women’s Collective of Comitancillo organized a forum on March 8. A Peacebuilding Project community supervisor gave a speech on women’s roles in development and peacebuilding processes. The project also recognized a community leader known as *Abuela Juliana*.
- *Virtual Forum on Economic Empowerment of Women as a Response to Gender and Domestic Conflicts:* See Activity 3.2.1. for more information.
- *Recognition of Women’s Leadership during the Pandemic:* In coordination with the DEMI of Totonicapán, the project held an activity on March 25 to recognize eight women who played a role in supporting women who suffered domestic violence during quarantine as well as women impacted by the lack of work opportunities and difficulty of generating income to cover basic needs for their families. 24 women participated in this activity, including the eight that were recognized.

As part of the commemoration of the International Day of the Midwife, in coordination with Cooperation for the Rural Development of the Western Highlands (*Cooperación para el Desarrollo Rural de Occidente*, CDRO), the project supported an activity acknowledging the role of midwives in mitigating community conflicts related to gender, youth, and family. The activity took place in Totonicapán on May 19 with 33 midwives.

Asesoras de Cambio: During FY21Q3, the Peacebuilding Project published a request for applications (RFA) for "Empowerment of Women of the Western Highlands of Guatemala as Actors in the Promotion of Peace." Neither of the two proposals received met the required technical criteria and experience. The evaluation committee decided to re-publish the RFA, which will happen in early FY22Q1, as a limited competition to ensure that qualified organizations apply.

Result 1.3. Communities and local authorities have increased resources for peaceful conflict resolution

Activity 1.3.1. Establish and strengthen the network of community mediators

The mediator network is designed to serve as a resource that communities, municipalities, and departmental authorities can call upon to generate conditions for dialogue or facilitate peaceful conflict resolution, particularly once the community visions have been developed. During FY21Q1, the Peacebuilding Project finalized the first mediator training process. The training provided the network, which covers the Western Highlands, with the skills to lead dialogue processes, engage in peaceful conflict resolution and promote a culture of peace. The training process was held virtually, with 12 2.5-hour sessions being held between September 24 and November 17. In total, 32 people (17 women and 15 men) completed the training (additional people started the process but did not complete required number of sessions).

Table 12: Community mediator training dates and topics

Date	Topic
September 29	Conflict
October 1	Do No Harm Approach
October 6	Alternative methods for resolving conflict
October 8	Tools for conflict analysis
October 13	Communication
October 15	Mediation
October 22	Models or schools of mediation
October 27	Context analysis and conflict mapping
October 29	Dialogue
November 3	Interculturality and human rights
November 5	Gender, family, and youth
November 10	Interpersonal relationships and managing emotions

For the rest of the fiscal year, the project implemented follow-up activities with the network, including mediation clinics, presentations, and case studies, to strengthen the network's capacity

Table 13: Dates and topics of follow-on training for mediators, FY2021

Date	Topic
March 23	Essential elements for successful mediation and profile of an effective mediator
April 13	Conflict mediation techniques
April 27	Role of the mediator in conflicts
May 18	Conflict resolution from the perspective of indigenous law
June 15	The third side, a conflict resolution methodology
June 21	First in-person gathering of the mediator network: practical exercises for conflict mediation and training with the coordination board of the network
July 13	Reflection on activities to date and platform tests for practice mediation
July 23	Second in-person gathering of the mediator network: in-person mediation practice
Aug 10	Decision making and consensus, theoretical
Aug 23	Decision making and consensus, practical exercises
Sept 7	Agrarian institutions involved in conflict resolution

The mediator network is now a structured group with a governing board. During the last in person activity, the members of the network expressed the need to establish an internal regulation for the network and they will promote it. Some members of the network are engaged with municipal commissions, e.g., the human rights commissions and Municipal Violence Prevention

Commission (*Comisión Municipal de Prevención de la Violencia*, COMUPRE) in the municipalities of Chiantla, Totonicapán, and Comitancillo; from there, they support in the peaceful management and resolution of conflicts. Next quarter the second cohort of the network of mediators will start its training process with the purpose of expanding to the new municipalities.

Objective 2: Build partnerships between communities, municipalities, and other stakeholders to implement plans prioritized by communities.

Result 2.1. Communities, municipalities, and other stakeholders implement action plans to address drivers of social conflict and promote cohesion

Activity 2.1.1. Support target communities, municipalities, and other stakeholders in implementing conflict mitigation and peacebuilding strategies

Grants Fund and Internal Project Resources: The Peacebuilding Project has a small grants fund designed to support the implementation of CVs and other locally-led actions that contribute to reducing social conflict and increasing social cohesion in the Western Highlands. A detailed explanation of the implementation of these grants is reported in the relevant sections of this report.

Table 14: Summary of Peacebuilding Project Small Grants

Name of Award(s)	Grantee	Activity	Summary
Youth Spokespersons for Peace (Phase 1) and Expansion and strengthening of the Network of Youth Spokespersons for Peace (Phase 2)	DEMOS	1.2.3	To strengthen youth involvement in peacebuilding processes, the project awarded two small grants to DEMOS to form and train youth networks. Phase 1 was implemented in four municipalities and phase 2 expanded to six more.
Addressing Gender-Based Violence	<i>Pies de Occidente</i>	2.1.1	To provide support to survivors of GBV in Totonicapán, the project provided a subaward to <i>Pies de Occidente</i> . The subaward was finalized in FY21Q3; 47 women received support.
Behavior change campaign, strategy and assessment focused on preventing and reducing inter-familial violence (Phase 1) and Implementation of a communication strategy for social and behavioral change for the prevention and reduction of domestic violence in the Western Highlands (Phase 2)	FUDESA	2.1.4	To prevent inter-familial/ domestic violence, the project awarded to small grants to FUDESA for a communication campaign. Phase 1 was implemented in four municipalities and phase 2 expanded to six more.
Institutional Strengthening of COPADEH	COPADEH	3.1.1	To strengthen the newly created COPADEH, the project awarded an in-kind grant for training and monitoring social conflict. The project signed an MOU with the institution.
Assessment of COPREDEH psychological support needs	CENDES	3.1.1	The project awarded a small grant to CENDES to assess the psychological support needs of GoG field-based delegates

			responsible for addressing conflict.
Assessment of GoG early warning systems and Support to the institutional strengthening for the management of social conflicts and for the installation of a National Early Warning and Response System (EWRS)	IEPADES	3.1.2	The project provided two subawards to IEPADES; the first was to assess GoG EWRSs and provide recommendations and the second was to implement actions to strengthen GoG institutions to support the implementation of a national EWRS.
Strengthening of Skills to Managing Social Conflict for Community Mayors and Authorities from 48 Cantones, Totonicapán	CEIDEPAZ	3.1.3	A small grant was awarded to CEIDEPAZ during FY21Q4 to work with 48 Cantones, indigenous authorities from Totonicapán, to strengthen their skills to address social conflict.
Strengthening of Indigenous and Ancestral Authorities for Conflict Management and Peacebuilding	AGAAI	3.1.3	A small grant was awarded to AGAAI during FY21Q4 to work with indigenous authorities in the Western Highlands to strengthen their skills to address social conflict.

External Resources and Strategic Partnerships: Building strategic partnership is a key element to bring resources and influence to support community vision implementation and overall achievement of Peacebuilding Project objectives and sustainability of results. Key actors for external partnerships include the private sector, civil society organizations and universities, indigenous organizations, municipal authorities, community members, government institutions, and non-USG international cooperation agencies. Over the course of FY2021, Peacebuilding Project team continued to conduct outreach and engagement.

Private sector

- AGEXPORT: The project signed an MOU with AGEXPORT during FY2020. As part of the alliance, project staff participated in an orientation workshop on addressing COVID-19 in municipal and local markets to prevent conflicts. Project staff plan to replicate the training next fiscal year in San Pedro Necta.
- AGER: The Peacebuilding Project is working with the AGER within the framework of the CODESACs to address energy related conflicts.
- ENERGUATE: Representatives of ENERGUATE are participating in the technical working groups for electricity subsector conflict management in Huehuetenango and Quiché, which are part of the CODESACs. The project also supported community members in El Rancho, Chiantla in holding a dialogue with ENERGUATE (see below).
- Fundación Novella and FUNDAZUCAR: Representatives of the Novella Foundation and FUNDAZUCAR participated in three comprehensive conversations and one forum on gender, youth and family conflicts during FY2021.

