

# NUESTRA COSECHA

USDA Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Program



PROJECT BRIEF

GUATEMALA



Nuestra Cosecha benefits 52 schools within five municipalities in the departments of Huehuetenango, El Quiché, and Totonicapán (highlighted in blue above).

## BY THE NUMBERS\*



**52**

Targeted schools



**11,528**

Students receiving daily meals



**13,276**

Direct beneficiaries



**403**

MT of locally procured fresh produce (fruit, vegetables, eggs)



**180**

Local producers strengthened

*\*Life of project targets from project agreement*

## Overview

In 2018, USDA funded a Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement (LRP) program, called Nuestra Cosecha (meaning “Our Harvest”), to complement the three existing McGovern-Dole programs in Guatemala. In coordination with the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) and Ministry of Agriculture (MAGA), Project Concern International, a Global Communities Partner (PCI) leads the implementation of Nuestra Cosecha with its consortium partners, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Save the Children International (SCI). Over the life of the project, Nuestra Cosecha will procure 403 metric tons (MT) of locally grown nutritious produce – including fresh fruit, vegetables, and eggs – with approximately \$500,000 USDA-provided funds to complement daily school meals for 11,528 students from 52 preschool and primary schools within five municipalities in the departments of Huehuetenango, El Quiché, and Totonicapán. Over the life of the project, the MINEDUC will also provide over \$1 million in school feeding subsidies to support school meals at Nuestra Cosecha schools.

**“Our goal is to grow. Thanks to Nuestra Cosecha, I have not only been able to visualize, but also to see that there is a market. We are getting linked to more schools and plan to expand production.”**

– Susana Elizabeth Domínguez Juan, egg producer and local supplier to LRP-supported schools in Santa Eulalia, Huehuetenango.

## Objectives and Key Activities

- **Improved market linkages between schools and local producers** by partnering with the MAGA to facilitate registration and commercialization of local producers as official suppliers to schools; establishing linkages with private sector partners to conduct trainings for farmers and schools’ parent associations (PTAs); and training farmers on improved agricultural, manufacturing, and technical practices.
- **Strengthened capacity of PTAs in local procurement and management of school feeding** by accompanying PTAs in the development of procurement plans for locally grown, nutritious fresh produce; advocating for contracts between schools and local suppliers to ensure transparent and effective bidding processes; and training PTAs on the administration, preparation, and delivery of school meals in line with school feeding policies and ministry-approved, nutritious school meal menus.
- **Enhanced systems for operationalizing Guatemala’s National School Feeding Law (LAE)** by fostering capacity development within a network of stakeholders – government officials, market actors, parents, and school staff – to operationalize the LAE in a cost-effective and timely manner; developing a toolkit to increase efficiency in implementation of the LAE; providing technical assistance to national and departmental School Feeding Technical Roundtables to uphold the LAE and its regulations; and strengthening linkages between PTAs and local suppliers to provide culturally appropriate, nutritious food commodities supplied by local smallholder farmers.



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