



HELVETAS



A BETTER FUTURE FOR EVERYONE: IT IS POSSIBLE

HELVETAS REGIONAL PROGRAM IN CENTRAL AMERICA

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation was founded in 1955. It is an international development NGO based in Switzerland, with more than 300 projects in implementation around the world. It actively contributes to improving the living conditions of the economically and socially disadvantaged population in more than 30 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe, with an annual budget of nearly US\$153 million in 2021. Helvetas is a non-profit association, with a strong membership base in Switzerland and affiliate offices in the United States and Germany. We are a member of the 2015 Alliance, which is a strategic network of eight European non-governmental organisations, with an annual programming volume of more than 640 million euros. Helvetas is confessionally neutral and apolitical.

OUR VISIÓN

A just world in which all men and women determine the course of their lives in dignity and security, using environmental resources in a sustainable manner.

OUR OBJECTIVE

Helvetas makes it possible for people in development and humanitarian contexts to obtain and secure access to water, sanitation, hygiene, food, and natural resources, which are all human rights. In collaboration with civil society, public institutions, and the private sector, Helvetas promotes technical and financial support services that improve living conditions and climate resilience in rural and urban areas.

We have extensive experience in the design, formulation, and implementation of projects and provide specialized thematic advice with interventions in rural and urban areas. Our actions are aligned with national policies and strategies and international commitments within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (ODS). HELVETAS is present in 5 Latin American and Caribbean countries: Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, Bolivia, and Haiti. For better coordination and to expand the scope and impact of our interventions, we have established a Regional Office for Central America based in Guatemala.

Helvetas has been actively working in Guatemala since 1972 and in Honduras since 2007, with the intention of contributing to the social and economic development of the most disadvantaged, motivated by solidarity among citizens and under the principle of sustainability and impact. We work primarily with populations in vulnerable situations, with an emphasis on women, indigenous communities, and other minority groups in conditions of inequality for the exercise of their rights, where we contribute to improving their living conditions.

The **Guatemala country program office** is located in Quetzaltenango City. From there, we work towards the departments of Quetzaltenango, San Marcos, Huehuetenango, Quiché, Totonicapán, Sololá, Chiquimula; and Alta Verapaz. The **country's program office in Honduras** is located in the city of Tegucigalpa, and from there I work in the departments of Copán, Ocotepeque, Santa Bárbara, Lempira, Intibucá, La Paz, Comayagua, and Olancho.

HOW DO WE ACHIEVE IMPACT?

Helvetas combines three mutually reinforcing intervention mechanisms: a) We implement development and humanitarian response projects; b) We provide technical advice and create thematic competences; and c) We are dedicated to raising awareness, dialogue, and political advocacy.

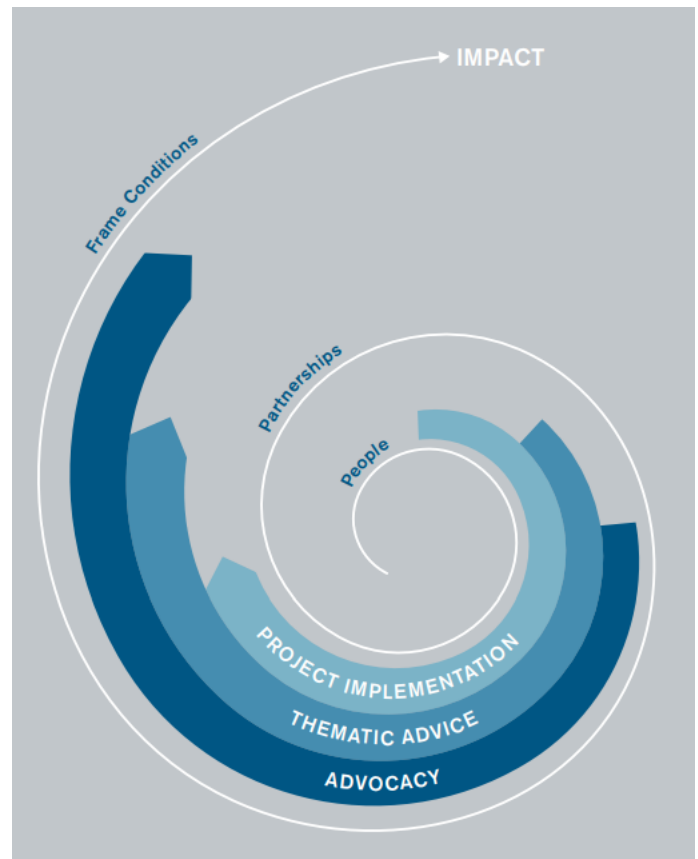
This is how we initiate, support, and influence systemic change that improves people's lives in the short and long term, strengthens our partners, and fosters enabling framework conditions.

