



# HELVETAS



**A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL: IT IS POSSIBLE**

## HELVETAS REGIONAL PROGRAMME IN CENTRAL AMERICA

**HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation** Founded in 1955, it is an international development NGO based in Switzerland, with more than 300 projects under implementation in the world, actively contributing 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 about US\$ 640 million. Helvetas is a non-profit association, with a strong membership base in Switzerland and affiliated offices in the United States and Germany. We are a member of Alliance 2015, which is a strategic network of eight European non-governmental organisations, with an annual programming volume of more than €640 million. Helvetas is confessionally neutral and apolitical.

### OUR VISION

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

### OUR OBJECTIVE

Helvetas makes it possible for people in development and humanitarian contexts to obtain and ensure 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 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 (SDGs). HELVETAS is present in 5 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean: Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, Bolivia and Haiti. To better coordinate and expand the scope and impact of our interventions, we have established a Regional Office for Central America based in Guatemala.

In Guatemala, Helvetas has been actively working 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 vulnerable populations, with 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 worked to the departments of Quetzaltenango, San Marcos, Huehuetenango, Quiché, Totonicapán, Sololá, Chiquimula; and Alta Verapaz. The **Honduras country program office** is located in Tegucigalpa City, and from there I work to 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 build thematic competencies; and c) We are engaged in awareness-raising, dialogue and advocacy.

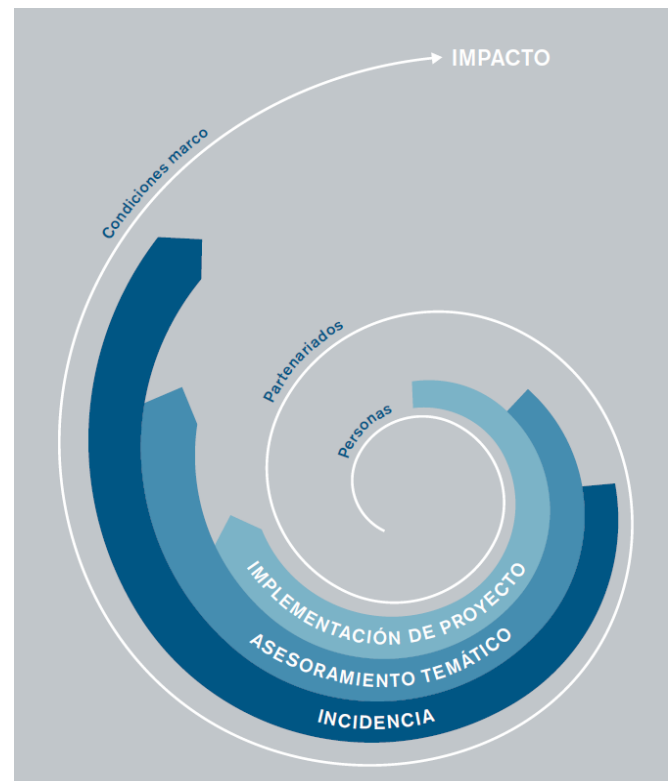
This is how we initiate, support, and influence systemic change that improves people's lives in the short and long term, strengthens our partners, and fosters enabling framework conditions.

## 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 and Technical Advisory Services,** Capacity Building for Project Execution, Technical Advisory and Backstopping, Institutional Strengthening at the Local, Regional, National and International Levels 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



With its strategy, Helvetas pursues three main objectives: a) To guarantee basic rights, b) To create new perspectives and d) To strengthen good governance. We combine humanitarian response with long-term development support. To achieve our objectives, we work transversally in three areas of work: Water, Food and Climate; Skills, Jobs and Income; and Voice, Inclusion and Social Cohesion. At the same time, in its ten areas of work, constantly taking advantage of the synergies between them.

### Water, Food and Climate:

We enable people in development and humanitarian contexts to obtain and ensure 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 enable disadvantaged young people to acquire basic vocational 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 participate 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.





## AREAS DE EXPERTISE

### WATER, FOOD, CLIMATE

Our work on water comprises sustainable WASH, services, water for agriculture and integrated water resource management, focusing on promoting the voice and rights of the disadvantaged and integrating aspects such as disaster risk management, climate, climate change adaptation and ecosystem services.

Our overall goal is that public, civic and private service actors have enhanced competencies to contribute to sustainable, equitable, responsible WASH and sustainable irrigation and water resources services, management that would benefit the disadvantaged, women and men and make sure their voices are heard. We have made it easier for municipal and communal water systems, to which the vast majority already have access, to be well managed and sustainable, applying the principles of good governance and integrity, so that everyone has access to water of sufficient quality, quantity and continuity.

Helvetas has been in practice for more than 15 years, supporting communities to ensure their access to forests, lands and water, and cultivating their capacity to manage natural resources, so that they are conserved and not degraded. We implement projects, develop technical and organisational capacities, facilitate learning from lessons learned, and generate innovations and good practices.

