

GUATEMALA CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION ACTIVITY (CPRA)

Hundreds of individuals and organizations (governmental and non-governmental) currently use mediation as a tool for conflict resolution in Guatemala. The diversity of mediation methods, as well as of understanding of what mediation means, mirrors Guatemala's own ethnic, geographical, and religious diversity. The Guatemala Conflict Prevention and Resolution Activity (CPRA) is aimed at improving the use of mediation as a method of alternative dispute resolution in Guatemala. The goal of CPRA is to leave behind stronger organizations that are better able to mediate and resolve conflict in the country.

Activity One, implemented by AED and INTRAPAZ, is designed to improve mediation capacity throughout Guatemala. Components include:

- Publication of *Mediation Practices in Guatemala: A Diagnostic Study of Institutional and Traditional Experiences* including an analysis of methodologies and best practices;
- High impact mediation training program for 22 key figures from Guatemalan government, civil society, mass media, private enterprise, and religious sectors, preparing them to intervene in national-level conflicts.
- The participatory design of a quality-control system for mediation and plan for institutionalizing the system.

Activity Two is designed to promote peaceful solutions to the land conflicts that plague the region of Alta Verapaz, a focal point for land conflict in Guatemala and host to some of the

more intractable and violent situations in the country. Mercy Corps and JADE, working in conjunction with AED and Activity One, have obtained the following results:

- Establishment of a rural legal-support system, including a central mediation office in Coban and 10 additional mediation centers, staffed with trained, multilingual mediators dedicated to the peaceful resolution of land conflicts in Alta Verapaz;
- Mediation and resolution of over 40 land conflicts;
- Strengthening of local civil society organizations by improving their conflict resolution and advocacy skills.

A Small Grants Program was implemented to fund creative programs that increase the capacity of Guatemala's civil society to resolve conflicts. AED and Mercy Corps have awarded 11 \$10,000 grants during a six-month period. Publications include:

- Historic Atlas of Agrarian Conflict in the region of San Marcos
- Mediation manual in the indigenous language, Quechí
- Conflict Mediation Training Manual for Prison Guards, now incorporated into the curriculum of the National Penitentiary School system
- Analysis of the state of water resources in the Rio Naranjo basin, accompanied by a pedagogic manual for the resolution of conflicts relating to natural resources
- Methodological guide and bibliographic compilation regarding the peaceful resolution of conflicts in protected areas.

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AED Washington Contact:

Martina Ban
Senior Operations & Finance Manager
E-mail: mban@aed.org
Tel. 202.884.8675

1825 Connecticut Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20009
Web site: www.aed-ccsg.org
Fax 202.884.8442