Civil Society and Universities

- National Association of Mayors (Asociación Nacional de Municipalidades, ANAM): The Peacebuilding Project community implementation team coordinated with ANAM in working with COCODES to strengthen their capacity to communicate the needs of their communities to municipal government and COMUDES, advocate for approval of projects,

and follow up on implementation. These trainings address issues identified in the CVs of several communities related to governance conflicts. See Annex H for more information.

- CDRO: In March, the Peacebuilding Project signed a MOU with the CDRO to implement activities that support the implementation of the CVs in communities Totonicapán. Two activities were implemented: 1) In the community of Tzanixnam, trainings were held with community authorities on sustainable forest management to address conflicts related to illegal logging; and 2) In the community of Nimapa, trainings were held with midwives on empowerment and conflict mitigation. Communication between midwives and health care personnel was facilitated to address conflicts related to discrimination against midwives.
- Psychology School, Western University Center at the University of San Carlos: A MOU was signed on September 29 with representatives of the School of Psychology to formalize the implementation of supervised professional internships in coordination with DMMs to support GBV prevention and psychological support to survivors of GBV. The first internship is taking place in Chiantla with women from the community of Chuscaj.

Indigenous Authorities/Organizations

- 48 Cantones: The project has maintained strong relationships with 48 Cantones since starting implementation in Totonicapán in FY2020, ensuring buy-in and support for project activities at the community level. In response to a request by the 48 Cantones Board of Directors, the project awarded a small grant to CEIDEPAZ to strengthen the capacity of 48 Cantones community authorities to address social conflict.
- AGAAI: An MOU was signed that focuses on strengthening the capacity of indigenous authorities and indigenous mayors in alternative conflict resolution mechanisms from the Mayan worldview and indigenous practices, which was also a common strategy prioritized in CVs. The MOU also includes raising awareness with municipal and departmental authorities and public officials about these mechanisms and strengthening the capacity of the Indigenous Advisory Councils within the COMUDES on conflict analysis and resolution. A small grant was awarded to AGAAI in FY21Q4 to implement these actions.

Other International Cooperation Agencies

- GIZ: The partnership with GIZ focused on the development of four departmental strategies for security and conflict management. Coordination also included preparation for the installation of the first conflict information system in the Governor's Office of Quiché, as a pilot experience for the expansion to the other three departments. Please see Activities 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 for more information. In addition, GIZ provided training to Peacebuilding Project staff on Do No Harm and intercultural dialogue.
- Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)/ Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA): The project maintained regular communication with NIMD and SIDA to develop a joint initiative to strengthen substantive participation of youth from Western Highland in peace promotion and conflict transformation. The project, which will receive matching funds from SIDA, will focus on strengthening the competencies and skills of youth to participate in defining issues, problems, and solutions as well as influencing decisions and outcomes associated with youth development.
- Swiss Embassy: The Swiss Embassy provided financial support for the implementation of the "Citizenship for Peace and Democracy" training process implemented by ProPaz. See Activity 1.2.2. for more information.

- UNDP: Peacebuilding Project met with UNDP to identify opportunities for collaboration in government institutional strengthening activities.
- ILO: Project leadership meet with the ILO to identify opportunities for collaboration related to supporting the implementation of consultations indigenous peoples derived from ILO Convention 169 (see Activity 3.1.1).

Government Institutions

- SESAN: The Peacebuilding Project and SESAN implemented a joint training for indigenous women weavers in Tepán, San Pedro Necta in response to a conflict related to youth, gender and families (see Executive Summary).
- Presidential Secretariat for Women (*Secretaria Presidencial de la Mujer, SEPREM*) and Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Human Trafficking (*Secretaria Contra la Violencia Sexual, Explotacion y Trata de Personas, SVET*): The newly hired Gender and Social Inclusion Advisor and the Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) met with representatives from SEPREM and SVET to identify areas of opportunity related to institutional strengthening, GBV and sexual violence prevention and services, and the civic empowerment of women. MOUs will be signed next fiscal year.
- DEMI: The Peacebuilding Project coordinates closely with the DEMI in the target departments and municipalities in implementing activities across all three objectives. See Activities 1.2.3 and 3.2.1. An MOU will be signed next fiscal year.
- Human Rights Ombudsmen (*Procurador de los Derechos Humanos, PDH*): Representatives from the PDH have participated in project comprehensive conversations and for a. In addition, the Gender and Social Inclusion Advisor met with the PDH Sexual Diversity Advocate to discuss coordination around working with LGBTQI+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex) individuals, youth, and women.

Implementation of CVs and Activities/ Technical Assistance to Address Conflicts: Please see Annex H for a list of activities/ technical assistance supported by the project as part of the implementation of CVs. During FY2021, 15 activities were implemented in support of community visions from 21 communities in the four municipalities in the first entry group (Comitancillo, Chiantla, San Pedro Necta, and Totonicapán). A total of 349 people participated in the activities (204 women and 145 men). Below is a summary of the most impactful actions in each municipality.

Chiantla, Huehuetenango

Natural Resources: In the community of El Rancho, the project facilitated the resolution of a conflict between community members and ENERGUATE, which had turned off electricity to the community water pump. The community water pump had been installed with support from the previous municipal administration but not been hooked up to energy. When community leaders approached ENERGUATE, the region's electricity provider, the company accused them of operating the pump illegally and fined them an amount they couldn't pay. When the project began working with community members on CRA/ CV, the community was at stalemate with the electric company. The burden of the water scarcity fell to women, who were hauling water up and down the steep mountain side from the natural water source. The Peacebuilding Project community facilitator supported community leaders in negotiating with ENERGUATE, a private company, and obtained a significant reduction of the fine. Most importantly, ENERGUATE turned on the

electricity, powering the pumps that had lain dormant for two years. Families now have enough water coming directly to their homes to clean, drink, and cook.¹⁴

Comitancillo, San Marcos

Natural resources: Four communities identified conflicts related to water scarcity as priorities: Vista Hermosa, Tuichilupe, La Torre, and Agua Tibia. Building capacity of municipal and local stakeholders was identified as the priority response for these conflicts. The project facilitated the participation of the Municipal Water and Sanitation Coordinator in a virtual course on Integrated Management of Water, conducted by Water for People in coordination with the University of San Carlos. In Vista Hermosa and Tuichilupe, the Peacebuilding Project worked with the *Nexos Locales* Project to include the communities in community plumbers training. The Peacebuilding Project worked with community authorities and COCODEs to ensure their commitment for the chlorination of water, a pre-condition for the training. 33 community plumbers (all men) participated in the training during. The strengthening of the plumbers' capacity allows for better maintenance of pipes and the improvement of the governance of the community water system, thus increasing the amount of water available and reducing conflict over water scarcity.

Youth, Gender and Families: A course on "Educating for Peace" was implemented with teachers and directors of primary and secondary schools. This activity was coordinated by the Municipal Office for the Protection of Children, Adolescents and Youth with the support from Cause Guatemala, San Carlos Scalabrinianos Mission, and the Peacebuilding Project, who make up the municipal network of organizations for the protection of children, adolescence, and youth. The course included four modules: 1) prevention of violence against children and adolescents; 2) prevention of sexual violence against children and adolescents; 3) prevention of physical and psychological violence; and 4) conflict resolution in educational centers. Through the course, 95 participants (34 women and 61 men) were provided tools to identify types of violence that students may suffer and mechanisms for responding. They were also provided information on the legal framework for the prevention of violence against children and adolescents. The overall focus of the methodology was providing educators with tools for peaceful conflict resolution.

San Pedro Necta, Huehuetenango:

Governance: Community members in Camposeco and El Rancho identified strengthening COCODES to fulfill their functions as a key priority in preventing conflict. In response, and in coordination with ANAM, the Peacebuilding Project supported strengthening the capacity of COCODES in the communities of Camposeco (13 men participated) and El Rancho (11 men participated), addressing the Law of Urban and Rural Development Councils so that the members of each council knew their functions, rights and obligations. Strong COCODES are better able to respond to community needs, including conflict mitigation.

