

CASE STUDY:

Activities by the Guatemala Sugar Agroindustry supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.







**PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND
INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES
FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE
ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR
ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE,
ACCOUNTABLE AND
INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS
AT ALL LEVELS**



SUSTAINABLE
**WATER &
ENERGY**
SOLUTIONS
NETWORK



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Promote Peaceful And Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development,
Provide Access to Justice for all and Build Effective, Accountable and
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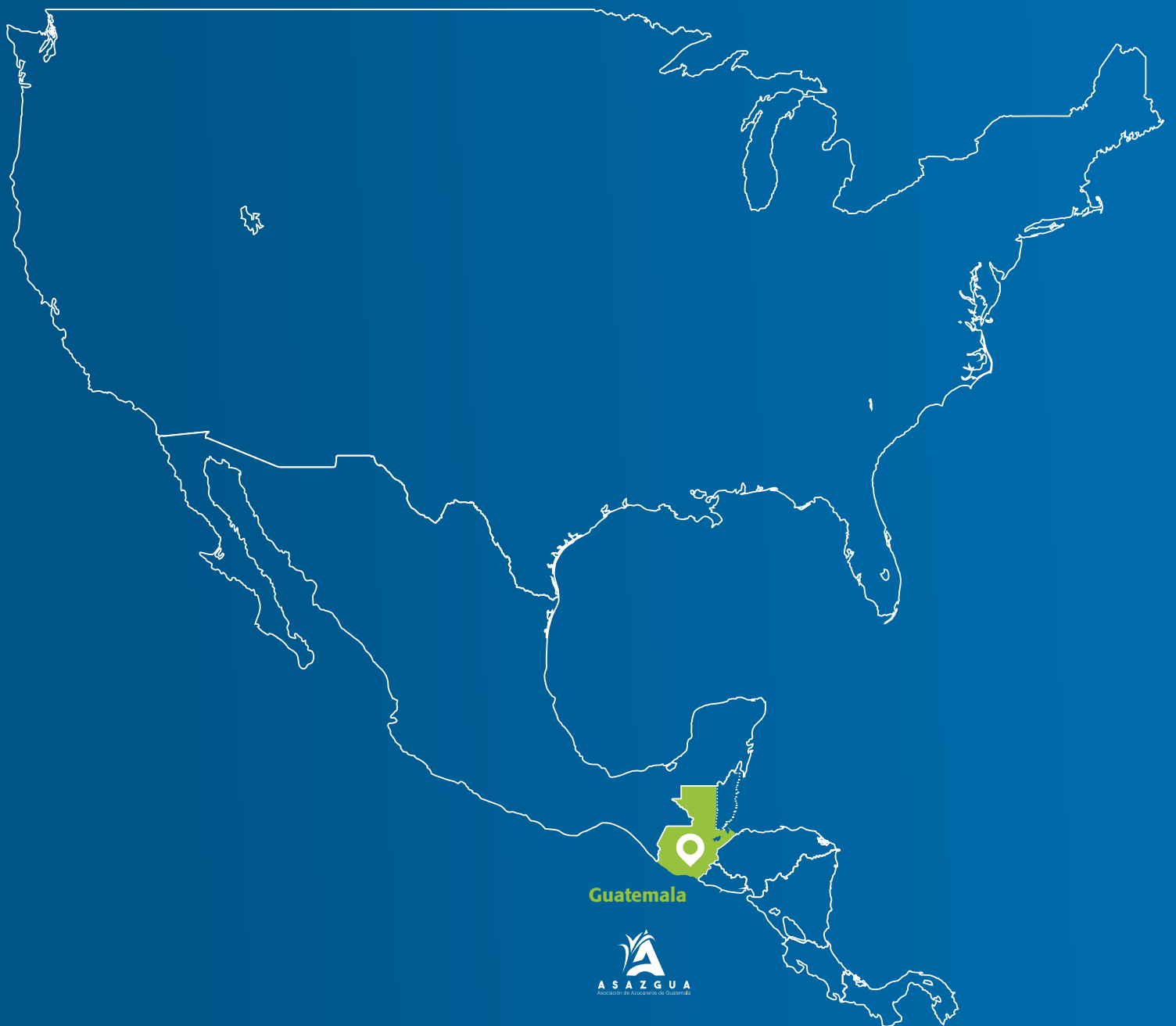
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Guatemala



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SDG 16: PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS



Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.

Target 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

Target 16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

Target 16.4: By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.

Target 16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.

Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

Target 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

Target 16.8: Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.

