



Australian Government
Aid Program



*Restoration of food production and livelihoods of
rural women affected by floods 2010 in
Guatemala -OSRO/GUA/004/AUL- January of 2012*

I. General Project Objective

Contribute to the recovery of the livelihoods of people affected by the rains in Escuintla, Suchitepéquez and Sololá.

II. Purpose

5,000 Rural Women, indigenous and non-indigenous, in eight municipalities of Escuintla, Suchitepéquez and Sololá increase and diversify their food sources by reducing the vulnerability of their livelihoods when facing disasters.

III. Outcomes

Outcome No.1: 3,000 Women affected by the tropical storm Agatha and other natural phenomena improve and secure their basic food diet.

Activity No.1: Preparatory stage and project approach stage: it began with the recruitment of technical staff (two field technicians assigned to the departments of Escuintla and Suchitepéquez, a field technician assigned to the department of Sololá and a project manager. The technical team with the support of the Emergency Rehabilitation and Coordination Unit (UCER: *Emergencies Coordination and Rehabilitation Unit by its acronym in Spanish*), of FAO in Guatemala developed the Business Plan and the Annual Operating Plan (POA *by its acronym in Spanish*); as well as it developed tools to establish the baseline. After this, it began the approach with partner institutions at departmental, municipal and community level. This consisted of the socialization of the project, the development of criteria for the selection of women to be benefited and the prioritization of communities to intervene.

At a departmental level, it was carried out with the technical teams of FAO's natural partner institutions such as the Departmental Coordination areas of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA *by its abbreviation in Spanish*), the Departmental Delegation of the Ministry of Food and Nutritional Safety (SESAN *by its acronym in Spanish*), the National Coordination for the Prevention of Disasters (CONRED *by its acronym in Spanish*), the Presidential Ministry for Women (SEPREM *by its acronym in Spanish*). At a municipal level, it was carried out with the municipal authorities of the eight municipalities in the area of coverage such as the municipalities of La Gomera, Nueva Concepción and Tiquisate in the department of Escuintla; in Patulul, Cuyotenango and San Lorenzo in the department of Suchitepéquez; in the municipalities of Nahualá and Santa Catarina Ixtahuacán in Sololá. At a community level, the socialization of the project was carried out through assemblies in each community.

Activity No.2: Selection of communities, female promoters and beneficiaries. In each community after the socialization of the project and during the same assembly was performed the selection of women that met the criteria developed by the partner institutions and organizations, this is assessed in the following table:

No.	Operational Center	No. of Municipalities	No. of Communities	No. of women	No. of promoters
1	Sololá	2	16	1,600	100
2	Suchitepéquez	3	32	1,900	150
3	Escuintla	3	30	1,500	150
Total		8	78	5,000	400

A very important thing is the role of the voluntary female promoters, who are chosen by women participants in each community. The promoter is characterized by being a leader and by being a respectable and committed person, who will support families throughout the whole process. Furthermore, the promoter is the qualified human capital that will remain within the community, and the person who will continue with the activities once the project is over, or act as liaison with other organizations and institutions that begin working in the community.

Activity No.3: Establishing the baseline: the establishment of the project's baseline was carried out using as a reference the indicators of the Project's Logical Framework, the developed document is available.

Activity No.4: Training events: to this date there have been three training events with all 1,650 women participating. The training events have been: "Agricultural Production", "Use and handling of livestock health kits" and "Tour for the exchange of experiences regarding organic fertilizers and terraced vegetable gardens", here we used the farmer to farmer methodology.

Activity No.5: Provision of agricultural inputs: the inputs provided were those requested by women participants, and these vary from place to place depending on the different soil and climate conditions. Because of this, each of the 2,000 women participants were supported with 10 cassava cuttings and 10 sweet potato cuttings, this was so that they could diversify their plot. 4,000 women participants were supported with 2 quintals each (91 kg) of organic fertilizer made up of chicken manure to be used in the wooden boxes where they plant their vegetables. Each community was provided with 2 health kits for prophylaxis of poultry, which are very important for the families, because it enables them to increase their avian assets.

Activity No.6: Training events on feeding practices: 1,800 women have been trained in the three following topics: "Food Handling", "Biological use of food" and "Hygiene at home".