Totonicapán, Totonicapán:

Youth, gender, and families: To address gender-based violence in Totonicapán, the project awarded a small grant to *Pies de Occidente* to provide services to survivors of domestic violence.

¹⁴ <https://www.creativeassociatesinternational.com/stories/water-for-el-rancho/>

Through the grant, *Pies de Occidente* implemented two main actions: a) strengthening women's knowledge about human rights, forms of violence against women, and mechanisms for reporting GBV; and b) supporting women's emotional and spiritual recovery through healing processes using ancestral knowledge and wisdom of the indigenous grandmothers. During FY2021, five workshops were held with 47 women (who were divided into four groups). The results from the pre- and post-tests demonstrate that the women strengthened their knowledge on their rights, types of violence, institutions that can protect them, and the process to report cases of GBV. The women survivors of violence expressed that this knowledge has helped them to reflect and consider expectations for a life free from violence for them and their families.

During the elaboration of the CV in Nimapá, a conflict regarding midwives was identified and prioritized. The work of the midwives was not being recognized by health personnel and municipal authorities and they were experiencing discrimination. Midwives, known as *comadronas*, are respected leaders and play an important role in preventing and responding to domestic abuse and GBV. In response, the project is supporting a training process with the midwives on conflict and violence prevention and resources for reporting GBV, among other topics. The health educator from the public health center has participated in the trainings. CDRO has also been involved, ensuring cultural relevance and appropriateness. During FY2021, two sessions with 23 women were held. These trainings will continue into FY2022.

Activity 2.1.2. Promote cross-learning

No activities to report for FY2021. This activity originally contemplated bringing together large groups of people and had to be restructured due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The project is exploring possibilities for cross-learning activities that do not require large gatherings. The activity will be implemented during FY2022.

Activity 2.1.3. Promote key changes in behavior

The Western Highlands suffer from high levels of intra-family violence, particularly against women and children, and this issue is being exacerbated by the COVID-19 Crisis. In response, the Peacebuilding Project awarded small grants to FUDESA to implement a communication campaign for the prevention of domestic violence.

The first phase was awarded to FUDESA during FY2020, during which time FUDESA developed and validated the campaign concept. USAID approved the campaign materials, and the campaign was launched during FY21Q1. The campaign was on the air from November 18, 2020, to January 16, 2021, and was disseminated in 27 communities and four urban/ semi-urban areas in the municipalities of San Pedro Nécta, Chiantla, Comitancillo, and Totonicapán. The campaign included 24 radio spots, 12 videos for social networks, and four radio shows on domestic violence, as well as posters, calendars, stickers, and banners that were distributed to departmental and municipal governments, local authorities, and families. All communication pieces were designed in Spanish, K'iche' and Mam. Monitoring of the communication campaign included:

- a) Evaluation of the scope and relevance of the campaign through a sample of 49 people residing in eight of the 27 communities; 33 percent indicated that they had heard, seen or received campaign materials.

- b) Two follow-up sessions with Peacebuilding Project Community Facilitators, who indicated that the DMMs in the targeted municipalities used the materials at meetings with women's groups. They also mentioned that community leaders supported the dissemination of campaign materials. Likewise, they highlighted that the campaign messages in Mayan languages made the messages more accessible to a greater audience, especially considering that versions with specific language variants were made for the target municipalities; and
- c) FUDESA estimates that 140,066 people between 10 and 70 years of age were reached through twelve different forms of media. It should be noted that some forms of media (e.g. radio and social media) reached audiences outside the four target municipalities.

On June 7, the Peacebuilding Project and FUDESA signed a sub-award agreement for the second phase of their communication campaign for the prevention of domestic violence. During this second phase, FUDESA is extending their campaign *"Yo respeto a mi familia, vivo sin violencia"* to the six new municipalities (for a coverage of 10 municipalities). The project has submitted the communication materials, which are an extension of the first phase and have been translated into Ixil, to USAID for approval. However, due to delays in approvals from USAID, the second phase of the campaign was not launched this fiscal year. In order to address conflicts related to youth, gender, and families, FUDESA implemented the below workshops with 294 people (170 women and 124 men).

Table 15: Workshops implemented by FUDESA, FY2021

Date	Topic	Location
August 19	Inter-institutional and multidisciplinary work in preventing and addressing intrafamilial violence	Virtual
August 21	Self-esteem, my family and my environment	Virtual
September 13	Workshop on intrafamilial violence for community authorities	Tzanixnam, Totonicapán
September 14	Women and self-esteem	Totonicapán
September 24	Organization of networks for the prevention of domestic violence at the community level	Virtual
September 25	Intrafamilial violence is not normal	Virtual
September 29	Workshop on intrafamilial violence for community authorities	San Pedro Necta
September 29	Women and self-esteem	Jolimex, San Pedro Necta
September 30	Workshop on intrafamilial violence for community authorities	San Pedro Necta
September 30	Women and self-esteem	San Pedro Necta

Result 2.2. Improve communication and collaboration around conflict management at the municipal level

The Peacebuilding Project consortium recognizes the importance of working with key municipal stakeholders to improve their understanding of local dynamics and grievances, identify emerging trends, and work with the appropriate actors to address them. Engagement with municipalities is framed in three categories: a) strengthening systems and structures for conflict management; b) strengthening capacities of municipal and authorities and officials to prevent and respond effectively and peacefully to social conflicts; and c) strengthening relationship and communication between municipalities, communities and other actors.

Activity 2.2.1. Increase municipal capacity to address local conflict

Municipal Plans for Peace: During FY21Q1, the community implementation team consolidated the community visions into four Municipal Plans for Peace for Chiantla, San Pedro Necta, Comitancillo and Totonicapán. The team presented the plans to 49 municipal authorities (11 women and 38 men) during FY21Q2. These plans contain a description of the conflict context of each municipality, the conflicts identified by each community, and a conflict response matrix by category. The consolidation of the community visions into a municipal plan recognizes that not only is there often overlap between conflict issues facing communities within the same municipality but that it is also more effective in managing the implementation of actions identified by the communities.

Municipal Commissions: A component of this activity focuses on strengthening the capacity of the Municipal Commissions for Human Rights and Peace/ COMUPREs (the exact commission depends on the municipality), as well as COMUDEs, to prevent and respond effectively and peacefully to social conflicts. The Peacebuilding Project works to strengthen the capacities of these commissions so that they can fulfill their functions and support the implementation of the Municipal Plans for Peace and CVs. Many of the community visions include priority conflicts related to matters of municipal jurisdiction, such as water services, solid waste disposal, and local infrastructure. During FY2021, 14 meetings were held with municipal commissions, during which 115 people (37 women and 78 men) participated.

This fiscal year, the Peacebuilding Project coordinated activities with the Community Roots Project at the municipal level in Chiantla. In October 2020, the COMUPRE annual operating plan was drafted, and a curriculum was developed for a training process with Community Violence Prevention Commissions (*Comisiones Comunitaria de Prevención de la Violencia*, COCOPREs), COCODES, judicial facilitators and community and municipal leaders. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, the training process has not been carried out given restrictions imposed by the municipality. In November 2020, a municipal fair for the prevention of violence and crime was implemented with the Community Violence Prevention Unit (*Unidad de Prevención Comunitaria de la Violencia*, UPCV). In February, support was provided for the training of the COCOPRE in Chuscaj. Finally, in September, the COMUPRE held a community drawing contest called "the colors of my community." The Peacebuilding and Community Roots Projects helped select the winners, which will be painted on a mural in the center of Chiantla.

Communication Skills Workshop: During FY21Q3, the Peacebuilding Project held five workshops on communication tools with representatives from DMMs and OMJs in 10 municipalities. The project recognizes that using communication appropriately and effectively is a powerful tool for providing information to communities on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. In total, 33 people (19 women and 14 men) participated in the workshops.

