

PROVISION FOR POST PROJECT EVALUATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS  
DEMOCRACY FUND  
Contract NO.PD:C0110/10

UDF- GUA-10-405 Strengthening Democratic Participation of Maya Communities in  
Rural Guatemala

## Acknowledgments

The evaluation team would like to thank Brenda XOL and Ernesto TZI CHUB, as well as all the members of the Asociación Probienestar en Acción

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transmission capacity and coverage of Radio Comunitaria which in turn enabled to reach a wider audience.

The project efficiency was highly satisfactory. The transparent and results-oriented management style maximized the use of human and financial resources. SA experience in the region secured dynamic linking between the indigenous communities, social stakeholders, and municipalities targeted by the project. The technical teams and consultants displayed professionalism and commitment, which contributed to the project relevance and achievement of outcomes. In addition, the 3-month no cost extension made it possible to consolidate the newly created discussion spaces between ancestral and local authorities. Among other results, it gave birth to the Regional Council of the X-AJK People and upgraded the Radio Comunitaria capacity.

The project had a high impact. Some of its achievements are more visible, while others, though no less important, need more time to develop. most obvious impact lies in the official recognition of 20 indigenous communities out of 51 and in the effective empowerment of ancestral as conflicts managers among their communities. These structural changes also fostered the collaboration with local ,

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The project prioritized activities for **dealing with cases of violence against women** that had already occurred, reducing its chances to obtain a change in mentality. It is thus recommended to **prioritize a preventive approach**, providing young men and women with a space for activities and exchange around gender equity.

**Train women for political advocacy**, offering them training and tools to maximize the quality of their participation in the various Development Councils operating at the National, Departmental, Municipal and community levels (COCODEs, COMUDEs, CODEDEs, and CONADUR<sup>1</sup>).

**Improve procedures for the monitoring and review or adjustment of the strategies implemented.** SANK should include effective mechanisms in its institutional strategy to monitor the impact of its interventions and the succes(s)1128str4()-91(pa)3(r)-30y(i)5(t)-

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## II. Introduction and development context

The **(i) *The project and evaluation objectives***

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The evaluation of this project is part of the larger evaluation of UNDEF-funded projects from Rounds 2 to 7. Understanding of what constitutes a successful project which will in turn help UNDEF to develop future project strategies. Evaluations are also to assist stakeholders to determine whether projects have

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the State of Guatemala recognized its history of discrimination and racism against the indigenous people and committed to respecting the coll indigenous peoples.

These instruments are the legal foundations for indigenous peoples to exercise their rights as active citizens. However, to clarify and strengthen those rights, specific laws expressly recognizing them must be passed. Although several bills on indigenous peoples have been under review for more than 20 years, the last Congress only managed to advance in a first reading of the Indigenous Jurisdiction Act and the General Law on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In 2013,



This has been the case in the Municipalities of Chisec and Raxruhá in Alta Verapaz, where the population (largely ) has a history of conflicts over land ownership and recently around a construction project for hydroelectric power plants. It is in this context where the justice system lacks legitimacy; where the State fails to promote appropriate local development projects and to provide proper security for the population That APROBA SANK devised the

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### Activities

69 meetings in indigenous communities of Chisec and Raxruhá, co-organized by SANK and AQT;  
 24 monthly second-level training sessions for 10 community groups, Chisec;  
 Identification of topics based on current community problems;  
 299 ancestral authorities in the municipalities of Chisec and Raxruhá participate in meetings to strengthen indigenous communities;  
 18 meetings with representatives and 5 with women ancestral authorities  
 Three events to raise awareness among the COCODEs of Raxruhá;  
 46 PRECOMUDEs workshops to train COCODEs in Raxruhá;  
 Strengthening the participation of in COMUDE;  
 10 meetings (Cobán and Guatemala City) with the Secretariat of Agrarian Affairs, the Ministry of Culture, and Fontierras to provide legal assistance to indigenous communities in Chisec and Raxruhá;