SERVICES WE PROVIDE

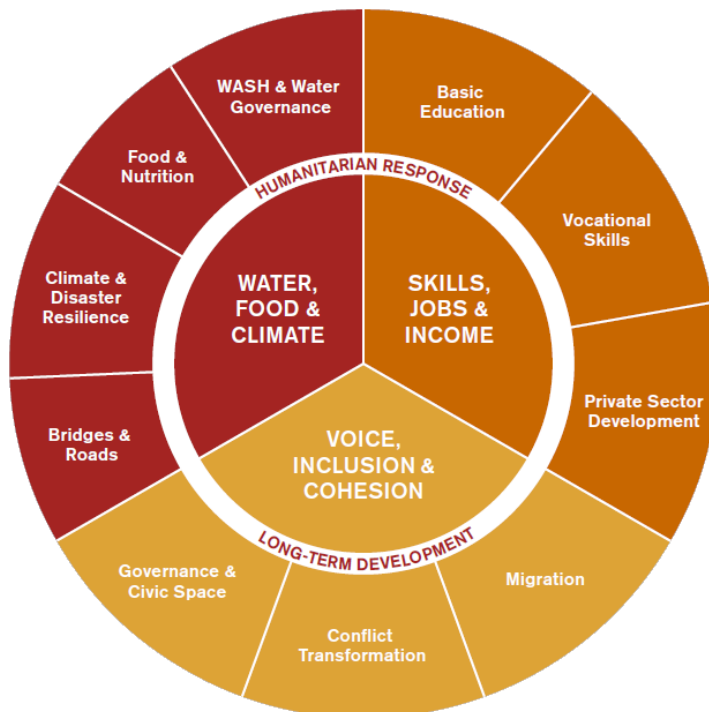
Program and Project Management: Design and implementation; formulation planning, follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of projects; organization for administration and implementation; strategic and operational planning; and territorial planning.

Strategic, Technical, Environmental, and Advisory Services: Development of capacities for the execution of projects; technical advice and backstopping, institutional strengthening at the local, regional, national, and international level through consultancies or mandates. Conflict-sensitive project management; gender in the project cycle; intercultural and inclusive approach; investment resilience.

Knowledge Management: Generating knowledge and capitalizing on learning for sustainability, promoting replicability and scaling.



OUR OBJECTIVES AND AREAS OF WORK



Helvetas pursues three main goals with its strategy: a) Guarantee basic rights, b) Create new perspectives and d) Strengthen good governance. We combine humanitarian response with long-term development support. To achieve our objectives, we work transversally in three areas:

Water, Food, and Climate:

We enable people in development and humanitarian contexts to obtain and guarantee access to water, sanitation, hygiene, food, and natural resources, which are all human rights. In collaboration with civil society, public institutions, and the private sector, Helvetas promotes technical and financial support services that improve living conditions and climate resilience in rural and urban areas.

Skills, Jobs, and Income:

We promote basic education, vocational training, and private sector development, as well as financial inclusion, to help ensure that poor people have access to decent employment and income opportunities, including in humanitarian situations wherever possible. To develop these opportunities, Helvetas supports its partners to help disadvantaged youth acquire basic professional and life skills.

Voice, Inclusion, and Social Cohesion:

Helvetas, in collaboration with local actors, amplifies the voices of local communities, migrants, and refugees in development and humanitarian contexts and improves the space for civil society and the private sector to meaningfully engage in decision-making processes. At the same time, Helvetas strengthens the capacities of public institutions to deliver inclusive services and articulate transformative policies that reduce inequalities, improve social cohesion, and promote safe and productive migration.