Target 16.9: By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.

Target 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.

Target 16.a: Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

Target 16.b: Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

Source: United Nations, 2015.



The volcanic soils of southern Guatemala are exceptional for the growth of sugarcane

THE GUATEMALA SUGAR AGROINDUSTRY

As of 2021, Guatemala was the third largest producer in Latin America and the sixth largest exporter of sugar in the world. Sugar is the second agroindustrial product most exported of Guatemala. The Guatemala Sugar Agroindustry generates almost US \$700 million in foreign exchange annually and provides more than 55,000 direct jobs and 278,000 indirect jobs in the country. Besides, the sector receives products and services from more than 6,000 small, medium-sized and large enterprises, which also generate more employment. Only 2.97% of the cultivable land in Guatemala is used for sugarcane production. Asazgua, the Association of Sugar Producers of Guatemala, was created in 1957 to coordinate the activities of the Guatemala Sugar Agroindustry. It includes 11 sugar producers and five technical organizations specialized in research, climate change, sugar exportation and social responsibility (Asazgua, 2020). In addition, since 2022, it counts with an organization specialized in innovation. The sugar producers that are members of Asazgua include: Pantaleon, Concepción, Palo Gordo, Santa Ana, Magdalena, Santa Teresa, La Unión, Madre Tierra, Trinidad (San Diego), La Sonrisa and El Pilar.

The Guatemala Sugar Agroindustry is committed to generating opportunities and prosperity for the people of Guatemala that support the country's sustainable development. It promotes decent and valuable jobs for the wellbeing of the population, while at the same time promoting environmental protection and conservation.

The Guatemala Sugar Agroindustry follows sustainable development principles as reflected by its strategic objectives and integrated actions and programs, supporting social wellbeing, economic growth, industrialization, and environmental protection. The activities of the sugar industry

in Guatemala are recognized as examples of "Good Practices" in the effective implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Associated organizations supporting specific sustainable objectives of the Guatemala Sugar Agroindustry have been created in the last decades. In 1990 Fundazúcar was launched as the social branch for the development and implementation of programs and projects on health, education and development. In 1992 Cengicaña started research activities to develop new varieties of sugarcane, to have integrated pest management, to study land quality and to implement more efficient processes for the cultivation of sugarcane and for the production of sugar. In 1994 Expogranel, one of the most efficient boarding terminals for sugar export in the world, was launched to cover international markets in a more efficient and competitive manner. In 2010, the Private Institute for Climate Change Research (ICC) was created to perform research, activities and projects related to climate change. In 2022 the Innovation Hub was created to develop a program of innovative projects through the identification and optimization of products, activities, processes and business models of the Sugar Agroindustry.

At the international level, the Guatemala Sugar Agroindustry supports the work of ICC on climate change mitigation and adaptation with other countries of Central America. Also through Asazgua, it participates actively in the Global Network on Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions. This is an initiative led by the Division for Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). The Network promotes integrated water and energy solutions that address climate change objectives worldwide.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Sustainable Development Strategy of the Guatemala Sugar Agroindustry is based on its vision, mission and objectives which promote a comprehensive and forward-looking transformative pathway to prosperity and peace for the people of Guatemala, at the same time supporting a healthy and sustainable planet. It follows an integrated approach based on transformation and adaptation to changes expected in the future due to new challenges. With its inclusive participation policy with multi-stakeholder

partnerships, the Sugar Agroindustry, through Asazgua, is committed to coordinating the work of enterprises, governmental entities and civil society to achieve the final goal of prosperity and sustainable development for Guatemala. The Guatemala Sugar Agroindustry is a global example of efficiency and technological advance representing a very relevant factor for the economy of Guatemala with important positive impacts also on the social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Objectives

1. Increase productivity through development and improvements in the field and in sugar refineries
2. Provide technical training and capacity building for human resources
3. Develop projects and programs that increase the capacity of the production systems in the field and in sugar refineries, in distribution and commercialization of products, and of the export boarding systems.

Vision

Before 2025 the Guatemala Sugar Agroindustry will be the most respected productive sector of the country due to diversification, competitive efficiency, generation of dignified jobs, and respect for the environment, suppliers and communities with whom it relates.