A Regional Forum (2012);  
 An International Forum (2013);  
 Case follow-up, attended by ancestral authorities of the town center.  
 Coordination of the official justice bodies of the municipality;  
 Technical assistance and training for ancestral authorities;  
 Systematization of information on the 741 cases resolved (08. 2013 to 06.2014);  
 Printing and distribution of 1,200 copies of a study on legal pluralism;

Training of 28 community broadcasters (10 women and 18 men) at the School for Broadcasters;

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### Intended outcomes

(i) Increased effective participation of indigenous women and indigenous **communities' representatives** at the Municipal Development Councils in Chisec and Raxruhá, and other public planning and decision-making processes.

Increase participation in decision-making bodies;  
 Institutionalization of local bodies for representation;

(ii) Delivering an increased recognition of ancestral authorities (Yuwa' Ch'och) and indigenous justice systems by justice operators at the municipal level and by members of indigenous communities themselves.

Ancestral authorities and community COCODEs increase their knowledge about central and municipal government planning programs and their participation in the Municipal Development Councils;  
 Local entities and authorities of the official State recognize and respect the ancestral justice system of the ancestral authorities of the Municipality of Chisec;

### Project objective

Creating a more inclusive democracy in Guatemala by increasing the participation and recognition of indigenous women and traditional authorities of the Maya Communities in northern Alta Verapaz, Guatemala, in public policy decision-making processes led by local government and the administration of justice.

### Development objective

Contribution to strengthening recognition and democratic participation in Q'eqchi Indigenous People in the municipalities of Chisec and Raxruhá in Northern Alta Verapaz, in Guatemala

## IV. Evaluation findings

### (i) Relevance

The project operated in a post-conflict context presenting high needs for democracy, rule of law and dialogue enforcement. It was aligned with national law in favor of decentralization and in particular with three laws passed by the national congress in 2002: the General Decentralization Act, the amendment of the Municipal Code, and the Urban and Rural Development Council Act, the latter of which stipulates that the urban and rural development council system