WATER, FOOD, CLIMATE

Our work in the WASH sector aims for sustainability, service quality, agricultural water, and integrated resource management, with a focus on promoting the voice and rights of disadvantaged groups and incorporating aspects such as disaster risk management, climate change adaptation, and ecosystem services.

We promote that public, civic, and private services and their actors have the skills to contribute to making them sustainable, equitable, and responsible to benefit disadvantaged groups and ensure that their voices are heard. We facilitate existing municipal and communal water systems to be well managed and sustainable, applying principles of good governance and integrity, so that everyone has access to water of sufficient quality, quantity, and continuity.

For more than 15 years, Helvetas has been supporting communities to ensure their access to forests, land and water and strengthening their capacity to manage natural resources to conserve and not degrade them. We implement projects, develop technical and organizational capacities, facilitate learning based on acquired experience, and generate innovations and good practices.

We combine three important challenges: conservation of ecosystems, socio-economic support for families, and good governance. We facilitate processes so that communities collectively regulate the use of natural resources, plan the management of their micro-watersheds and forests, and effectively conserve water recharge zones and areas of high biodiversity or ecosystem importance. For this, the communal and municipal management structures must be strengthened, in order to harmonize their activities and visions.

Projects:

AGUAS URBANAS EN EL VALLE MARQUENSE



PROGRAMA RUK'U'X YA'



SAHTOSO



AGUA PARA TODOS Y TODAS



CUENCAS Y AGUAS URBANAS



IXOQUIB' JUYUB'



Thematic Expertise:

Water, sanitation and hygiene; and water governance:

- ✓ Strengthening local governance to improve WASH services for the most disadvantaged in rural and urban areas.
- ✓ Sustainability assessment of WASH services.
- ✓ Advice on the design of actions that address behavior change to effectively improve water quality, handwashing, and the use of latrines.
- ✓ Development of sanitation actions in rural and semi-urban areas for domestic water treatment and safe storage, including supply chains for water treatment products.
- ✓ Design of actions that provide water security (master plans for water use, reservoirs).
- ✓ Advice for the creation of institutions, including the strengthening of monitoring and evaluation systems and the development of policies.
- ✓ Strengthening the capacities of local actors in the development of strategies and improvement of governance.

✓ Adaptation to climate change:

- ✓ Integrated diagnoses of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.
- ✓ Identification and prioritization of adaptation measures.
- ✓ Incorporation of the adaptation approach into planning, investment, and development management instruments.
- ✓ Articulation with disaster risk reduction.

Climate change mitigation:

- ✓ Management of strategies and tools to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation.
- ✓ Reforestation and afforestation under incentives.

Sustainable management of natural resources:

- ✓ Social management of Andean forest ecosystems.
- ✓ Conservation, reforestation, and restoration of forest landscapes.
- ✓ Integrated management of water resources.
- ✓ Design of compensation/incentive schemes for environmental services.
- ✓ Protection of springs and management of micro-watersheds.
- ✓ Planting and harvesting water.
- ✓ Strengthening governance.



SKILLS, JOBS AND INCOME

Inclusive and sustainable economic development, combating widespread poverty by facilitating the effective and fair integration of rural women (and men) into agricultural and eco/ethno-tourism value chains in an associative and micro-business manner.

Helvetas has been impacting the lives of thousands of indigenous women (and men) in the Western Highlands in a situation of poverty, helping them to generate more income by associating and expanding their production, better orienting themselves to the market and commercializing with better commercial terms. We have managed, with our partners, to effectively engage providers of technical assistance and credit and distribution, processing, and marketing companies to enter into lasting and fair business relationships with associated women (and men).

We have also consolidated the associative structures and reinforced their logistics and business capacity, as well as their quality management. In addition, we have achieved that many municipalities have created an environment conducive to the development of value chains.

