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COMMUNITY ROOTS PROJECT

December 2016-December 2021. World Vision and RTI are implementing the Community Roots Project to address violence and migration in disadvantaged communities through holistic violence and irregular migration prevention approaches. The project directly contributes to the shared objectives of the Government of Guatemala (GoG) and the United States Government (USG) of promoting development and decreasing violence in targeted areas.

Background

Central America's Northern Triangle (El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala) has become the most violent region in the world. According to statistics from the National Civil Police, Guatemala had a homicide rate of 26.1 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2017, which is much higher than the recent global average of 5.3 per 100,000 inhabitants (World Bank, 2015). The onslaught of drug trafficking organizations, combined with the rise of extremely violent youth gangs known as *maras*, threaten the already fragile stability and democratic governance of these countries. High levels of violence, lack of economic opportunities, and limited civic engagement can drive individuals to leave their country, thus contributing to irregular migration, and poor migrants may become victims of human trafficking and crime. Community Roots seeks to improve living conditions for Guatemalans living in some of the country's most vulnerable regions by reducing violence, improving economic opportunities, encouraging community engagement, and sustaining and strengthening governance structures at the community and municipal levels.

Purpose

The overall goal is to support efforts by GOG, civil society, private sector and community actors to address the underlying causes of violence and migration, primarily targeting children and youth from the ages of 8 to 24, and women, in disadvantaged communities characterized by high levels of crime, irregular migration, or both.

Objectives

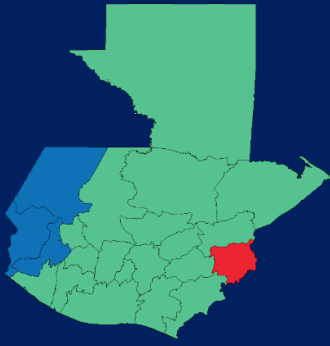
- Support community-based violence prevention commissions to promote and sustain integrated violence and irregular migration prevention initiatives in targeted communities;
- Strengthen and mobilize municipal and national stakeholders and resources to develop and implement municipal-level integrated violence and migration prevention plans through a multi-stakeholder, inter-institutional process;
- Promote the involvement of the private sector (local, national, and/or international) in violence and migration prevention in target municipalities and communities.
- Support secondary violence prevention projects for vulnerable youth, such as vocational training, job skills development, targeted social services and entrepreneurship in coordination with municipal and local authorities.

Coordination

Local governments, Departmental Development Councils (CODEDEs), Municipal Development Councils (COMUDEs), and Community Development Councils (COCODEs), hold significant potential to coordinate, engage, deliver and sustain civil society involvement on issues related to local development. Likewise, the project will ensure collaboration and coordination with other actors including:

- USAID and other USG-funded programs and projects;
- Government of Guatemala, for example through the Vice-Ministry for the Prevention of Crime and Violence, the National Civil Police, the Ministries of Education and Health; municipal and local governments;
- National and international universities and other training institutions;
- Non-government Organizations (NGOs) and community groups; private donors as well as other partners and international cooperation agencies.

Geographic Focus



The Community Roots Project is working in the Departments of Chiquimula, San Marcos, Quetzaltenango and Huehuetenango. The project focuses on the municipal and community levels to implement an integrated approach to violence and migration prevention. The project is working directly with 20 municipalities and 80 communities.

Key achievements to date

- 80 community violence prevention plans implemented
- 20 Municipalities trained on alliances and resource procurement
- 14 municipal prevention plans implemented
- 6,810 violence prevention and community support activities performed by PNC in coverage communities
- Community and school violence prevention methodology institutionalized by PNC
- 2 training workshops for PNC on risks and consequences of irregular migration
- 2,838 rations of food donated by institutions and individuals delivered to vulnerable families
- 22 private sector partners
- 270 youth trained through vocational courses sponsored by the private sector and the Project are now employed, self-employed, or interns
- 3,680 youth selected for vocational technical courses given by Intecap
- 6 messages on radio campaign on violence and irregular migration prevention broadcast on 8 national radio stations and 2 community radio stations in the Department of Huehuetenango
- 747 youth trained on video recording and editing using cell phones; 48 youth community spokespersons trained by implementing partner, Rana Labs
- 2,834 youth trained through non-formal education program executed by implementing partner, FUNCAFE
- 71,000 face masks made by community members trained in municipal vocational courses for 80 communities
- 4,103 youth referred to Project programs
- 373 school for parents sessions (1,223 male, 2,903 females)
- 55 alternative education centers inaugurated
- 6 psychological clinics opened and equipped
- 500 participants receive psychological therapy
- 2,000 individual psychological therapy sessions and 300 group therapy sessions
- 80 COCOPREs trained on occupational health and safety (cleaning and sanitizing community spaces) in three virtual workshops
- 19 municipal partners and instructors from 21 municipal training centers virtually trained on occupational health and safety in 4 modules (first-aid kits, first-responder Golden rule, first-aid, signaling guidelines, use and handling of extinguishers)
- 21 municipal training centers equipped with basic occupational health and safety kit (evacuation signs, first-aid kit, and extinguisher)
- 107 FUNCAFE tutors, monitors, facilitators, and technicians trained on gender and inclusion
- 1,000 copies of "Community participation in preventing coronavirus (COVID-19)" handbook distributed and 80 COCOPRES and 20 municipalities trained
- 80 COCOPRES trained on six modules (community organization, irregular migration and violence, citizen participation, ADAPT Plus, gender and inclusion, and environment) and sanitization and COVID-19 protocols
- 100 community leaders trained in 5 sessions of "Socio-political participation and empowerment of my leadership" Diploma in San Marcos
- 675 people trained through 5 virtual sessions of a seminar on: Preventing violence in times of COVID-19
- US\$4,032,424 accumulated in leverage from private sector, government institutions, and participant co-participation

Intervention Areas, by Department	
DEPARTMENT	MUNICIPALITY
CHIQUIMULA	Chiquimula
	Jocotán
	Esquipulas
	Olopa
	Quezaltepeque
	San José La Arada
	San Juan Ermita
	San Jacinto
SAN MARCOS	San Marcos
	Malacatán
	San Pedro Sacatepéquez
	San Pablo
	Tacaná
QUETZALTENANGO	Coatepeque
	Colomba
HUEHUETENANGO	La Democracia
	Aguacatán
	Cuilco
	La Libertad
	Chiantla

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