Our work focuses on the art of combining three important challenges: the conservation of ecosystems, the socio-economic sustenance of families, and good governance. Our approaches focus on communities collectively

regulating the use of natural resources, planning the management of their micro-watersheds and forests, and effectively conserving water recharge zones and areas of high biodiversity or ecosystem-importance. This requires that communal and municipal management structures be strengthened, and that their activities and visions be harmonized.

Normally this in turn entails empowering communities and generating good governance practices in municipalities and institutions. In addition, it comes with the valuation of the ecosystem services generated and the development of value chains for vulnerable families that are based on these ecosystem benefits, such as community tourism, and the production and sale of honey or handicrafts.

### Projects and Advisory Services:

#### WASH - HEALTHY SCHOOLS



#### DIAGEO



#### SAHTOSO



#### BASINS AND URBAN WATER



#### WATER FOR ALL



#### RESILIENT GOASCORAN, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE



#### RESILIENT GOASCORÁN



#### IXOQUIB' JUYUB' II (Climate)



**IXOQUIB' JUYUB'  
WOMEN OF THE MOUNTAIN  
(Climate)**



**ADVISORY SERVICES  
SAHTOSO METHODOLOGY**



**APS ADVISORY  
SERVICES - IDB**



**ADVISORY SERVICES  
ALTERNA – BCC (Climate)**



**INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE  
MANAGEMENT IN C.A.**



## **Thematic Competencies:**

### **Water, sanitation and hygiene; and water governance**

- ✓ Experience in strengthening local governance to improve the provision of the WASH service for the most disadvantaged in rural and urban areas.
- ✓ Sustainability assessment of WASH services.
- ✓ Advice and support in the automation of water services at the municipal level.
- ✓ Advice on the design of actions that address behaviour change to effectively improve water quality, handwashing and latrine use.
- ✓ Support in the development of sanitation actions in rural and semi-urban areas, and in the design of domestic water treatment and safe storage, including supply chains for water treatment products.
- ✓ Implementation of approaches that provide water security, such as the master plan for water use, water reserve (surcharge, retention and reuse) and water management.
- ✓ Support in institution-building, including strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems, and in advocacy and policy development.
- ✓ We strengthen the capacities of key local actors in developing national strategies, improving governance and creating innovations.

### **Adaptation to climate change**

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

### **Climate Change Mitigation**

- ✓ Management of strategies and tools for the reduction of emissions from deforestation and degradation.
- ✓ Reforestation and afforestation under forestry incentives.

### **Sustainable management of natural resources**

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



## SKILLS, JOB AND INCOME

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

Helvetas has been impacting the lives of thousands of indigenous women (and men) in the Western Highlands in poverty, helping them to generate more income, partnering and expanding their production, becoming better market-oriented and marketing with better commercial terms. We have managed, with our partners, to effectively commit technical assistance and credit providers and distributors, processors and marketing companies to enter into lasting and fair business relationships with women (and men) associates, all from a market development approach.

We have also consolidated the associative structures and strengthened their logistical and business capacity and their quality management. In addition, we have managed to get municipalities to create an environment conducive to the development of value chains.

### Projects:

#### PROCOEES II



#### ADVISORY SERVICES ISIDRO



#### CO – EDUCAR



#### PROPERT IXOQIB'



### Thematic Competencies:

We work both at the territorial level, supporting the generation of favorable environmental conditions, and at the business level, for the promotion of business and economic development focused on inclusion and sustainability.

#### At the territorial level:

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

#### 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, productive and management capacities.
- Gradual formalization of small businesses in management models: networks, consortia and cooperatives.



## VOICE, INCLUSION AND SOCIAL COHESION

Helvetas has been directly impacting the lives of many women, reinforcing their leadership and their knowledge of the communal and municipal political arena, making it easier for them to gain spaces of power. There are many women who are now integrated 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 unmet needs (such as health, water, sanitation and education, and access to land, technical assistance and credit). There are also several municipalities that have formulated gender (or women's) policies and installed a Municipal Directorate for Women, although in truth, the budget allocation and the implementation rate leave much to be desired. It is also seen, gradually, that men of influence emerge who adopt more egalitarian gender norms.

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

### Projects:

**KEMENIK**  
Weaving in Community



**KEMENIK**  
Gender and Governance



### Thematic Competencies:

#### Governance

- ✓ Capacity building
- ✓ Local governance.
- ✓ Decentralized basic services.
- ✓ Cross-cutting governance.

#### Conflict and Culture Transformation

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

#### Migration and development

- ✓ Safe labour migration.
- ✓ Migration and local development.
- ✓ Mobility as a cross-cutting issue.

## IMPACT OF OUR ACTIONS AND PROJECTS IN 2022 - 2024

### WATER, FOOD AND CLIMATE

**2,995,828 persons**

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



Our approach contributes to improving access to safe 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 and communication mechanisms between them. In addition, we seek the formulation of appropriate norms (national policies, norms and standards, financial mechanisms, among others).

