

PAISANO

Increasing food security by strengthening rural communities in Guatemala's Western Highlands



Overview

With funding from USAID's Office of Food for Peace, and in collaboration with Save the Children, the *Programa de Acciones Integradas de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional del Occidente* (PAISANO) project is increasing food security and strengthening vulnerable rural households in Guatemala's Western Highlands. PCI is leading project interventions in 76 communities spanning five of the project's 13 target municipalities, and is managing distribution of over one-third of the project's commodities. PCI's work focuses on three key objectives:

- (1) Increasing local food access and availability by assisting farmers to diversify and increase their agricultural and livestock production, increasing women's business and leadership opportunities, and increasing access to local markets.
- (2) Reducing chronic malnutrition among households with pregnant and lactating women and children under five through growth monitoring and counseling, home visits, and the formation of nutrition schools.
- (3) Increasing community governance and resilience to disasters and shocks by strengthening community-level disaster prevention and response councils.

PCI is also spearheading the project's cross-cutting objective of improving the status of women through efforts such as promoting women's leadership, organizing gender equity discussions, and challenging traditional gender norms.

Key Achievements to Date:*

- 2,788 families with increased access to nutritious vegetables and protein through vegetable gardens, livestock production, and improved farming methods.
- 1,140 growth monitoring sessions for children under five carried out, together with capacity building for community-level health volunteers.
- 138 local health and nutrition promoters trained, which in turn reached 7,591 families with critical health and nutrition messages.
- 76 trained community development councils mapped resources & risks and developed prevention plans to mitigate against adverse shocks to their food security.
- 2,490 individuals organized into Women Empowered groups which have accumulated over \$96,000 in savings and \$175,578 given in loans with a 100% repayment rate.

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ABOUT PCI

PCI (Project Concern International) is an international nonprofit on a mission to enhance health, end hunger and overcome hardship worldwide. Founded in 1961, PCI impacted the lives of more than 10 million people last year alone through programs in 15 countries spanning Asia, Africa and the Americas.

PCI/GUATEMALA
20 Av. A 3-25
z.15 Vista Hermosa
info@pciguate.org
Tel: (+502)2369-7058

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
5151 Murphy Canyon Road, Suite 320
San Diego, CA 92123
ph: (858) 279-9690
www.PCIglobal.org

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE
1140 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20036
ph: (202) 223-0088