Table 16: Topics of Communication Skills Workshop

No.	Date	Topic
1	June 2	What is radio, who is the speaking, and how to develop a script
2	June 9	Speaking/ Broadcasting
3	June 16	Radio Genres 1: Theoretical-Practical
4	June 22	Radio Genres 2
5	June 30	Radio Production

Assertive Communication for Conflict Resolution. Fourteen members (11 women and three men) of the Municipal Commission for Human Rights and Peace of Totonicapán participated in a training on assertive communication as an element for conflict resolution during FY21Q3. Peacebuilding Project staff are conducting the trainings. The project anticipates that members of the commission will use the abilities and knowledge obtained to express opinions in appropriate ways, respecting the opinions and feelings of others, and avoiding the possibility to create division or conflicts. This is the first of six topics, which will continue in FY2022, to be implemented with the commission as part of efforts to strengthen their knowledge of conflict resolution.

Activity 2.2.2. Strengthen information flows among stakeholders at the municipal level and with communities

No activities to report for FY2021 (this is a new activity, added through Modification 5). This activity will start during FY22Q1.

Objective 3: Strengthen GoG and non-governmental capacity to participate in managing, responding to, and resolving local conflicts, including long-standing grievances and new instability linked to COVID-19

Result 3.1. GoG and non-governmental actors have increased capacity and coordination to identify, prevent, address, and respond to local conflict

Activity 3.1.1. Strengthen GoG capacity and inter-institutional coordination

GoG Capacity Building Programs

CODESAC Training Program (combined GoG and NGO): During FY2021, PartnersGlobal concluded the second version of the capacity building program on Crisis and Conflict Management in the Western Highlands (the first was implemented during FY2020). This second version targeted both government and NGO officials. The online course consisted of 10 2.5-hour sessions organized under four modules. PartnersGlobal created a knowledge management platform;¹⁵ all relevant materials and resources are housed there.

Table 17: Capacity Building Program Modules and Topics, CODESAC Training Program

Module	Topics	Sessions	Dates
1. Analyzing the impacts and government’s response to the pandemic and subsequent crises	a) The Covid-19 pandemic: A Systems approach and analysis. b) The Covid-19 pandemic: Understanding differentiated impacts of youth, women, indigenous populations, and other vulnerable populations – Gender and Intersectional approaches. c) The Covid-19 pandemic: Government and civil society responses/strategies	3 virtual sessions of 2.5 hours each.	March 25 April 8 April 15

¹⁵ <https://sites.google.com/alumni.nd.edu/cursovirtual/inicio>

Module	Topics	Sessions	Dates
2. Resiliency to navigate the uncertain aftermath of the crisis	a) Effective communication and trust-building between government and citizens	2 virtual sessions of 2.5 hours each.	April 22
	b) Strategies to recognize and mitigate prejudices and cognitive biases		April 29
3. Collaboration for crisis management	a) Addressing, resolving, and/or transforming conflicts.	2 virtual sessions of 2.5 hours each.	May 6
	b) “Elastic” negotiation and collaboration. Alternatives to collaborations – Pros and cons.		May 13
4. Citizen participation and agency to address crises	a) Conflict Sensitivity and Do No Harm	2 virtual sessions of 2.5 hours each.	May 20
	b) Do No Harm and Peacebuilding		May 27

Thirty-seven government and civil society representatives signed up for the online course, and 34 (13 women and 21 men) participated in at least one of the 10 sessions. Of these, 24 participants (eight women and 16 men) formally completed the course. Eighteen participants were government representatives and six were civil society representatives. Please see the FY21Q3 report for an analysis of the outcomes of the training process.

UPCV Training Program: During FY21Q4, PartnersGlobal, implemented an online capacity building process for departmental delegates of UPCV. The purpose of this training initiative was to develop and strengthen the conceptual, methodological, and procedural skills of UPCV officials for the effective application of transformative conflict resolution tools. This third online course built upon the lessons learned from the previous online courses and included more specialized topics relevant for the work of the regional representatives of UPCV. The course consisted of nine 2-hour sessions organized around 4 technical modules and one “conclusion” module.

Table 18: Capacity Building Program Modules and Topics, UPCV Training Program

Module	Topics	Sessions	Dates
1. Conceptual and methodological approaches to understanding and addressing conflict.	1) Styles for dealing with conflict a) Thomas Kilmann model. b) Adam Kahane model.	2 virtual sessions of 2 hours each.	August 5
	2) Social Conflict: a conceptual framework: a) Causes of conflict. b) Typology of conflicts.		August 12
2. Transformative conflict resolution: Characteristics, approaches, and applications.	3) The scope and promise of conflict resolution: a) Difference between managing, resolving, and transforming conflicts.	2 virtual sessions of 2 hours each.	August 19
	4) Models for decision-making associated with conflict intervention: a) <i>Recurring conflicts</i> transformation model. b) <i>Conflict maturation</i> model.		August 26
3. Conflict Transformation in the territory.	5) Participatory processes to prevent and address socio-environmental conflicts.	4 virtual sessions of 2 hours each.	Sept 2
	6) Participatory processes to prevent and address socio-environmental conflicts – case study		Sept 9
	7) Conflict Sensitivity and Do No Harm for government interventions on conflict.		Sept 16
	8) Conflict Sensitivity and Do No Harm – practical case study.		Sept 23
4. Transformative resolution of conflicts.	9) Local governance and infrastructures for peace.	1 virtual session of 2 hours	September 30

5. Summary of learnings.	Concluding session: Summary of learnings.	1 virtual session of 1 hour	October 7
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Fifty-four government representatives (25 women and 29 men participated in at least one of the nine technical sessions. Of these, 30 participants (14 women and 16 men) participated in at least 70 percent of the sessions and thus formally completed the course. It is worth highlighting absences in online training courses are normal. In response, the trainers allowed participants that missed sessions to submit independent learning activities to mitigate their absence and be able to meet the minimum requirement of 80 percent participation.

Strengthening the PNC: PartnersGlobal developed a concept note outlining a proposed capacity-building intervention on conflict prevention and resolutions skills for police officers, which was refined following several rounds of feedback from ProPaz and the project team. The concept note was shared with USAID to receive feedback and obtain technical concurrence. Given USG vetting requirements, the course will not be implemented until FY2022.

Strengthening Departmental Commissions and Governments: In FY2020, the Peacebuilding Project began implementing inter-institutional meetings, which are designed as a space to promote discussion and coordination between government institutions on the causes of and potential solutions to specific types of social conflict. While the inter-institutional meetings started at the national level, the project identified a strong need to support inter-institutional coordination at the departmental level. As such, these meetings are taking place within the framework of the CODESACs in the four (4) target departments. This fiscal year, the Peacebuilding Project held 34 meetings with the four CODESACs; six in Huehuetenango, three in San Marcos, eight in Totonicapán, and 17 in Quiché. In total, 191 unique participants (55 women and 136 men) participated in the 34 meetings. Please see the Annual M&E Report (Annex A) for a list of the meetings, including topic, location, participating entities/organizations, and number of participants disaggregated by gender. Below is a summary/ analysis of the progress of each CODESAC. The project is working on a success story about the CODESACs that will be published next quarter.

Huehuetenango Departmental Working Group on Security and Conflict Management (Mesa Departamental de Seguridad y Atención a la Conflictividad, MEDESACH): The project participated as an observer in meetings related to the formation of the Technical Working Group and the Municipal Dialogue Working Groups to address conflict related to electrical energy. In Huehuetenango, the departmental delegate of UPCV and the Departmental Government have been leading these working groups. Members of the Technical Working Group held an outreach meeting in the municipality of Santiago Chimaltenango to address conflict associated with the distribution of electricity. The Peacebuilding Project is providing technical assistance in these processes.

Quiché CODESAC: The Quiché CODESAC is the most consolidated and active of the four that the Peacebuilding Project supports. They meet regularly and include the active participation of civil society. The agenda and topics of these inter-institutional meetings are defined and prioritized by the members of CODESAC. The Peacebuilding Project provides technical assistance, empowering the commission members to lead and take ownership of the processes. Key results and achievements this fiscal year include:

- **Development and validation of the 2021 annual operating plan.** The Peacebuilding Project provided technical assistance in developing the annual operating plan, which

provides a roadmap for addressing conflict, in a participatory and inclusive manner. The annual operating plan was presented to the Departmental Development Council (*Consejo Departamental de Desarrollo*, CODEDE). The Peacebuilding project then provided support on evaluating the progress of the implementation of the plan.