**36,051 persons**

Improved their resilience against disasters and climate change

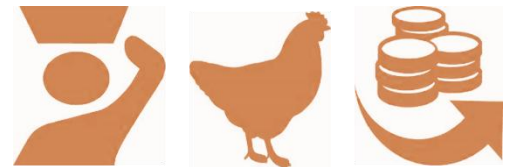


Climate change poses an additional challenge to development efforts, particularly in territories with vulnerable populations and ecosystems that generates a change in knowledge and management. In this framework, the approach with which we work is the integration of climate change in a transversal way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

### SKILLS, JOBS, AND INCOME

**39,572 persons**

Beneficiaries in participation in value chains.



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

### VOICE, INCLUSION AND SOCIAL COHESION

**283,277 persons**

They have been empowered to claim their rights and have better inclusive public services.

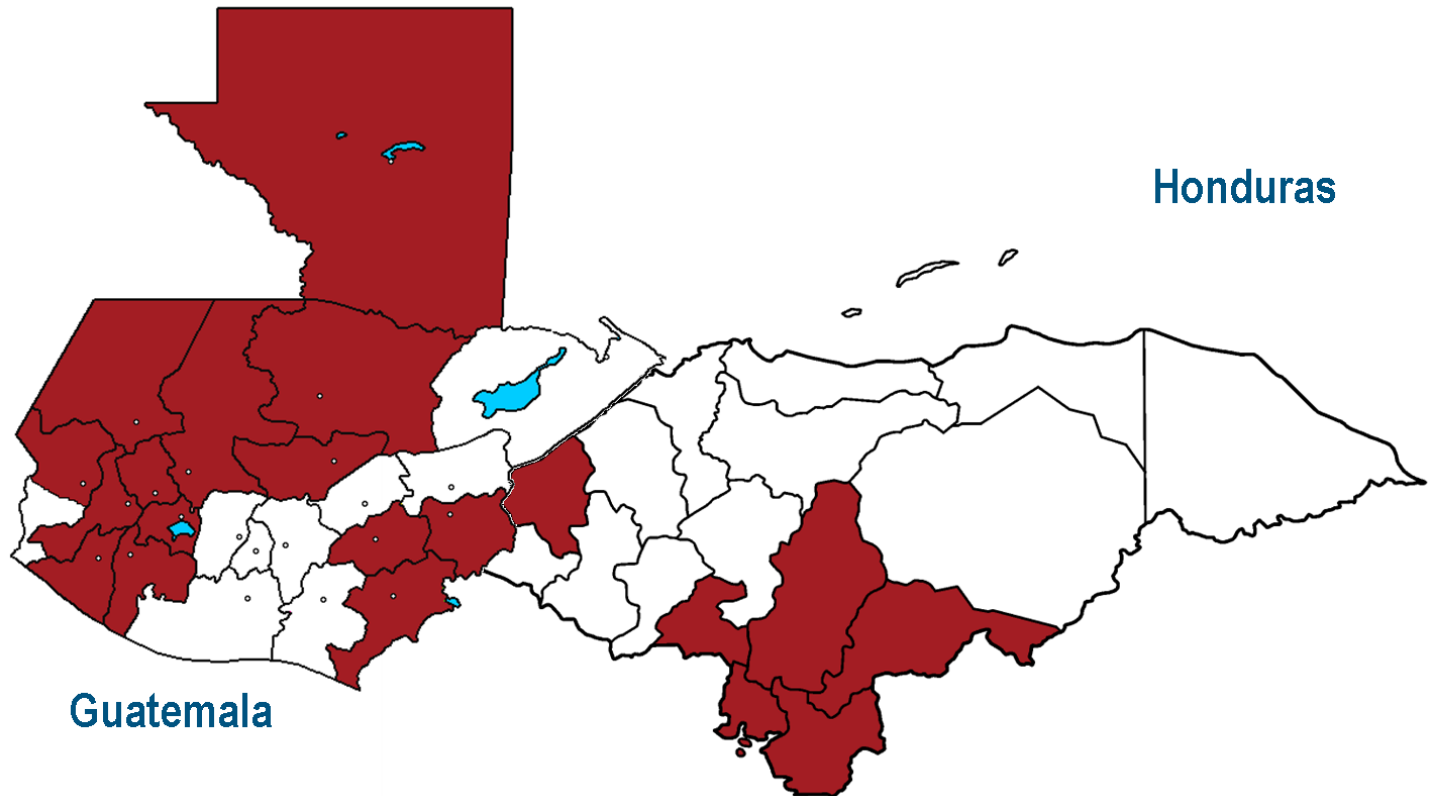


Our approach to work seeks to contribute to the empowerment of citizens and civil society, who are capable of demanding their rights; as well as the strengthening of public entities, so that they are capable, responsible and effective, committed to dialogue with their citizens, civil society and the 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 all.**

**Because that future, we are making it possible!**

## GEOGRAPHICAL AREA



More information at:

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