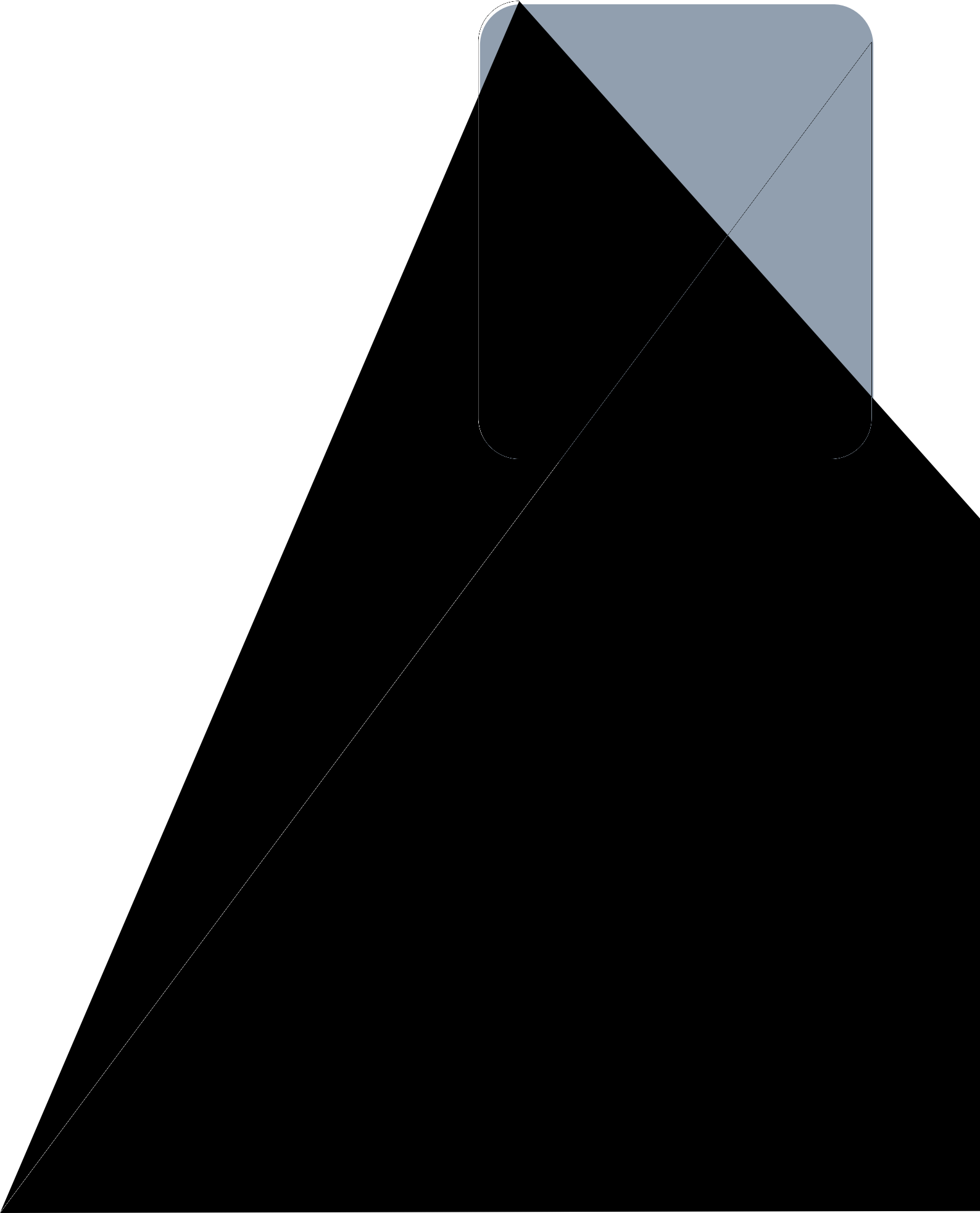
want to lose their women. When violence went looking for it; they got what they understanding that we, women, can offer ideas for change.  
Margarita Osorio, Representative of the Municipio of Chisec

The choice of targeted groups was relevant in particular the decision to dedicate particular attention to indigenous women and to their participation in community affairs. Prior to the project, with a quota of one woman only allowed to participate in these bodies. The project community meetings and discussions









monitoring is the responsibility of technical assistants, who oversee execution of the activities and have the closest relations with the beneficiary groups. In contrast, however, SANK does not appear to conduct monitoring of a more qualitative nature to study the effects and changes produced by each intervention, which would enable to review progress, and, obviously, achieve better results or change the work methodology.

animators and facilitators were highly competent, professional, and committed. The administrative team, responsible for financial aspects, provided efficient and transparent operations procedures. The project also worked with a team of

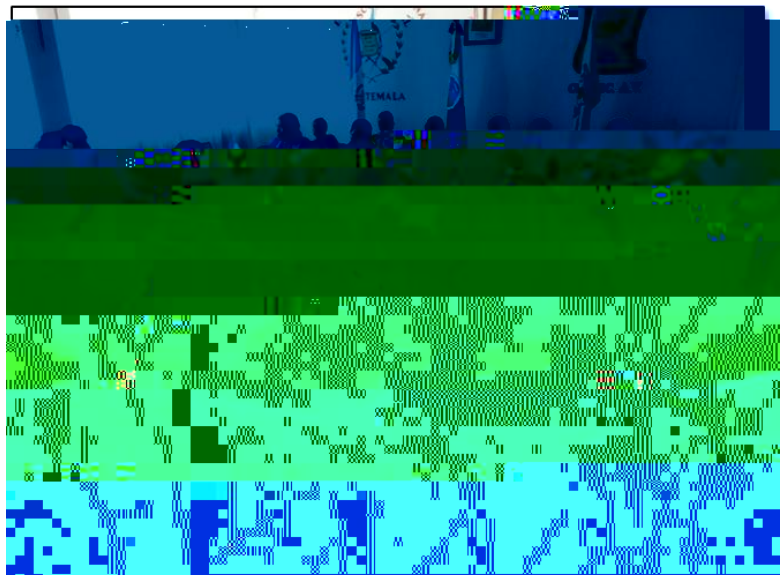
Strengthening group identity is necessary for exercising rights in

