



EDUCAMOS

USDA McGovern–Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program

Overview

Since 2010, Project Concern International, a Global Communities Partner (PCI) has implemented school feeding programs in Guatemala with funding from USDA's McGovern–Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program. In 2016, PCI's McGovern–Dole project, called EDUCAMOS, began its third phase of programming and continues to be implemented together with the Guatemalan Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) and PCI's local literacy partner, Juárez & Associates. Over the life of the project, EDUCAMOS will provide 6,230 metric tons (MT) of USDA-donated commodities – CSB+, rice, beans, vegetable oil – for daily school meals, benefitting over 36,000 students from 294 schools in six municipalities in the department of Huehuetenango.

“When they feed us at school, I feel more awake and I want to keep learning.”

—Elena, student from EDUCAMOS-supported school

Objectives & Key Activities

- **Improve literacy of school-aged children** by training teachers on improved teaching and learning methods, focusing on bi-lingual education in local Mayan languages; establishing reading corners and distributing materials to promote the culture of reading; addressing attendance through enrollment campaigns and providing daily meals; and conducting Leadership and Management Programs for school administrators.
- **Increased use of health, nutrition, and dietary practices** by establishing school gardens and mini greenhouses that produce nutritious foods for school meals; training teachers, parents, and students to improve hygiene, sanitation, and nutrition practices; creating cookbooks/menus with nutritious recipes for school meals; and by strengthening school infrastructure, such as latrines and water systems.
- **Sustained impact and transition to a national school feeding program** by empowering schools, communities, and local government to gradually take ownership of key responsibilities; advocating for and supporting the implementation of a National School Feeding Law, which increased MINEDUC subsidies from \$0.22 to \$0.54 per student per day for school meals; securing municipal-level public policies with budgets to support of school meals; improving multisectoral collaboration across ministries through national and municipal technical working groups; connecting local small-scale farmers with schools; training PTAs in meal phase-over planning and local procurement of fresh foods; establishing Women Empowered savings/lending groups; and measuring schools' sustainability readiness and facilitating school and community action planning for a gradual transition towards graduation.



EDUCAMOS BENEFITS 294 PRIMARY SCHOOLS WITHIN SIX MUNICIPALITIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUEHUETENANGO.

BY THE NUMBERS



294

targeted schools



36,000

Students receiving daily meals



55,671

Direct beneficiaries



6,230

MT of USDA-donated commodities



294

PTAs strengthened



Global Communities

www.globalcommunities.org



Stephanie Gaffney

Technical Advisor, Integrated School Feeding & Sustainable Programs
sgaffney@globalcommunities.org

Hernan Thaine

Program Director, EDUCAMOS
hthaine@globalcommunities.org