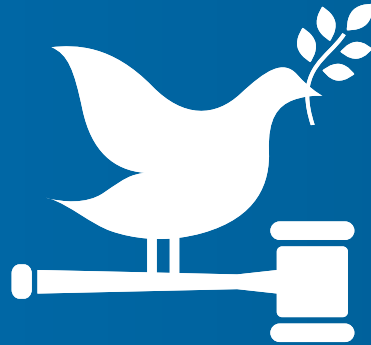
Given its policy of unified action, proactive attitude and strong socioeconomic support, the Sugar Agroindustry leads as a positive agent of change for integral development, boosting the progress of its members and the country.

One of the objectives of the Guatemala Sugar Agroindustry is to increase productivity through development and improvements in the field and in sugar refineries.



Mission

The Guatemala Sugar Agroindustry mission includes the following: to act in united manner to cultivate and process sugarcane to produce sugar, electricity, ethanol and other products; to undertake other activities to increase the value of the associated enterprises with a positive impact on the integrated development of the country; to innovate constantly improving competitive efficiency; to facilitate national and international commercialization of sugar; and to ensure sustainability while building trust responsibly.



THE GUATEMALA SUGAR AGROINDUSTRY AND THE SDG 16

The Guatemala Sugar Agroindustry has initiatives in place with the aim of promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for the sustainable development of Guatemala and for building effectible and inclusive institutions. These are some of the major objectives of SDG 16. Most Activities supporting these objectives are coordinated through the Foundation of Sugar of Guatemala (Fundazúcar).

Asazgua created Fundazúcar in 1990 as the social branch of the Guatemala Sugar Agroindustry for the development and implementation of programs and projects on health, education, development and the wellbeing of the population. The Foundation implements programs at the community level with a focus on women, youth, teachers, health workers, community leaders and municipal leaders who are all key actors for responsibly citizenship. A considerable number of people in municipalities of interest of the Sugar Agroindustry live in vulnerable communities exposed to poverty in most of its forms. The Social Strategy of the Guatemala Agroindustry emphasizes building human capital with an integrated focus that empowers people to implement changes towards the improvement of their quality of life and wellbeing.

The most important activities of the sustainable development strategy of the Sugar Agroindustry supporting the objectives of SDG 16 include: the Participatory Municipal Development program and the Better Communities Program for Local Development. As a result of the combination of these initiatives, the Sugar Agroindustry supports efforts to promote peace and inclusive societies in Guatemala particularly in the region of operation of the Sugar Agroindustry.

1. PARTICIPATORY MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



1.1. Participatory Municipal Development Program

Objectives and Description

This program, which began in 1997, facilitates planning processes for municipal integral development in a prioritized manner, promoting community organization, citizen, and institutional participation. Fundazúcar provides technical and administrative advice for the planning processes for the integral development of communities and municipalities.

This assistance is provided according to the Law of Urban and Rural Development Councils. This law established that one of the functions of the Community Development Councils is: “to formulate policies, plans, programs and development projects, based on the needs, problems and solutions of the communities, as prioritized by them, and make corresponding suggestions to the Municipal Development Council so that these can be incorporated into the Municipality’s policies, plans, programs and development projects.”

This program promotes planning processes for integral community and municipal development, to achieve the development of each of the municipalities that participates in the program. It strategically promotes civic participation and self-management, allowing to meet the basic needs of the populations of each of the Municipalities, with the endorsement of the corresponding Municipal Authority. Knowledge, dissemination and application of existing laws are essential particularly with respect to those related to local planning processes.

Related Targets

The Participatory Municipal Development Program supports the objectives of Target 16.7 on ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

Challenges

A major challenge is changing the strategy for assistance towards responsible citizen participation with planning that prioritizes the development of capacities to generate favorable conditions for the development of municipalities that are attractive for investment. It is important to promote responsible and organized participation to ensure inclusion, empowerment and ownership which are factors that support sustainable human development.

Lessons Learned

An important lesson learned from this initiative is that planning assistance is a key activity for the successful definition and implementation of municipal development programs. The combined effort of the public and private sectors is critical to achieve success through time and should be responsive to the continuous changes in the social and economic conditions of the communities and municipalities.

Results

The Sugar Agroindustry has been successful in the last decades supporting the planning processes for municipal integral development in a prioritized manner, promoting community organization, citizen, and institutional participation particularly in communities located in its area of operation in Guatemala. Many communities have benefitted from this support which fosters inclusive societies and sustainable and resilient human settlements. The program has supported the development of 42 municipalities with effective training and planning processes. More than 600 persons have been trained in productive areas that strengthen economic development.

The Sugar Agroindustry has been successful in the last decades supporting the planning processes for municipal integral development in a prioritized manner, promoting community organization, citizen, and institutional participation particularly in communities located in its area of operation in Guatemala.