- **Development of a roadmap for conflicts associated with distribution of electrical energy.** The Peacebuilding Project participates as an observer and provides technical assistance to the Technical Table for Attention to Social Conflict regarding Electrical Energy that is part of the CODESAC. ENERGUATE presented the mapping of conflicts related to electrical energy and their plan to address these conflicts. The CODESAC presented their experiences in addressing energy conflicts, and the National Electric Power Commission presented on the legal framework of the electrical subsector in Guatemala. The meetings culminated in the development of a roadmap for addressing these conflicts.

Totonicapán CODESAC: This fiscal year, in collaboration with GIZ, the Peacebuilding Project worked with public institutions in Totonicapán to prepare and publish the Departmental Strategy for Attention to Conflict. The process was convened and led by the departmental government. This document strengthens institutional coordination and facilitates an improved response to the conflict in the department. Other key results and achievements this fiscal year include:

- **CODESAC formed:** During the virtual meeting on February 24, the CODESAC was formed. During the virtual meeting on March 10, participants reported that the CODEDE officially approved the establishment of the CODESAC. As part of a brief analysis of conflicts in the department, conflicts associated with illegal logging were highlighted.
- **Development of 2021 annual operating plan:** The Peacebuilding Project provided technical assistance in the development of the 2021 annual operating plan during the March 25 meeting. The CODESAC also established a calendar of bimonthly meetings.

San Marcos CODESAC: An analysis of social conflict and the CODESAC institutional strengthening plan were prepared this fiscal year. One of the most relevant achievements this fiscal year was the departmental governor's commitment to the training of the CODESAC staff so that they are properly trained to deal with conflict in the department. The governor also committed to adopting the institutional strengthening plan.

ProPaz Training Process with CODESACs: During FY21Q3, representatives from the government and civil society institutions that make up the CODESACs were part of the capacity-building program on Crisis and Conflict Management in the Western Highlands (see previous sub-activity). At the end of this course, participants expressed interest in continuing to strengthen their capacity on specific technical topics. As such ProPaz, designed and implemented a three-session (six hours per session) training process, which was implemented in-person (following COVID-19 prevention protocols). Of note, the third workshop included a practical component, during which participants analyzed a specific conflict, applying the new tools acquired during the workshops.

Table 19: ProPaz Training Process with CODESACs

Department	Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3
	Tools and analysis for the transformation of conflict	Skills for communication, dialogue, and negotiation	Mediation, actor mapping, and emotion management
Huehuetenango	June 18	July 15	August 26
San Marcos	June 22	July 29	September 2

Totonicapán	July 7	August 5	September 9
Quiché	July 8	August 12	September 22

Strengthening GoG Institutions that Address Conflict: With the creation of COPADEH and the closure of COPREDEH and SAA, which had been Peacebuilding Project GoG counterparts, the projects strategy towards strengthening GoG institutions that address conflict shifted. The project conducted outreach with COPADEH, MEM, National Electrification Institute (*Instituto Nacional de Electrificación*, INDE) and Ministry of the Interior (*Ministerio de Gobernación*, MINGOB).

COPADEH: The Peacebuilding Project held initial outreach meetings during FY21Q2 with Arnoldo Noriega, Presidential Advisor on Conflict and Indigenous Peoples, and Hugo Rigoberto Casarola Roldán, the newly named Executive Director of COPADEH, to discuss potential coordination and support to COPADEH. As a result, COPADEH sent a letter requesting support in the following areas: a) training for COPADEH staff; b) support for access to strategic information for monitoring social conflict context in Guatemala and monitoring news related to human rights and peace; and c) technical assistance for the design of an observatory on social conflict to monitor and raise awareness and understanding of citizens, GoG and non-governmental actors of the consequences of conflict on socioeconomic development, peace, and migration. In response to the COPADEH request, and once the project received incremental funding, the team published an RFA during FY21Q3 for a consultancy for institutional strengthening of the institutions. The two main areas of focus of the consultancy are a) education and training for staff of central office and regional headquarters of COPADEH; and b) monitoring of social conflict in the country. The consultancy was awarded during FY21Q4.

During FY21Q4, the COPADEH Executive Director and the Peacebuilding Project Chief of Party (COP) signed an MOU that establishes the framework for institutional strengthening actions around social conflict mitigation. In addition, COPADEH and Creative signed an in-kind grant that formalizes the support to be provided through the abovementioned consultancy. On September 30, COPADEH and the Peacebuilding Project formally launched the institutional strengthening program for managerial, technical, and regional staff. The launch included the participation of 12 people (six women and six men); 65 people are expected to participate in the training.

During FY21Q3 and Q4, COPADEH delegates began participating in the CODESAC meetings (please see the previous sub-activity for more information on support to the CODESACs), which contributes to increased GoG inter-institutional coordination to respond to local conflict.

MEM: During FY21Q2, the Peacebuilding Project held a meeting with the Minister of Energy and Mines, Alberto Pimentel, who presented his vision and priorities in terms of institutional strengthening related to conflict management. The priorities include technical support for the validation of the institutional framework and procedures for carrying out consultations with indigenous peoples, as established by ILO Convention 169. The minister also mentioned other potential areas of support, such as technical assistance in strengthening the MEM Strategy for Attention to Conflict as well as strengthening the Environmental Social Area of the INDE to respond to social conflict. The Peacebuilding Project then met with the Vice-Minister of Sustainable Development, Oscar Pérez, to follow-up on the areas identified by the minister.

Based on the MEM requests, the Peacebuilding Project published a call for applications for consultancy agencies for the design of a methodology for socializing, providing feedback, and validating the draft regulations for consultation with indigenous peoples derived from ILO Convention 169. The company selected was AYSSA. The consultancy consists of the design of a strategy and methodology for the validation process of the draft regulation/ legal instrument for the consultation of indigenous peoples prior to being issued by the GoG. MEM is responsible for the implementation of the process and the products of the consultancy. The expected result is to have a legal, regulatory instrument to regulate the consultations with indigenous peoples. The three products of this consultancy, which were finalized this fiscal year, are:

1. Workplan and timeline.
2. Internal document with lessons learned from previous consultation processes (2010-2011 and 2016-2017) related to regulations of the right to consultation established in ILO Convention 169, which will include as annexes: map of indigenous actors and related stakeholders; international comparative analysis and legal analysis of the rulings and jurisprudential trends of the Constitutional Court related to the consultation of indigenous peoples; description of prospective scenarios and alternative actions; general report of inputs collected in semi-structured and individual interviews; and a general report of inputs collected in workshops, face-to-face or virtual meetings, and focus groups.
3. Document with the methodology for socializing, providing feedback, and validating the draft regulations for consultation with indigenous peoples, revised and approved by MEM.

During FY21Q4, AYSSA presented the main findings from the consultancy to the Peacebuilding Project leadership team and representatives from USAID/Guatemala. In a letter addressed to the Peacebuilding Project COP, the Minister of Energy and Mines thanked the project for the support provided and requested on going technical assistance to: a) carry out a final review of the regulations for consultations with indigenous peoples, which will be submitted for validation; b) carry out pedagogical mediation of the regulations for consultations with indigenous peoples in audio, video and graphic pieces; c) translation of the communication pieces into the K'iche', Mam, Kaqchikel and Q'eqchi' languages; and d) provide strategic advice to MEM. After reviewing the budget and receiving prior authorization from the AOR, the Peacebuilding Project team will follow up on this request during FY22Q1.

MINGOB: The Peacebuilding Project held multiple coordination meetings with advisors from the III Vice-Ministry for Violence and Crime Prevention and the head of the training unit of the UPCV. During the meetings, participants expressed an interest in learning more about the proposal for a National EWRS (see Activity 3.1.2) and iterated their request/ support for training for UPCV delegates (see above sub-activity GoG Capacity Building Programs) who are taking on a greater role in responding to social conflict at the departmental level.

