

GUATEMALA: HOW WE SPENT OUR BILATERAL FUNDS IN FY 2012/13

The Bilateral Fund is part of the UK's financial assistance for projects in Guatemala. It allows us to fund projects that contribute to the delivery the [FCO's objectives](#), and helps us support our priorities to strengthen human rights; support justice and security sector reform; resolve and prevent conflict; incentivise commercial ties and corporate responsibility; and to work with the next generation of young leaders. For the FY 2012-13 the fund was £70,000 (about Q.850,000) and forms an important part of the UK government's renewed commitment to Latin America.

Last FY we supported these projects.

1. Guatemala: "Street Kids Direct" £5,000

This is a street outreach project that involved a bus acting as a mobile clinic, classroom and a safe place for young people to sit and talk away from the danger of street life. The bus circulated within suburban areas of so called "red zones" of Guatemala City.



The project implementer was Streets Kids Direct UK and its local partner organisation Fundación Ministerios Asociados Mi Arca.

2. Guatemala: "Children in Action" - £10,000

This project was a follow up to their previous ones that had successfully increased youth voter participation in Guatemalan elections. "Children in Action" is a leadership project for children to participate in parallel electoral processes (to national elections) as a way to improve and increase youth democratization. Project stakeholders included civil society, the private sector, and the Guatemalan Ministry of Education.



The project implementer was Infante Elections Foundation.

3. Guatemala: “Teach love not violence” £3,000

This project is the continuation of our support for campaigns against violent culture in Guatemala. It aimed to sensitize children and youth in public schools in high risk areas about violence and its consequences. The objective was to encourage young people, which are the majority in Guatemala, to talk more about the issue of domestic violence, to break the "taboo" that surrounds it and any idea that domestic violence is in anyway acceptable, to inspire a generational change in attitude against domestic violence, and ultimately to reduce levels of violence in Guatemala.



The project implementer was Jóvenes por Guatemala.

4. Guatemala: “Preventing violence campaign” - £6,000

This project’s aim was to teach and train populations about conflict resolution in areas where violence has been common place, for example in Quiche, Alta Verapaz, Ixcán, Quetzaltenango and Huehuetenango. Communities were told about the tools available (guidelines and legal protocols) to prevent and resolve conflict. The project implementer worked with government institutions, for example, the national police, the Attorney General’s Office, and local municipalities, to create and implement these guidelines, supported by a communication campaign.



The project implementer was Fundación Myrna Mack.

5. Guatemala: “Pathways to sustainability” - £6,000

The empowerment of Indigenous women was one of the objectives of this project that focused on democracy and team building in Panajachel, Atitlán. 20 representatives of Mayan women’s cooperative groups were trained to understand the concept of democracy and how it can be applied to every aspect of their lives. Through workshops they were encouraged and trained on business administration principles, promotion and production processes, democratic values, women’s rights, and conflict resolution. These representatives were also



trained to be mentors for other groups, especially for younger women, to give sustainability to the project.

The project implementer was Oxlajuj B'atz (Thirteen Threads)

6. Guatemala: "Street football" -£5,000

This project aimed to create a better public recreation and social space in Guatemala City's poorer urban neighbourhoods, which also suffered from high crime rates and violence, for children to be able to play sport instead of being on the streets and vulnerable to gangs. The implementer focused on "Futsala" a growing sport in Guatemala because it can be played in smaller spaces with little equipment. The expected outcomes of this project not only focused on better social cohesion, but also to promote health benefits of exercise and to deter drug and alcohol abuse.



The project implementer was Buró de Intervenciones Públicas – BIP

7. Guatemala: "Support to Guatemalan disabled athletes" - £406

We funded the Guatemalan disabled wheelchair athletes to be able to participate in a Central America tournament held in El Salvador. Disabled athletics in Guatemala still face a lack of support at a national level, with a lack of suitable training facilities and a lack of sponsorship to enable them to compete.



8. Guatemala: "Working with Guatemala on the United Nations Security Council"

The UK and Guatemala are partners on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for 2012/13. In this spirit we supported and facilitated the visit to London by Guatemala's Vice Foreign Minister, Carlos Raul Morales, and a MFA official, for talks with their UK counterparts on a range of UNSC issues.