



## HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Program in Guatemala

### ABOUT US

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation is a Swiss development aid organization. We work to achieve a just world in which all human beings can live a self-determined, dignified and safe life, using natural resources in a sustainable way and conserving the environment. It was created on July 1, 2011 through the merger of two organizations: Helvetas (founded in 1955) and Intercooperation (founded in 1982).

The Helvetas Guatemala Program began its cooperation work in this country in 1972 with the intention of contributing to social and economic development, motivated by solidarity among citizens and under the principle that development should not benefit only a few.

One of the basic principles that has guided the work of Helvetas in Guatemala is to encourage help for self-help. Our allies in Guatemala are primarily rural communities, civil society organizations and the respective state entities at the local level. Our collaboration is based on principles of respect for the traditions and cultures of each country and people. Helvetas is not a religious or political entity and works non-profit and without any commercial interest.

### OUR VISION

A just society, in which men and women are able to assert their rights and fulfill their obligations, determine the direction of their lives, live with dignity and peace, use natural resources in a sustainable manner and in which cultural diversity is respected.

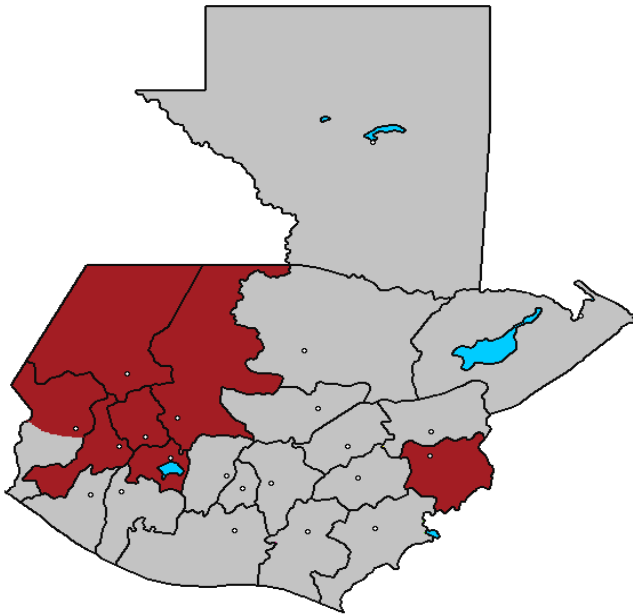
### OUR MISSION

Promote sustainable development based on human rights, through the strengthening of capacities and the empowerment of local, regional and national actors in a participatory, equitable and culturally relevant manner, for the benefit of disadvantaged groups in the poorest regions of Guatemala.

### OBJECTIVE

Ensure the participating populations of the western highlands being protagonists of their own development, strengthening their identity, institutions and capacities within democratic processes, based on Human Rights, which result in tangible and equitable improvements in their ways of life, assuming commitments of protection and integral development of the people, preserving at the same time the available natural resources, and advocating on these matters in the socioeconomic and political development discourse in the country.

## GEOGRAPHIC AREA



The Western Highlands in the departments of: San Marcos, Sololá, Totonicapán, Quetzaltenango, Huehuetenango and Quiché; and Chiquimula in the eastern region.

## WHERE ARE WE GOING

The country strategy for Helvetas Guatemala (HGA) guides the activities and investments for the period 2016 to 2020 and is based on the perception of the development problem, opportunities for positive changes, and the experiences and competences of HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation in the country, as well as internationally.

## CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

**Social Equity and Gender:** We focus our activities on disadvantaged social groups and put special attention to women and young people; respecting identity and cultural diversity.

**Capacity Development:** We dialogue with our partners and promote joint learning processes, always respecting and promoting the independence of our partner organizations.

**Transparency:** We promote an authentic and responsible dialogue between authorities and citizens to promote access to information, social auditing, institutional ethics; and accountability.

**Communication for Development:** We emphasize dialogue as a fundamental idea for development and the need to facilitate the participation and empowerment of poor people.

**Knowledge Management:** With the participation of local actors and partners, we systematize and communicate the information, knowledge, experiences and relevant perspectives during the application of the projects to learn, share and improve the quality of our work and that of others.

## WORK AREAS, OBJECTIVES AND PROJECTS

### Water and Sanitation:

Improve the management, access, and quality of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services with transparency, and in compliance with current laws and regulations, increasing investments in the sector. Strengthen civil society and local governments, fostering local democratic governance and inclusive processes for decision-making for equitable service delivery.

- **SAHTOSO:** In order to help achieve Goal 6 "Ensure water availability and its sustainable management and sanitation for all" of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, as well as achieving tangible and sustainable effects to reduce chronic malnutrition, child morbidity, and the general welfare of the rural population, the SAHTOSO project promote and guarantee the elimination of open defecation and works towards improved sanitation.
- **WIP:** Contribute to improvement of the governance (quality and effectiveness) of water and sanitation services in the department of San Marcos through the strengthening of integrity, transparency and public participation in the sector.
- **GIGAM:** Strengthen the association of municipalities in their effort to promote good governance of municipal WASH services in the Marquense highlands.
- **SEDULA:** Contribute to the increase of environmental protection, through public participation around solid waste management, interacting with local governments in Central America and the Dominican Republic.

### Rural Economy, Natural Resources & Climate Change:

Improve the livelihoods of the rural population through increased employment, income generation and their contribution to food security. Develop local capacities with equitable participation of women and men, to promote the productivity of value chains that contribute to the local economy, whilst ensuring a sustainable management of natural resources, considering the weather variability and climate change, and with an impact on the legal and institutional framework.

- **PRODERT IXOQI'B:** Vulnerable rural population, particularly indigenous women achieve their economic empowerment through the creation of business networks that allow them to increase income and employment, capitalizing on local productive potential in a sustainable manner, in five departments of the western highlands of Guatemala. We work with local partners, especially cooperatives and community associations; as well as technically competent non-governmental organizations, state institutions and private companies to ensure that producers and producers increase their productivity, profitability and sales; and have access to markets, valuing environmental and social aspects.
- **CDAO - FCA:** Mitigate threats to biodiversity and water resources in the departments of Totonicapán, San Marcos and Quetzaltenango through the development of sustainable tourism.
- **K'EMENIK:** Strengthen the participation of women that promotes autonomy and empowerment in their family, work-economic, socio-cultural and political life of four municipalities in the departments of Quetzaltenango and Totonicapán.

More information in:

### HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Guatemala

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