Assessment of Psychological Support Needs of GoG Delegates: One of the actions identified with COPREDEH before its closure was an assessment of the psychological support needs of their delegates. The project awarded a small grant to CENDES, which resulted in the following products: 1) assessment report; 2) technical report on the mental health situation of COPREDEH field staff; and 3) mapping of actors or entities that provide prevention services and mental health care/ psychological support. The assessment concluded that field-based delegates responsible for

addressing social conflict suffer from mild to moderate burnout related to heavy workload, lack of work-life balance, and the resulting impact on their health.

Regional Exchange: PartnersGlobal and the Peacebuilding Project leadership presented a concept note to USAID for feedback on a series of national-level dialogues on migration that would eventually provide the basis for a regional exchange. The AOR noted that other USAID-funded projects (particularly one led by International Organization for Migration (IOM)) currently have similar dialogue platforms for government officials. The project met with the AOR responsible for the IOM migration project and agreed to present the idea of a regional proposal to relevant GoG institutions. The project will continue to explore this possibility next fiscal year but recognizes the importance of not duplicating efforts of other USAID-funded projects.

Activity 3.1.2. Strengthen early warning and response

Early warning and response systems are an important tool in the prevention, management, and resolution/transformation of conflicts. They are focused on informing and alerting authorities about situations or events that could trigger violence and/or threaten people's lives or property. These situations are a challenge to governability. As such, the Peacebuilding Project awarded a small grant to the IEPADES in FY2020 to conduct an assessment on the strengths and weaknesses of existing early warning systems and propose recommendations for a unified system. Based on the results, IEPADES presented a proposal to create a national system linked with development councils, municipalities, departmental governments, and conflict management institutions as well as an advocacy plan that focused on positioning the proposal within key government institutions.

This advocacy plan involved a set of deliberated actions to influence decision makers at the national and departmental levels to adopt the EWRS as well as building alliance with other international cooperation agencies that have worked on EWRS systems in Guatemala (e.g., UNDP, and GIZ) to expand influence. In accordance with the plan project leadership met and IEPADES met with the Presidential Advisor on Social Conflict and Indigenous Peoples to present the EWRS assessment and discuss the possibility of COPADEH leading the effort. The project team also met with the four governors and CODESACs to present the EWRS proposal. In total, IEPADES held 5 meetings with 23 people (5 women and 18 men) this fiscal year.

The agreement for the second phase of the IEPADES grant was signed on May 12, with the purpose of strengthening the government institutions involved in responding to and mitigating social conflict (specifically COPADEH and MINGOB through the departmental governors in the Western Highlands). This phase included the following activities: a) conducting an institutional analysis of COPADEH and MINGOB/ departmental governors in the four departments) to identify existing legal, technical, and operational gaps for implementing an EWRS; b) formulating an institutional strengthening plan to close these gaps; c) implementing key institutional strengthening actions; and d) developing a road map for the implementation of an EWRS.

The main findings of the institutional analysis of COPADEH and four departmental governor's offices include:

- The legal term of COPADEH is four years, which limits the sustainability of the institution in addressing conflicts. Comparing COPADEH's attributions with those of the institutions

that it replaced (COPREDEH, SAA, and SEPAZ) shows gaps in competencies to address social conflict. These gaps could be addressed with robust internal regulations.

- According to the governmental agreement that created COPADEH, the Executive Director does not have the power to issue regulatory provisions, which makes presents challenges to administrative and technical operations.
- The creation of the Security, Prevention, and Conflict Resolution Commission within the CODEDEs represents a positive step towards the institutionalization of an organizational structure that involves various actors in addressing social conflict at the departmental level.
- The territorial coverage of COPADEH does not include all departments. At the local level, COPADEH should be based on the departmental governments and CODEDES. That is why strengthening the Departmental Governments, and CODESACs is important.
- The establishment of the network of attention to the conflict based on the organizational structure of the system of development councils can be supported through a computer system at the local level and seek interconnection with the national level. This would include establishing strategic alliances with the international community, which in some cases have already implemented these systems in other departments (e.g. the Consolidated Information System (*Sistema Único de Información*, SUI) in Alta Verapaz).

These findings were the foundation for the formulation COPADEH's institutional strengthening plan and roadmap. Key institutional strengthening actions implemented during this phase were: a) COPADEH internal regulations document drafted; b) draft conflict resolution guide; and c) proposal for the location of COPADEH regional offices.

During FY21Q4, IEPADES prepared institutional strengthening plans for the CODESACs in Huehuetenango, Quiché, San Marcos and Totonicapán. The strengthening plans include actions that would ultimately support the implementation of departmental EWRS on conflict, specifically: a) institutionalization of the CODESACs the four aforementioned departments as well as Quetzaltenango; b) preparation of internal regulations and/or operating manuals for the CODESACs; c) creation of actor maps and histories of conflict at the departmental level; d) review and articulation of the Departmental Strategies for Attention to Conflict, and e) installation of the Unique Conflict Information System, SUI, in five departments of the Western Highlands (Huehuetenango, Quiché, Quetzaltenango, San Marcos and Totonicapán). A third phase of the grant will be implemented during FY2022, focusing on a consolidated EWRS.

Activity 3.1.3. Strengthen non-governmental actor capacity and engagement

Non-Government Organization Capacity Building Program: Please see Activity 3.1.1 for information on the CODESAC Training Program, which incorporated non-governmental actors this fiscal year. Twenty-five percent of the participants were from NGOs that have participated in project activities and/or work closely with the CODESACs.

Organizational Strengthening through the Grants Program: As detailed in Activity 2.1.1, the Peacebuilding Project includes a modest grant-making component. The team began working with grantees FUDESA, IEPADES, DEMOS, AGAAI and CEIDEPAZ this quarter, holding a

workshop on conflict sensitivity and Do No Harm with 17 people (six women and 11 men). These efforts will continue next fiscal year.

Strengthening Indigenous Authorities: The Peacebuilding Project awarded two small grants this fiscal year to groups to work with indigenous authorities to strengthen their capacity for peacefully resolving conflict, improving social cohesion, contributing to good local governance, and promoting peace in their territories. A small grant was provided to CEIDEPAZ on September 6; the group will implement a training process with 48 *Cantones*, the ancestral authorities of Totonicapán, in strengthening their capacity for conflict resolution. A small grant was provided to AGAAI on September 27; the group will strengthen the role of indigenous authorities and Indigenous Advisory Councils in conflict management and peacebuilding.

Coordination with Indigenous Peoples Observatory (*Observatorio de Pueblos Indigenas*): Within the framework of the Indigenous Peoples Engagement Strategy, the project coordinated activities with the *Observatorio de Pueblos Indigenas*. The project held four forums focusing on violence against women and girls during COVID-19 with the group, which implemented the activities as cost-share. One of the activities included a short video speech by Guatemalan Vice-President Guillermo Castillo Reyes. As part of follow-up to this activity, representatives from the *Observatorio de Pueblos Indigenas* met with Vice-President Castillo Reyes in Quetzaltenango on February 5, providing him with more information on their reports. As a result, the Vice-President organized a meeting in Guatemala City between the *Observatorio de Pueblos Indigena* and the Ministries of Agriculture, Economy, Health and Social Welfare. The project supported the participation of 16 representatives (eight women and eight men) in these meetings on February 16 and 17. The representatives were able to advocate for the needs of their communities by presenting recommendations related to mitigating family, youth, and gender conflicts as well as preventing youth migration through a community economic development model.

Coordination with *Caritas*: On April 7, the Peacebuilding Project, in coordination with *Caritas* Quetzaltenango, San Marcos, and Quiché, implemented a workshop on mediation and resolution of conflict with technical staff from the project *Tejido Social*, funded by *Caritas* Germany. The workshop was attended by 12 NGO representatives (five women and seven men) who learned about assertive communication, dialogue, and social conflict. The participants practiced using tools for conflict resolution and identified alternative mechanisms for conflict resolution. The Peacebuilding Project partnered with the project *Tejido Social*, which strengthens community social structures, as part of efforts to strengthen non-government actor capacity. Applying these knowledge and tools when working with communities, *Caritas* is able to address tensions using intercultural dialogue, preventing conflicts or exacerbating divisions.