legal and political systems.  
Amílcar Pop, Deputy, Congress  
of the Republic

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**(iv) Impact**

The project had very tangible and visible effects on the beneficiary populations. Some of those effects were highly significant and therefore more tangible; others laid the foundations



Participation in the urban and rural development council system requires a systematic process that includes analysis of the local and national context and tools that will enable the representatives to submit and follow up on their proposals.  
Byron Rogelio Caal, COCODE facilitator

The women we have trained are being sought after by political parties to work in entities preparing for the local elections.  
Ernesto TZI CHUB, Director,  
APROBA SANK; Project

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gained the respect



for its interventions.

provide continuity

**(v) UNDEF value added**

The project promoted the recognition of indigenous women in decision-



## V. Conclusions

The evaluation team reached its conclusions and identified lessons learned through interviews and group meetings with the beneficiaries (both men and women), experts, and

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## ANNEXES

### Annex 1: Evaluation questions:

DAC criterion	Evaluation Question	Related sub -questions
Relevance	To what extent was the project, as designed and implemented, suited to context and needs at the beneficiary, local, and national levels?	<p>Were the objectives of the project in line with the needs and priorities for democratic development, given the context?</p> <p>Should another project strategy have been preferred rather than the one implemented to better reflect those needs, priorities, and context? Why?</p> <p>Were risks appropriately identified by the projects? How appropriate are/were the strategies developed to deal with identified risks? Was the project overly risk-averse?</p>
Effectiveness	To what extent was the project, as implemented, able to achieve objectives and goals?	<p>To what extent was the project implemented as envisaged by the project document? If not, why not?</p> <p>Were the project activities adequate to make progress towards the project objectives?</p> <p>What has the project achieved? Where it failed to meet the outputs identified in the project document, why was this?</p>
Efficiency	To what extent was there a reasonable relationship between resources expended and project impacts?	<p>Was there a reasonable relationship between project inputs and project outputs?</p> <p>Did institutional arrangements promote cost-effectiveness and accountability?</p> <p>Was the budget designed, and then implemented, in a way that enabled the project to meet its objectives?</p>
Impact	To what extent has the project put in place processes and procedures supporting the role of civil society in contributing to democratization, or to direct promotion of democracy?	<p>To what extent has/have the realization of the project objective(s) and project outcomes had an impact on the specific problem the project aimed to address?</p>

## Annex 2: Documents Reviewed

### *Project documents:*

- (i) PO Note - UNDEF;
  - (ii) Initial Project Document;
  - (iii)
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### Annex 3: Persons Interviewed

January 25 , 2015 <sup>12</sup>	
<i>Arrival, international consultant</i>	
Evaluation Team meeting	
Luisa María Aguilar	International Consultant
Lucia Xiloj	National Consultant

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Carmela Xol

Director, APROBA SANK

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## Annex 4 : Acronyms

AANMG	Asociación de Abogados y Notarios Mayas de Guatemala
APROBA SANK	Asociación Probienestar en Acción
AQT	
CDC	Community Development Council
COCODE	Consejo Comunitario de Desarrollo
COMUDE	Consejo Municipal de Desarrollo
CODEDES	Consejo Departamental de Desarrollo
CONADUR	Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano y Rural
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DDC	Departmental Development Council
EU	European Union
MDC	Municipal Development Council
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
OMM	Oficina Municipal de la Mujer
SANK	See APROBA SANK
UNDEF	The United Nations Democracy Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

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