Projects:

PROCOEES



PRODERT IXOQIB'



EDUCAR



EDUCACION HIBRIDA EN CONTEXTO COVID-19



Thematic Expertise:

We work both at the territorial level, assisting in the creation of favorable environmental conditions, and at the business level, promoting inclusive and sustainable business and economic development.

At the territorial level:

- ✓ Transfer of sustainable agricultural practices.
- ✓ Systemic analysis of local and regional production chains.
- ✓ Facilitation of the meeting between key actors for the improvement of the business environment.
- ✓ Strengthening local leadership.
- ✓ Strengthening of the economic development areas of subnational governments.
- ✓ Promotion of the business articulation service with public and private entities.

At the business level:

- ✓ Development of business-oriented social capital through the business articulation of small producers and MSMEs.
- ✓ Development of human capital for business development through the strengthening of technical production and management capacities.
- ✓ Gradual formalization of small businesses into management models: networks, consortiums, and cooperatives.

VOICE, INCLUSION, AND SOCIAL COHESION

Helvetas has been having a direct impact on the lives of many women, reinforcing their leadership and their knowledge of the community and municipal political arena, making it easier for them to gain power. There are many women who now join and actively participate in the Communal and Municipal Development Councils (COCODEs and COMUDES, respectively) and manage to be respected and influential.

They have begun to put gender issues on the agenda, for example, in terms of violence against women and their urgent unaddressed needs (such as health, water, sanitation, and education, and access to land, assistance techniques, and credit). There are also several municipalities that have formulated gender (or women's) policies and installed a Municipal Directorate for Women, although really, the budget allocation and the rate of implementation leave much to be desired. Gradually, it is also observed that influential men adopt more equitable gender norms.

The approach that we apply with our partners is innovative: we seek to change male and female behaviors that inhibit empowerment (using cultural media and leveraging existing grassroots organizations), and we open governance spaces that facilitate greater participation by women, greater attention to their needs and strategic issues, and accountability and responsibility of authorities.



Projects:

KEMENIK
Weaving in Community



KEMENIK
Gender and Governance



Thematic Expertise:

Governance

- ✓ Capacity building.
- ✓ Local governance.
- ✓ Decentralized basic services.
- ✓ Transversal governance.

Conflict transformation and culture

- ✓ Alliances for peace.
- ✓ A culture of peace.
- ✓ I work under our conflict-sensitive project management approach.

Migration and development

- ✓ Safe labor migration.
- ✓ Migration and local development.
- ✓ Mobility as a transversal theme.

IMPACT OF OUR ACTIONS AND PROJECTS IN 2021

WATER, FOOD AND CLIMATE

891,966 people

They have improved their access to clean water, sanitation and health.



Our approach contributes to improving access to drinking water and basic sanitation by strengthening the capacity of key actors in the sector at all levels (local communities, civil society, private sector, local and national government), by establishing effective coordination mechanisms and communication between them. In addition, we seek the formulation of appropriate regulations (national policies, norms and standards, financial mechanisms, among others).

16,609 people

Improved their resilience against disasters and climate change.

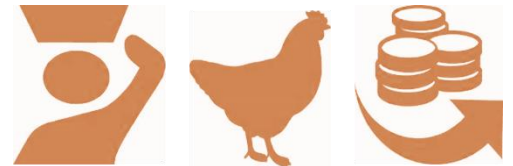


Climate change poses an additional challenge to development efforts, particularly in territories with vulnerable populations and ecosystems that generates a change in knowledge and management. In this framework, the approach with which we work is the integration of climate change in a transversal manner in development management, in addition to involving local actors in preparation for natural disasters.

SKILLS, JOBS AND INCOME

12,575 people

Benefited from participating in value chains.



We address the promotion of inclusive economic development from a systemic value chain approach. This system promotes associativity and access to markets by small producers, promoting the strengthening of capacities of the various market actors in their legitimate roles and promoting win-win agreements aimed at sustainability and scaling of actions..