Result 3.2. GoG and other key stakeholders have improved information-sharing, communication, and coordination mechanisms

Activity 3.2.1. Facilitate dialogue and conversations around peacebuilding and conflict mitigation

Comprehensive Conversations: This fiscal year, Peacebuilding Project partner ProPaz held four virtual comprehensive conversations. The first one was held in November on International Day for

the Elimination of Violence against Women with 10 people (eight women and two men). It was an intersectoral discussion on violence against women and the presenters included activists from the feminist movement, an indigenous activist, a representatives PDH, and private sector representative.

Starting in March and ending in July, ProPaz organized a series of two comprehensive conversations on youth, gender, and intra-familial violence with 11 people (seven women and four men). The activity brought together three key sectors, government, civil society, and the private sector¹⁶, to dialogue about the triggers and contributing factors of this category of conflict and to define priority actions to address them. This collective learning process also facilitates building bridges between sectors, which is critical for peaceful conflict resolution. During the dialogue, domestic violence (against both women and children) was identified as one of the drivers for the migration of women and youth, and participants started to identify strategies and activities to respond to this phenomenon.

An outcome of the conversations is a situational analysis of gender, intra-familial violence, and youth from the experiences of each of the participant organizations. A talk was given on social inter-dependence, which was followed up by a dialogue. In addition, awareness was raised about the key topic of conflict resolution. Common visions were expressed about gender, intra-familial violence, and youth, as well as a commitment for transforming these conflicts, each from their own sector and organizations. Participants deepened their mutual knowledge of the vision, projects, and activities from each organization and identified common actions that each organization is implementing. The process cumulated in a forum on September 9 with 65 people (44 women and 21) during which the participants in the three conversations shared their perspectives, proposals, and conclusions about youth, gender, and intra-familial violence. The forum allowed the project to expand the learning generated from the comprehensive conversation to more sectors and people.

Conflict Fora: In addition to the comprehensive conversations, which are designed to be closed spaces with small groups of participants, the Peacebuilding Project holds conflict fora with larger groups of participants to promote dialogue and communication around topics that are of interest to a broader audience. During FY2021, the project held 10 virtual conflict fora with 320 unique participants (224 women and 96 men) on a variety of topics related to social conflict in the Western Highlands. Many of the topics were related to conflicts identified by communities in their CVs while others commemorated key dates (see Cross-cutting Activity 2).

Table 20: Conflict Fora, FY2021

Date	Actividad
November 12	Discussion and presentation on the Report on Intrafamilial Violence during the COVID-19 Crisis . Presenters: <i>Observatorio Indígena</i> , Congresswomen, and SEPREM
November 17	Discussion on Diverse Views on Different Forms of Violence against Women .

¹⁶ The same participants participated in all three conversations. Participants came from civil society organizations DEMOS, FUDESA and Pies de Occidente; government/state institutions MINGOB, DEMI, Human Rights Ombudsmen (*Procurador de los Derechos Humanos*, PDH); and private sector organizations Fundación Novella, Guatemalan Foundation of Sugar Mills (*Fundación de los Ingenios Azucareros de Guatemala*, FUNDAZUCAR) and Farmers Association “El Esfuerzo” of San Pedro Necat (*Asociación de Agricultores El Esfuerzo de San Pedro Necta*, CA).

	Youth presenters from the Western Highlands: Student activist, indigenous social communicator, and psychologist
November 19	Discussion and presentation of the Report on Pregnancies in Indigenous Girls under 15 during the COVID-19 Crisis . Presenters: <i>Observatorio Indígena</i> , congressional representatives, executive branch representatives, and PDH
November 23	Forum on No More Violence against Women and Girls . Municipal-level presenters; Representatives from municipal women's offices, <i>Ministerio Público</i> , and <i>Defensoría Pública Penal</i>
December 3	Discussion on the Role of Municipal Governments in Preventing Intrafamilial Violence . Presenters: <i>Observatorio Indígena</i> , mayors, and city council member
March 11	Forum on Women's Economic Empowerment as a Response to Gender and Family Conflicts . Four panelists from cooperatives, civil society, and local government discussed how economic empowerment contributes to addressing conflicts that women experience within the family and society
April 22	The Role of Citizenship in the Care and Sustainability of Natural Resources . Participants shared their views and proposals for the preservation of natural resources, which is a key source of conflict in communities in the Western Highlands
August 12	Forum on Understanding Challenges Faced by Youth in Guatemala . Representatives from Municipal Youth Offices and other youth shared their challenges in the economic and entrepreneurship spheres as well as artistic endeavors.
August 18	Forum on Contributions of Indigenous Peoples in the Prevention, Attention and Transformation of Conflicts . Four indigenous leaders shared their ancestral knowledge, systems and practices that contribute to implementing alternative mechanism for conflict resolution.
September 9	Forum to socialize the experience of the conversation process on Gender, Domestic Violence and Youth . Different sectors shared their approaches to gender and youth issues, as well as proposals for intersectoral articulation; also, about their experiences and lessons learned from the comprehensive conversations.

Activity 3.2.2. Build GoG capacity in strategic communication

PDH: During FY2021, Partners and Creative finalized the implementation of a series of online awareness-raising sessions on strategic and crisis communications with two key audiences within the PDH: 1) *Auxiliares and Defensores*: The awareness-raising program for this group consisted of four 2-hour sessions with 33 people (15 women and 18 men). The purpose of the program was to raise awareness and develop basic knowledge and competencies on strategic communications. The program was designed to contribute to an eventual strategic communication plan for the PDH. 2) *Senior Leadership*: The awareness-raising program for this group consisted of two 3-hour sessions with 21 people (12 women and nine men), including the Human Rights Ombudsperson and the two Deputy Ombudspersons. The purpose of the sessions was to raise awareness and knowledge on the importance of strategic communications and the role between leadership and strong communications. The project finalized a draft set of *Guidelines for a Communication Strategy* (available upon request) that incorporates the feedback and inputs provided by different areas of PDH during the intervention undertaken in FY2020 and FY2021.

PartnersGlobal drafted and presented a proposal for a strategic and crisis communications intervention with MINGOB; however, after several weeks of exchanges, the MINGOB representative informed the project that the topic was not currently a priority for the institution.

Partners are currently evaluating with project leadership the possibility of identifying another institution to implement this activity within FY2022.

A la COVID-19 le Ganamos Unidos: The campaign *A la COVID-19 le Ganamos Unidos*, which was launched in FY2020, finish on October 16. The communication campaign focused on respecting human rights of migrants in the context of returning to their communities during the COVID-19 Crisis, a source of conflict identified by GoG counterparts as well as by community members. The Government of Guatemala was a key counterpart in this campaign and disseminated the materials and messages on their social network pages. Please see the FY21Q1 report for more information on the reach of the campaign.

Coordination, Compliance, and Future Activities

Collaboration with USAID Partners and Other USG Agencies

USAID/Guatemala Meetings: The Peacebuilding Project meets on a weekly basis with the project AOR to discuss pending items and project progress. Over FY2021, the Peacebuilding Project participated in the following USAID/Guatemala presentations or meetings:

- The project participated in a virtual all partners meeting organized by USAID/Guatemala on December 2, April 15, and September 23.
- On October 6, the Peacebuilding Project provided a briefing on the context of conflict and peace in the Western Highlands to USG representatives.
- The project participated in two activities related to indigenous engagement: 1) *Learning Event: What are We Learning about Indigenous People's Engagement?* on October 8; and 2) *Indigenous People's Engagement Learning Event* on December 1.
- Peacebuilding Project staff participated in the Democracy and Governance Office (DGO) Virtual Communications Workshop on October 22.
- On January 13, the project participated in the USAID virtual Youth Partners Day.
- The project participated in periodic USAID virtual security briefings.

Coordination with La Ruta: During FY21Q1, the Peacebuilding coordinated with the GoG initiative *La Ruta – Reunion entre Pueblos* in the distribution of the masks to health authorities from Huehuetenango, Quetzaltenango, Quiché, Sololá, and Totonicapán. The project received a donation of 85,728 fabric masks from the USAID-funded HEP+. The project was responsible for storing the masks until *La Ruta* representatives could deliver them. Project staff then provided logistical support to representatives from *La Ruta* in the distribution of the masks.

