



PUENTES PROJECT

Dates of project: April 2017 - September 2024

Budget: \$65 million

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), World Vision, and the implementing partners seek to improve the quality of life of youth ages 15-29 in selected Guatemalan municipalities, as measured by indicators of employment, education, and hope, thus addressing the main drivers of irregular migration.

The Puentes Project is implemented in the Western Highlands, Alta Verapaz, and Guatemala City, in partnership with: Asociación Grupo CEIBA, Asociación Kemow Eta´manik Bilingüe Intercultural (AKEBI), Fundación para el Desarrollo Integral (FUDI), Fundasistemas, Juárez & Associates Inc., Red Nacional de Grupos Gestores y Vitruvian Consulting. The Project aims to improve skills and abilities for work and access to employment or entrepreneurship opportunities for young people between 15 and 29 years of age.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC APPROACH

The Puentes Project supports young male and females between 15 and 29 years of age. It is currently being implemented in 37 municipalities in the Departments of Huehuetenango, Quetzaltenango, Quiché, Totonicapán, San Marcos, Alta Verapaz, and Guatemala.

CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

Nationally, the youth unemployment rate is five times higher for youth ages 15 to 29 than those who are older (National Statistics Institute 2014). Youth living in the Western Highlands experience poverty, violence, and land shortages. They lack education opportunities and have limited options for increasing their income, which has led to increased levels of internal and external migration. The challenges are even greater for females and indigenous youth, who have lower school attendance rates and limited economic opportunities locally.

The project aims to support young people to take control of their future by providing them with the information, knowledge, and skills to access opportunities and improve their income. The project also helps them design and pursue a Life Plan that may be focused on education, employment, or entrepreneurship. The Puentes Project involves the Guatemalan government, the private sector, and civil society in improving the skills that youth need to respond to the needs of emerging markets, thus supporting vulnerable youth to find employment, entrepreneurship, and improve their quality of life.

APPROACH AND RESULTS

The project aims to achieve the following results:

- 1. Improve basic, work, and entrepreneurship skills.** The Puentes Project focuses on preparing youth to access economic opportunities by providing competencies and skills-building training.
- 2. Increase employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.** The Puentes Project facilitates the access to employment and entrepreneurial opportunities.
- 3. Foster an enabling environment for youth to access social support, services, and opportunities.** The Puentes Project aims to ensure that youth have access to the social services and support that are critical to their overall well-being so that they may take full advantage of the opportunities available to them and improve their quality of life.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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