



Duration:

Length:	24 months
Start Date:	January 2024
End Date:	January 2026

Budget:

TOTAL:	\$ 2 million
UNESCO	\$502,900.00
UNFPA	\$994,200.00
UNODC	\$502,900.00

Implementing Agencies and Partners:

Implementing Agencies: UNFPA (Lead Agency), UNESCO, UNODC

National Counterparts: Ministry of the Interior (MINGOB), Ministry of Education (MINEDUC), National Youth Council (CONJUVE), Municipal Commissions for Violence Prevention (COMUPRES), youth civil society organizations, Office for Victim Assistance, Community-Based Violence Prevention Mechanisms, among others.

CONTEXT

In Guatemala, cyberspace has become a central civic space for youth participation, cyberactivism and civic expression. While these environments expand opportunities for democratic participation, they have also experienced a sustained increase in cyberviolence, cybercrime and hate speech, which disproportionately affect diverse youth and restrict their safe and free participation.

These dynamics are exacerbated by institutional gaps, limited prevention and response capacities, and unequal youth participation across territories, turning the digital environment into an emerging factor of social conflict. In this context, the project responds to the need to protect and strengthen youth civic participation in cyberspace, recognizing it as a key component of peace infrastructure and conflict prevention.

OBJECTIVES

To strengthen institutional, community and youth conditions so that diverse youth can exercise safe, informed and constructive digital citizenship, contributing to the prevention of cyberviolence and the peaceful transformation of social conflicts through institutional strengthening, the promotion of meaningful youth participation, and the generation of evidence for community-based monitoring in the digital environment.

KEY IMPACT AND RESULTS

The intervention strengthened the effectiveness of national public institutions and local prevention mechanisms in preventing, responding to, and addressing cyberviolence and cybercrime affecting diverse youth, thereby reducing their vulnerability in online environments.

The National Violence Prevention Policy and Prevention Model within the Ministry of the Interior, together with five Municipal Violence Prevention Policies, were updated to integrate the prevention of cyberviolence, cybercrime, and hate speech, enhancing institutional readiness, policy coherence, and inter-institutional coordination. Institutional capacities were further reinforced to identify and address harmful digital trends that undermine youth wellbeing and limit positive and inclusive participation in online spaces.

In parallel, diverse youth enhanced the quality of their safe, informed, and constructive engagement in virtual civic spaces by exercising digital citizenship linked to peacebuilding infrastructures and social conflict transformation. The institutionalization of youth participation within Municipal Violence Prevention Commissions strengthened social inclusion, institutional legitimacy, and local-level social cohesion, while enhancing youth agency and civic leadership for early conflict prevention and the peaceful transformation of digital violence dynamics.

CATALYTICS EFFECTS

Non-financial catalytic effects The project is operating as a strategic enabler by integrating youth digital citizenship into Guatemala's peacebuilding agenda. By strengthening institutional capacities, promoting youth-led observation mechanisms and fostering informed digital civic participation, the project in coordination with local and national mechanisms, the project positions youth as key actors in preventing and peacefully transforming conflicts in cyberspace. The institutionalization of partnerships, methodologies and monitoring tools, such as the National Citizenship Education Strategy, has created conditions for sustaining progress beyond the funding cycle, reinforcing local peace infrastructure and youth democratic participation.

Voices from the Field

"Addressing digital violence through community-based prevention has made it possible to integrate youth realities into municipal policies and to strengthen more inclusive, evidence-based management."

Karin De León, Unit for Community Violence Prevention (UPCV) – Ministry of the Interior.

"Strengthening the prevention of cybercrime is key to protecting rights in digital environments, particularly for youth, women, girls and boys."

National Civil Police, Subdirectorate for Crime Prevention / Cybercrime and Digital Forensics Investigation Department.

"The incorporation of digital citizenship into the National Citizenship Education Strategy transformed our capacity to guide and support students. Security and respect in digital environments are now an integral part of education."

Noemí Obregón, Departmental Directorate of Education of Escuintla – Ministry of Education.

"Peace in cyberspace means having safe spaces to express ourselves with respect, where youth—and especially young women—can be heard without being subjected to violence."

María Yoc, young project participant.

