



Duration:

Length:	49 months
Start Date:	January 2022
End Date:	February 2026

Budget:

TOTAL:	\$ 2.5 Million
UNDP	\$1,249,074.00
ONUMUJERES	\$666,658.00
UNESCO	\$584,268.00

Implementing Agencies and Partners:

Implementing Agencies: UNDP, UN Women, UNESCO

National Counterparts: Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEH), civil society organizations

CONTEXT

In Guatemala, the persistence of territorial conflicts, historical disputes and weak social inclusion continue to undermine social cohesion, democratic governance and the sustainability of peace, particularly in rural territories with a high presence of Indigenous Peoples.

Peace infrastructures (understood as dynamic networks of capacities, resources, tools and institutions) constitute a strategic pillar for preventing, managing and transforming social conflict in an inclusive and peaceful manner. Strengthening spaces for dialogue and State–society engagement – and the meaningful participation of historically excluded sectors such as Indigenous Peoples and women in these spaces – are essential aspects of peace infrastructures. PBF's Consolidating Peace Infrastructures project has invested in building national and territorial peace infrastructures, strengthening institutional capacities, coordination mechanisms and inclusive participation processes that contribute to conflict prevention and territorial stability.

OBJECTIVES

To strengthen peace infrastructures in Guatemala by increasing institutional and social capacities, fostering inter-institutional coordination and promoting inclusive citizen participation, with the aim of preventing and transforming territorial conflict in a peaceful and sustainable manner.

KEY IMPACT AND RESULTS

The project has contributed to improving trust between the Government and Indigenous Peoples via the National Assembly, a high-level dialogue mechanism between the President and Indigenous and ancestral authorities from around the country, reverting their historic exclusion from public policy decision making. Via the Assembly, agreements have been reached on territorial agendas, budgeting, social and economic development, healthcare and fundamental rights, among other key issues for Indigenous Peoples.

The project has also contributed to dialogue between the Government and 37 women's organizations, leading to agreements on a national agenda for women's rights; and with the nine young women survivors of the Hogar Seguro tragedy, supporting agreements on comprehensive restitution measures including dignification and memory, social development, employment, pensions and psycho-social assistance.

The project is working closely with the recently (July 2025) established Presidential Commission on Conflict Resolution (COPRECON), training its entire staff on dialogue, conflict prevention and resolution with a focus on gender, Indigenous rights and human rights, and updating its Early Warning System for social conflicts as a key conflict prevention and management tool.

Prior, free and informed consultation processes have been strengthened at the local level, with Indigenous authorities receiving training and technical assistance on conflict prevention and dialogue skills, in the municipality of Cotzal, Quiché, contributing to their informed participation in the consultation process in the Transnova and Palo Viejo cases, and reducing asymmetries in access to power.

CATALYTIC EFFECTS

Financial catalytic effects The project has mobilized \$USD 6,817.04 in complementary financial resources from UNDP (TRAC Funds), including support for the Second World Assembly of Indigenous Nations (August 2025). While this amount is limited, its strategic relevance lies in its enabling character, as it reinforced high-level dialogue spaces and articulation processes between the State and Indigenous Peoples.

Non-financial catalytic effects The project has generated a non-financial catalytic effect by reducing asymmetries in dialogue processes between the State and Indigenous leadership, strengthening capacities and collective voice for more informed and balanced participation. This was achieved through synergies with the *Insider Mediators* project, which enabled the development of a training curriculum for Indigenous leaders on Indigenous Peoples' rights, international normative frameworks, development, leadership styles and internal mediation. This process responded to needs expressed by women and men leaders in national and territorial dialogue contexts—including the President's National Assembly with Ancestral Indigenous Authorities and specific consultation processes—and was implemented in Ixil and Ch'orti' communities. This articulation strengthened the conditions for higher-quality and more balanced intercultural dialogue and amplified the PBF's contribution to strengthening peace infrastructures.

Voices from the Field

"What I learned about violence, human rights and leadership has allowed me to strengthen my role in the community and to support other women so that they can also participate and exercise leadership."

Ixil woman leader, participant in the leadership and human rights diploma programme.

"The educational model for peace is applied with students and extends to their families. Schools thus become spaces for peacebuilding, with effects that go beyond the classroom and reach the entire community."

Representative of the educational community.