2. BETTER COMMUNITIES FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



2.1. Better Communities for Local Development Program

Objectives and Description

The Better Communities for Local Development Program began in 1997. The objective of the program is to foster citizen participation, leadership and decision-making by community groups within the framework of the national institutional structure, through the formulation and execution of “Comprehensive Community Development Plans” (PDIC). These plans are administered and managed by the habitants of the community led by the Coordination Organs of the Development Community Councils which seek development of their communities with short, medium and long-term vision.

The Program is implemented by the different community actors who have been trained and informed to better benefit from state offers. The community actors include women, community leaders, youth, health workers and municipal employees. The behavioral change training for these actors is focused on the common objective of the PDIC.

The Program promotes responsible citizenship through active participation of people in the building of social support, strengthening of institutions and the harnessing of public services. These are indispensable elements for sustainable human development and for the building of attractive municipalities for investment and job generation.

The Program was designed to bring consultancy to the community members from the identification of their main needs to the development of a plan that allows the improvement of life-quality in their communities. The program is implemented in 143 communities. Annual operative plans (POA) are developed to follow the progress in the implementation of the PDIC and ensuring execution of priority projects.

In the Community Development Plans, projects are defined and prioritized by local representatives who are also involved in defining the timeframe to carry them out. Fundazúcar trains and provides technical assistance

to community members so that they can manage and execute these projects. Community representatives are educated on relevant laws, processes and other legal requirements.

Related Targets

The Better Communities for Local Development Program supports the objectives of Target 16.7 on ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

Challenges

A major challenge is ensuring the full participation of community representatives in all the steps of the process. Also, it is essential to ensure long-term attention, support and monitoring of this program given the importance of incorporating local knowledge in the decision-making process.

An important challenge is to create synergies between the community representatives (agents of change) and the state organizations that provide services to ensure a focus on mental and physical health of the communities. The objective is to transform the culture of reliance on public assistance to a culture of self-management and promotion of community participation through responsible citizenship that starts at home with maternal and paternal responsibility.

An additional challenge related to health is the need to modify the conduct of the population towards preventive health instead of curative health. By doing this, most medical services take place at the first level of attention of the Ministry of Health avoiding the saturation of the higher levels.

Lessons Learned

By focusing on the training of women as the agents of change a generational transformation can be achieved with a change of behavior that translates into

improvements on the quality of their lives, their families and their communities. Empowering women has allowed an increase in the participation of women in key positions of the coordination organs of the Development Community Councils.

Broadening and strengthening the planning process through the promotion of participation, leadership and decision-making by community groups is indeed necessary to ensure peaceful and inclusive societies that foster sustainable development of human settlements.

Responsible citizen participation is not the fastest and easiest path, but it is the path to sustainability and community commitment to achieve development. Breaking with the top-down development paradigm, development and public policies can be effective when implemented at the local level.

Results

The Sugar Agroindustry has been successful in the last decades supporting the formulation and implementation of Comprehensive Community Development Plans particularly in communities and human settlements located in its area of operation in Guatemala. Many communities have benefitted from this support which fosters peaceful and inclusive societies. A total of 421 Comprehensive Community Development Plans have been implemented with active participation of people from the communities especially those from the Pacific Lowlands region and the highlands.

The Guatemala Sugar Agroindustry plays an important role supporting general efforts to ensure a healthy life and to promote the wellbeing of all the people and of all ages. Through the Comprehensive Community Development Plans about \$27.5 million of public funds have been mobilized for the benefit of more than 534,200 persons prioritizing water and sanitation to ensure better health conditions.

INTERLINKAGES WITH OTHER SDGs



The activities of the Guatemala Sugar Agroindustry related to the objectives of SDG 16, on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, are greatly interlinked to activities related to SDG 10 (reducing inequalities), SDG 4 (education) and SDG 8 (economic growth). Many of the activities and efforts by Asazgua, Fundazúcar and other partners ultimately promote responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at the community level. Other strong interlinkages are with respect to poverty eradication (SDG 1) and partnerships (SDG17), given the important commitment of the Sugar Agroindustry for supporting effective policies and actions that promote prosperity and the well-being of the population in the region and based on the integrated approach with respect to partnerships in which all stakeholders are encouraged to be part of the relevant actions.

CONCLUSIONS



The Guatemala Sugar Agroindustry has a number of important activities promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development in Guatemala. Its Participatory Municipal Development Program and the Better Communities Program for Local Development represent actions that support responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at the community and municipality levels.

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