VOICE, INCLUSION AND SOCIAL COHESION

91,688 people

**They have been empowered to claim their rights and have better inclusive public services.
55% are women.**

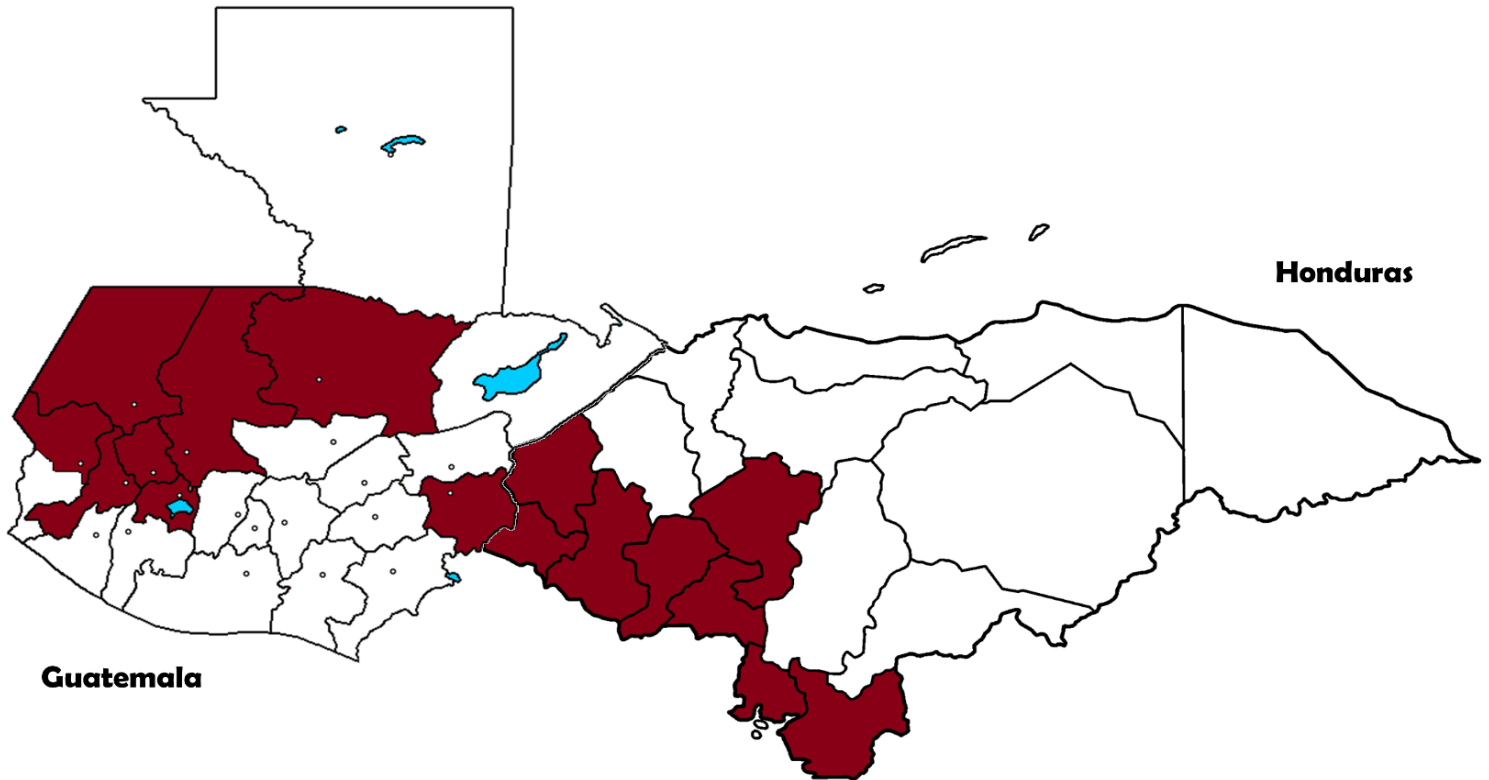


Our work approach seeks to contribute to the empowerment of citizens and civil society, who are capable of demanding for their rights; as well as the strengthening of public entities, so that they are capable, responsible and effective, committed to dialogue with their citizens, civil society and the private sector, for the formulation and implementation of policies that promote equality, peace and justice.

We continue to work hard to achieve a better future for everyone.

Because that future, we are making it possible!

GEOGRAPHIC AREA



More information:

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