

SUMMARY

Through God’s faithfulness and with your support, the Community Roots project is creating significant, lasting change for children, families, and communities in Guatemala.

Nearly 360,000 people have participated in activities since the project began in December 2016, including 24,530 people in the first half of FY22. While there are many accomplishments to celebrate, some highlights include:

Alternative education and skills training

- More than 460 men and women (including Alby, profiled on the next page) received skills trainings and technical certifications in carpentry, construction, beekeeping, macrame, and more. Following training, we work with participants to launch small businesses or connect them with internships and job opportunities.

Referral and support networks

- 254 at-risk children and youth took part in more than 575 therapy sessions made possible through the opening of 18 new comprehensive care clinics. Children are referred to the clinics via support networks that include local organizations, churches, and faith-based organizations. The networks help identify and provide follow-up for vulnerable youth in need of alternative education, technical vocational training, and psychosocial services.

Community violence prevention

- Held 111 “School for Parents” sessions focused on positive parenting techniques and helping parents support their children’s education.

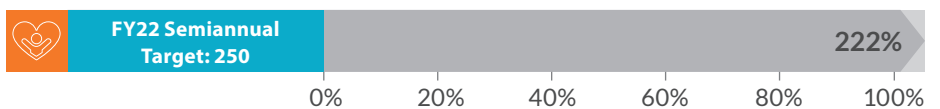


One way the Community Roots project strives to improve social and emotional well-being for youth is by providing positive, safe, no-cost activities during their free time.

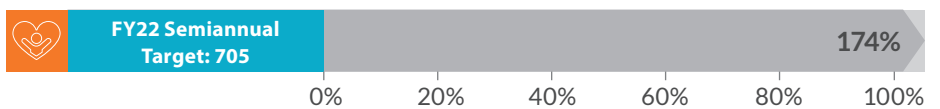
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PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

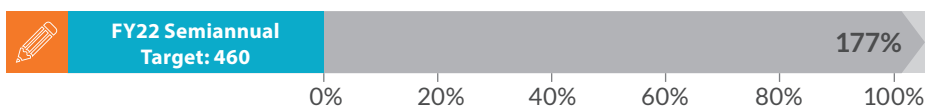
556 community-led activities were carried out to help prevent violence and migration



1,225 at-risk youth received services such as counseling, psychosocial support, and education



816 children and youth received support to attend school or vocational training



53 program participants obtained jobs or internships



- Identified 30 women leaders from 20 communities to participate in leadership training for Vital Voices, a global female empowerment initiative focused on violence and migration prevention for vulnerable and at-risk girls.
- Completed soccer field renovations and a mural in the community of Coatepeque. These and other refurbishment projects sparked the interest of community leaders in maintaining and recovering public

spaces as a way to foster peaceful community relations.

Communications activities with youth

- Rana Labs held a Digital Spokespersons training for 30 young men and women. The sessions covered a broad range of knowledge in the areas of radio communication, community journalism, and social media. Participants created graphics and audiovisual content about preventing violence and migration.



Alby, 21, is participating in a macramé course offered by a Community Roots partner organization. Through this vocational training program, women learn to produce and sell macramé cushions. The cushions are sold in Cemaco, a Guatemalan department store chain, with the potential to expand to Walmart in the future.

“Thanks to this course, I’ve increased my income, but the most important thing is that it made me see that I am capable of doing so many things to benefit myself, my family, and my community. I am very hopeful that orders will increase and our business will continue to grow.”

—Alby Gomez,
alternative education
participant, Quetzaltenango

KEY LEARNINGS

Since FY21, the Community Roots project has intentionally focused on expanding their work with Indigenous communities in order to reach more people and have a broader impact in Guatemala. A study is underway to help project staff integrate the unique cultural, social, and political backgrounds of Indigenous peoples into community violence prevention.

Project staff recently met with local authorities in the communities of Chichicastenango, Nahualá, and Totonicapán to explain the Community Roots project goals in their native languages and begin developing violence- and unsafe migration-prevention plans. A key takeaway from those meetings was to respect the different timelines, interests, and concerns of each community.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

In the last six months of FY22, the Community Roots project will:

- Continue working with communities to implement updated violence- and unsafe migration-prevention plans as well as school violence-prevention plans
- Launch a second phase of training for female leaders in the Vital Voices initiative
- Identify and meet with companies offering potential job opportunities to program participants

THANK YOU

Thank you for joining with us in the Kingdom work of protecting children in Guatemala. Your investment is helping communities reduce violence, increase economic opportunities, and give young people hope for the future.



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