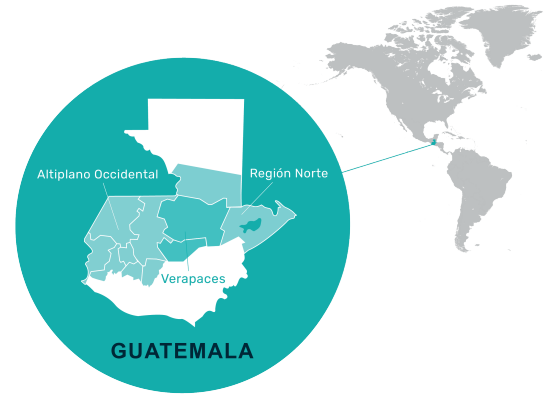


USAID CDP: COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (CESI)

GUATEMALA

OCTOBER 2023 – SEPTEMBER 2028



AT A GLANCE

IN GUATEMALA'S WESTERN HIGHLANDS AND NORTH REGIONS, CESI WILL STRENGTHEN

10 CO-OPS AND 2 NETWORKS WITH MORE THAN 12,000 MEMBERS

SUPPORT ACCESS TO FINANCE, PARTICULARLY TO WOMEN, YOUTH & INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

STRENGTHEN MIGRANTS CO-OPS TO PROMOTE PRODUCTIVE USE OF REMITTANCES

ASSIST CO-OP NETWORKS FOR CO-OP INTEGRATION AND ADVOCACY

FACILITATE CO-OP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, COMPLIANCE AND SOCIAL INCLUSION THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE BUSINESS SCHOOL

PROMOTE UPTAKE OF CDP-DEVELOPED TOOLS BY CO-OP INSTITUTIONS AND ALLIES

KEY LOCAL PARTNERS

- Confederation of Savings and Credits Co-ops (CONFECOAC / MiCoope)
- National Institute of Cooperatives (INACOP), General Inspection of Cooperatives (INGECOP) & Ministry of Economy (MINECO)
- Migrants Cooperatives and Guatemalans Abroad's Guatemala-USA Mission (MIGUSA)
- Latin American Social Sciences Institute (FLACSO) and Rafael Landívar University

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Awarded through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Cooperative Development Program (CDP), NCBA CLUSA's Cooperative Ecosystem and Social Inclusion (CESI) project works in Kenya, Guatemala and Peru (through 2028); and Madagascar (through 2025) to further strengthen: 1) co-op capacity; 2) cooperative enabling environments; and 3) project learning applied in the development community. CESI is informed by the success of NCBA CLUSA's USAID CDP-funded Creating an Environment for Cooperative Expansion (CECE) project (2018 to 2023).

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

STRENGTHENING CO-OP CAPACITY

CDP/CESI focuses on the ecosystem level, working to strengthen 10 Co-Ops and 2 Co-Ops Networks in Western Highlands and North Regions of Guatemala, focused on women, youth,



Mayan Ceremony with Migrant Co-Op COMIGUA and NCBA CLUSA staff.
Photo: Ariel Alvarado/NCBA CLUSA



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PROJECT PROFILE

indigenous people and migrant communities. . Built on CECE's previous work, CESI will continue coaching COMIGUA and expand to the four other migrants' co-ops to promote peer learning and help them operationalize their savings and lending activities, resulting in economic opportunities that decrease incentives for migration, in alignment with the goals of the USG's Root Causes Strategy. CESI will also coach Atitlan Recicla, an indigenous women's recycling co-op established with CECE support. In all coaching activities, NCBA CLUSA will incorporate National Institute of Cooperatives (INACOP) and General Inspectorate of Cooperatives (INGECOP) technicians to prepare them to take on TA activities by Y3. NCBA CLUSA will also leverage the pending CDP Rural Financial Inclusion in Guatemala (RFIG) project for additional resources to support these co-ops, including its planned financial analyses in overlapping target areas.

IMPROVING THE COOPERATIVE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Building on CECE's success, CESI's will focus on strengthening the Co-op Ecosystem while addressing the migration crisis that hits indigenous communities particularly hard. For example, CESI will help facilitate a working group for the migrants' co-ops, with the goal of becoming a federation. CESI will continue supporting co-op networks in San Marcos and Poptun with a focus on pre-federation planning and access to finance. At the national level, CESI will continue monitoring the government's co-op law review process to identify opportunities for further input. Despite CECE's support in helping the independent co-op sector with their co-op law reform proposal, which included a recommendation to decrease the number of members needed to register a co-op, the harmonized bill that was eventually developed did not include this reduction. The current 20- member minimum is a huge barrier, particularly for worker co-ops. Based on local demand, NCBA CLUSA will coordinate with Global Communities (GC) and key local partners like the Independent Co-op Sector on advocacy issues for worker co-ops..

ENHANCING KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING IN THE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

CESI foresees several key learning activities to strengthen the cooperative ecosystem in Guatemala. NCBA CLUSA will collaborate with local partners INACOP and INGECOP, as well as international CDOs like GC, to co-produce and disseminate knowledge, research, data, education, and training curricula and materials pertinent to Guatemala's co-op sector. CESI will conduct research with INACOP to better understand the factors leading to a 50% dormancy among registered co-ops. CESI will continue expanding the Cooperative Business School (CBS) in Guatemala, helping partners adapt their training materials and delivering through hybrid/online platforms. This includes INACOP's cooperative promotion and development trainings, INGECOP's training on annual audits and compliance aspects for co-ops, and GC's worker cooperative training. Additionally, NCBA CLUSA and Equal Exchange (EE) will coordinate learning exchanges between Atitlan Recicla and the EE-supported youth tourism business around Lake Atitlan, as well as between other indigenous co-ops.

BUY-INS

The Annual Program Statement (APS) USAID's CDP is a flexible procurement instrument that offers an easy way for USAID Missions and Operating Units to quickly deploy programming resources. If a USAID Mission is interested in implementing activities that generally align with APS' focus areas, there are two buy-in options:

- Direct buy-in: If a USAID Mission knows the implementing CDO partner they would like to work with, funds can be added directly to the implementing partner's cooperative agreement.
- Addendum: A solicitation can be put together that eligible implementing partners can respond to in the form of concept papers.

For more information about the USAID CDP and buy-ins options, email Senior Cooperative Development Advisor Emily Varga at emvarga@usaid.gov.

For 70 years, NCBA CLUSA has worked in 100+ countries in Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia, building resilient communities, creating economic opportunities and strengthening cooperatives. Our work empowers smallholder farmers, women and youth in the areas of food security and nutrition-led agriculture, climate-smart agriculture, market development, natural resources management, positive youth development, gender equality and enabling regulatory environments. We envision a world where people have the knowledge, resources and authority to build prosperity for themselves and future generations.

NCBA CLUSA

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