



FOOD SECURITY AND RESILIENCE

The Community Resilience Program seeks to impact on the improvement of organized communities, at local and municipal level, promoting the participation of women and men in strategic decisions for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and local rehabilitation. An important part of the program, which is shared by the project, refers to the search for municipal and governmental agreements for investment to address vulnerabilities and increase local resilience.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Improving Food Security and Resilience is a preparedness and capacity building project implemented with support from USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, OFDA, which seeks to reduce food insecurity by improving resilience and livelihoods of poor and vulnerable small farmers, mainly indigenous, exposed to multiple natural hazards in the dry corridor of the department of Quiché, Guatemala, in partnership with municipal authorities, government institutions and local organizations.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the project is to reduce food insecurity of the participating population by improving agricultural production and livelihoods, improving nutritional education and creating basic safety nets at the community level, through the promotion of micro-finance based on savings and loan associations, especially with women's groups, in the municipalities of San Pedro Jocopilas and San Bartolomé Jocotenango, department of Quiché.

STRATEGIES

- Creation of local capacities and technical support
- Identification and use of native and improved seeds adapted to drought
- Improvement of local agricultural practices and techniques
- Demonstrative family systems of rainwater harvesting and micro-irrigation
- Food and nutritional education
- Promotion of community savings and loan associations
- Coordination with governmental and non-governmental initiatives

RESULTS

- 4,920 persons (51% women) have participated and improved their resilience to the impacts of drought in Food Security and Nutrition
- A projected increase of 4.5 months of food self-sufficiency has been achieved among the participating families through improved agricultural practices
- 23 community groups have implemented savings groups, training and participation processes benefiting their members.
- 540 people (86% women) are actively involved in savings and loan groups as a basic security and resilience mechanism.

Name:

Improving Food Security and Resilience through Sustainable Agriculture in Rural Communities of the Quiché Dry Corridor.

Country: Guatemala

Implementation period:

Oct. 2014 – Sept. 2017

Budget: US \$ 490,033.

Donor: USAID / OFDA

Beneficiaries:

6,000 persons from San Pedro Jocopilas and San Bartolomé Jocotenango Quiché, Guatemala.



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OTHER BENEFICIARIES

781 families have been directly supported

50 community promoters trained in family agriculture

4 local craftsmen trained in silo construction

21 CADER (Rural Development Learning Centers) established, in the process of being strengthened

15 Extensionists and municipal technicians trained



Photography: CARE Guatemala

"I'm learning to plant my crops better and to ensure my family's food, all this helps me to change my life..."

Margarita Calel Tum
Agricultural Promoter



Photography: CARE Guatemala

ALLIANCES

Secretariat of Food Security and Nutrition, SESAN; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, MAGA; Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology, ICTA; National Coordinating for Disaster Reduction, CONRED; DIPECHO X project; Municipal Governments of San Pedro Jocopilas and San Bartolomé Jocotenango.

INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES

The Project is contributing indirectly with 19,000 residents of San Pedro Jocopilas and San Bartolomé Jocotenango, living in the 21 selected rural communities, located in the dry corridor of Quiché, reporting food and nutritional insecurity and a high rate of poverty and extreme poverty.



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NEXT STEPS

- Consolidation of the Rural Development Learning Centers, CADER, as a mechanism for the community's management of learning
- Strengthening of the family's farm production with Land Management Plans, soil conservation practices, orchard monitoring, rain water harvesting systems and the comprehensive application of post-harvest practices (improved granary building, silo management, etc.)
- Evaluation and systematization of the improved corn and bean varieties demonstration plot results, in coordination with ICTA and MAGA.
- Strengthening of seed management practices at the family level, expanding the process of mass selection in native corn and implementing seed demonstration banks.
- Educational tours and group and community experience exchanges to strengthen learning, collaboration and coordination among participants.
- Food and Nutrition Education technical transfer to SESAN's, MAGA's, and the municipal technical staff, to strengthen competencies and promotion of good food practices.
- Food and nutritional education to participating families, through workshops, demonstration practices and culturally relevant nutritional recipes
- Organizational and operational consolidation of the sentinel sites and systematic generation of food and nutrition insecurity early warning information systems
- Strengthening of groups and promotion of saving group networks as a basic local security mechanism.

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