This focus of the coordination with *La Ruta* is based on a planned pilot experience with three municipalities, Chichicastenango, San Miguel Ixtahuacán, and San Andrés Sajcaba, where Peacebuilding Project interventions are already planned to be implemented (the pilot also includes Todos Santos Cuchumatán; however, the Peacebuilding Project does not have a planned intervention in that municipality). Peacebuilding Project engagement in *La Ruta* includes facilitating dialogue within and between sectors at the community and municipal levels and identifying actions to mitigate priority conflicts, many of which are drivers for migration. The pilot efforts in the three municipalities coincide with Objectives 1 and 2, and the project will look for

additional opportunities for collaboration across all three objectives. The project is coordinating interventions in the three pilot municipalities with the *Nexos Locales*, Community Roots, Communities Leading Development (CLD), Puentes and Proinnova projects. *La Ruta* and the participating projects developed a consolidated concept note detailing each project's contribution in the pilot municipalities.

During FY21Q3, the Peacebuilding Project held a meeting with the *La Ruta* leadership team, including Víctor Asturias, to review the Do No Harm approach. The activity took place on May 13, with 10 people participating (5 women and 5 men). The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen the knowledge of *La Ruta* staff, reduce the risk that their actions could unintentionally generate negative effects, and maximize the positive impacts of *La Ruta*. A conversation about the system of indigenous authorities was included in the meeting to strengthen participants' understanding of the system of development and governance in the Western Highlands.

During FY21Q4, project staff participated in two trips with *La Ruta* and the other USAID-funded projects. On July 9, the project participated in the meeting organized by *La Ruta* to present the initiative and to indigenous authorities in San Miguel Ixtahuacán. From August 2-8, the project participated in meetings with indigenous authorities from the above-mentioned municipalities to hold dialogues and receive feedback about the specific activities that will be implemented. During the meetings, the municipalities prioritized the strengthening of capacities of indigenous authorities as key actors for conflict resolution. The Peacebuilding Project is responding to this priority through the small grant to AGAAI to work with indigenous authorities in the Western Highlands to strengthen their skills to address social conflict.

Using the Do Not Harm framework, the Peacebuilding Project developed a conflict mitigation matrix, to be used in a launch activity that was planned for the end of August in Huehuetenango but was cancelled due to an increase in COVID-19 cases. This matrix was shared with all USAID projects that are participating in the initiative.

Coordination Meetings and Activities with other USAID-funded Projects: The Peacebuilding Project participated in coordination meetings with the following USAID-funded projects:

- X-Co: The Peacebuilding Project continued to participate in the virtual monthly Cross-Coordination (X-CO) meetings
- USAID Field Visit: The Peacebuilding Project coordinated with *Nexos Locales*, CLD, and Community Roots to prepare a consolidated agenda for the visit of Jim Kovar, the Democracy and Governance Office Director, to Huehuetenango and Quiché the week of June 22 -25.
- *Nexos Locales:* An example of coordination between the Peacebuilding Project and *Nexos Locales* is in response to the contributing factors to conflicts related to water governance in the municipality of Comitancillo. See activity 2.1.1 for more information
- Community Roots: An example of coordination between the Peacebuilding Project and Community Roots is in the planning of a joint training and other activities in Chiantla. See Activity 2.2.1 for more information.
- YouthLead Platform: The Peacebuilding Project supported the participation of *voceros juveniles* in the YouthLead platform in coordination with other USAID projects.

- Red de Redes: The Peacebuilding Project linked two *voceros juveniles* with the *Red de Redes* initiative being implemented by USAID projects with youth across the country.
- Initial Political Training Program: The Peacebuilding Project support the participation of OMJ coordinators from Comitancillo, San Pedro Necta, Chiantla, and Totonicapán in the training program being implemented by IREX through their Transformative Action Project. See Activity 1.2.2 for more information.
- NORC: The Peacebuilding Project leadership provided feedback on the format of the community reports with the results of the baseline carried out in 2019. Peacebuilding Project staff accompanied the delivery of the reports in Chiantla and Comitancillo.

Security Considerations

There were no major security considerations to report this fiscal year. The risk of infection from COVID-19 remains the biggest consideration. For the first two quarters of the fiscal year, the Peacebuilding Project team worked mostly remotely from their homes, located throughout Guatemala. As of FY21Q3, the project began increasing field implementation in response to increased demand and the need to implement activities that cannot be held virtually (please see Challenges and Lessons Learned for more information). As of FY21Q4, the team began a partial return to the office, ensuring social distancing, mask use and daily cleaning. The project held trainings with partners and project staff on COVID-19 prevention measures. The project EMMP has been updated to take into consideration COVID-19 per USAID's request. The project developed a Return to Office and Field Protocol as well as a COVID-19 Testing Protocol.

During FY21Q4, there were an increased number of protests that blocked major thoroughfares. The project monitored the news and identified alternative routes and/or dates of travel. The project identified a new Security and Logistics Coordinator, who will start in early FY2022.

Development Experience Clearinghouse

This fiscal year, the following documents were uploaded to the Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC):

- Materials from the *Yo respeto a mi familia, vivo sin violencia* campaign (Phase I)
- Peacebuilding Project FY21Q1 Performance Report;
- Peacebuilding Project FY21Q2 Performance Report; and
- Peacebuilding Project FY21Q3 Performance Report.

Training Events

The Peacebuilding Project implemented five activities this fiscal year that met the definition of a training event. These have been reported through the USAID TEAMS system.

Table 21: Participant Training Information Reported in TEAMS

Activity	Quarter	Participants		Cost
		Women	Men	
Online course Crisis and Conflict Management in the Western Highlands (Activity 3.1.1)	Q3	13	21	\$ 18,000.00

Training for new community supervisors and facilitators (Activity 1.1.1)	Q4	1	3	\$ 3,000.00
Citizenship for Peace and Democracy (Activity 1.2.2)	Q4	29	20	\$ 11,000.00
Voceros Juveniles training process (Activity 1.2.2)	Q4	107	53	\$ 9,360.00
Online Capacity Building Process for Departmental Delegates of UPCV (Activity 3.1.1)	Q4	25	29	\$ 24,500.00

Success Stories

During FY21Q1 – FY21Q3, the Peacebuilding Project submitted the following success stories:

- Life Story of *Abuela Juliana*
- *Tejiendo Paz* Uses an Innovative Approach to Supporting Government Partners during the Covid-19 Pandemic
- Weaving Peace: Conflict mediation graduates employ their training in Guatemala’s Western Highlands¹⁷
- Water for El Rancho: Restoring water to a rural Guatemalan Community¹⁸
- Impacts of the Pandemic from the Lens of Conflict Resolution

The Peacebuilding Project is submitting the following new success stories with the FY2021 Annual Performance Report:

- USAID Peacebuilding Project Expands Coverage in the Western Highlands¹⁹ (Annex I)
- Guatemalan Women Protect Cultural Identity and Promote Gender Equity²⁰ (Annex J)

Future Activities

Please see Annex K for the FY2022 Implementation Timeline

Annexes

- Peacebuilding Project Monitoring and Evaluation Annual Report
- Executive Summary in Spanish
- External Analysis of Social Conflict in the Western Highlands
- Cost Share and Leverage Report
- List of Communities by Municipality
- ProPaz Report on Social Conflict, FY21Q4
- Peacebuilding Project External Bulletin
- Activities/ technical assistance implemented in support of CVs
- Success Story: USAID Peacebuilding Project Expands Coverage in the Western Highlands
- Success Story: Guatemalan Women Protect Cultural Identity and Promote Gender Equity
- FY2022 Implementation Timeline

¹⁷ https://tejiendopaz.com/test01/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Annex-S_Success-Story-Mediadores-NB.pdf

¹⁸ <https://www.creativeassociatesinternational.com/stories/water-for-el-rancho/>

¹⁹ <https://www.creativeassociatesinternational.com/stories/usa-id-peacebuilding-project-expands-coverage-in-the-western-highlands/>

²⁰ [Guatemalan women protect cultural identity and promote gender equity through footwear - Creative \(creativeassociatesinternational.com\)](https://www.creativeassociatesinternational.com/stories/guatemalan-women-protect-cultural-identity-and-promote-gender-equity-through-footwear/)