Activity No.7: 2,000 women participants have set up their family gardens, beginning with the planting of the sweet potato and cassava cuttings provided. Also 4,000 women have implemented a prophylactic plan at home through the proper use and handling of livestock health kits, this has helped to minimize bird mortality and thereby reduce food insecurity among women participating in the project, which is a measure of risk management and food and nutritional safety for the participating families. 500 women have enclosures for their birds.

Activity No.8: Technical assistance for families: there have been 293 technical assistance visits to women participating in the project. This is carried out by each of the project's technicians and consists of follow-up visits to the participants' homes on the practices implemented as well as providing support in other situations related to the project.

Activity No.9: Training events: 400 volunteer promoters have been trained on Organization and Disaster Risk Management, the topic of the events was: "Organization and Self-management with a Focus on Gender" and "Risk Management and Vulnerability Reduction and Protection of Livelihoods". In the latter, the issues discussed were focused on the basic conceptualization (Threat, Vulnerability, Risk, Local Risk Management, Prevention, Mitigation and Preparedness) linked to the issue of livelihood protection.

Outcome No.2: 1,000 women, seniors and young people, affected by the tropical storm Agatha and other natural phenomena retrieve and put into operation their economic micro-enterprises.

Activity No.1: Identification of micro-enterprises to support: mapping was performed on the Associations of women affected by the floods. Priority was given to 15 women's Associations, which will be supported with the delivery of assets to reactivate their lost and/or affected micro enterprises. This process was carried out in coordination with the departmental delegations of the Presidential Ministry for Women (SEPREM *by its acronym in Spanish*) and the Municipal Bureau for Women (OMN *in Spanish*). Work programs were developed jointly with women of these associations. They are currently in the process of purchasing the machinery, animals and supplies that will support each Association (industrial sewing machines, pigs, concentrates and handcrafted incubators for poultry).

Activity No. 2: Training plan: during February, the training process for groups and associations that are identified by production systems (textile crafts, pig and poultry production) will start.

Outcome No.3: 1,000 households affected by natural phenomena reduce the vulnerability of their livelihood against disasters.

Activity No.1: The application of good practices based on the approaches by Patio-Hogar and Milpa are foreseen and implemented as actions to reduce risk from existing threats in the area. From this reckoning, 250 technical assistance visits have been made to identify the practices for the implementation of family gardens, prophylactic plan for poultry and bird enclosures.

Activity No.2: Creation of 10 COLRED (local coordinator for disaster reduction): in the department of Sololá have been created 4 COLRED. The working committees are structured based on the guidelines defined by the National Coordination for the Prevention of Disasters (CONRED *in Spanish*). These are made up of 20 volunteers and have been joined by the female promoters participating in the project.

Activity No.3: Training events: The 80 members of the 4 COLRED have been trained on Disaster Risk Management, the topics of the events were: "CONRED System and COLRED structure", "Basic Concepts of Risk Management", "Drawing of the Community Map of Threats" and "Development of the Community Emergency Plan ".

Activity No. 4: Basic Equipment for all members of the COLRED: to date, the bidding is in process for the purchase of basic equipment and for all members of the COLRED, the kit for each member is as follows: raincoat, rubber boots, flashlight, machete, shovel, hoe, and a megaphone and rain gauge for each group.

IV. Amount disbursed to date

- Total value of the Project: USD 792,150
- Disbursed to date: USD 130,000 **(17% of the total amount)**
- In purchasing process (bidding) completed in late February 2012 USD 382,620 **(47%)**
- Total amount to spend in late February (sum total) USD 514,000 **(64% of total amount)**

V. Photographs of activities carried out in Project



Nahualá municipality promoters during their training on Risk Management and Vulnerability Reduction and protection of livelihoods. **Photo:** Juana María Castañeda, Project Technician.



Cuyotenango municipality promoters applying what they have practiced in Handling Livestock Health Kits. **Photo:** David Quemé, Project Technician.



Women participants of the project from the Patulul municipality during their training in making the organic fertilizer Bocashi. **Photo:** David Quemé, Project Field Technician



Women of the Santa Catarina Ixtahuacán municipality during training on Food Handling and Biological Use of Food. **Photo:** Juana María Castañeda, Project Field Technician