“Building a Guatemala that is more prosperous, safer, inclusive, transparent and with more solidarity.”
“We believe in a Guatemala that is more prosperous, safer, inclusive, transparent and with more solidarity.”
VIVE TU SABOR FAVORITO COMO NUNCA ANTES

¡VISÍTANOS EN CC CONDADO SANTA AMÉLIA Y SANKRIS MALL!

Polo CAMPERO Más tuyo que nunca
Guatemala’s Sugar Association, since 1992, has built alliances with various organizations, planting the seed that grew into the Southern Coast’s Tech Park. Its classrooms and laboratories have opened their doors and held within thousands of students and professionals representing Guatemala’s ever-growing human capital.
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What is Mejoremos Guate?

Mejoremos Guate is an initiative promoted by a group of entrepreneurs who joined efforts and resources to develop an advocacy strategy in public policies for the comprehensive development of the country. It is an open and inclusive citizens’ proposal to promote dialogue and achieve a plan for the country that is consensual with other parties and segments. The initiative is promoted by a united entrepreneurial sector and incorporates technical projects and initiatives, leading the way to a country that has more solidarity, is more prosperous, safer, inclusive, and transparent.

A BETTER GUATEMALA

A GUATEMALA THAT IS MORE PROSPEROUS

More employment, greater investment and income

A GUATEMALA THAT HAS MORE SOLIDARITY

More and better social investment during a person’s living cycle

A GUATEMALA THAT IS SAFER

More safety and justice to live with tranquility and peace

Strengthening institutions for a greater development
The magazine you hold in your hands is an analysis which intends to describe the reality through a positive approach over concrete actions and joint efforts to reduce poverty in the country. After more than a year of gathering every Tuesday, the Intercultural Affairs Commission has been working on how to improve Guatemala with a social and cultural diversity approach, which is already presenting positive results.

Just the fact of generating a common ground of understanding on the different visions on how to achieve an inclusive economic and social development of populations with limited opportunities and trust, is already an important step. However, as we will see in this edition of Mejoremos Guate, the efforts made are outlined in various areas of the ongoing development strategy which is aiming to reduce poverty to 35% by 2021.

On the subject of a more prosperous Guatemala, we study an example on the Sustainable Communities as central focus of concrete projects working from the local level. On a Guatemala with more solidarity we will meet with the reality of chronic malnutrition in rural communities with high rates of indigenous population and how the improvement of the health system helps to fight chronic malnutrition, especially by implementing the 1,000 Day Window, respecting their ancestral customs, but educating on the benefits and importance of interventions such as breastfeeding. On a Safer Guatemala we will present a summary of the improvements and challenges of the National Civil Police and how to generate trust toward the authorities.

The main focus of this magazine’s edition is aimed at the reality of a diverse Guatemala and the importance of monitoring the National Human Development Agreement, specifically to reduce chronic malnutrition, strengthen the quality of education and to improve technical training to strengthen the human capital and income generation through self-employment and entrepreneurship, especially in municipalities most in need. In the section on how to have a more diverse Guatemala and the proposal, they are both developed from the point of view of members of the indigenous leadership of the country who participate in the Intercultural Affairs Commission, offering their opinions to promote development.

We hope that this edition will motivate you to work with us in the pursue of better dialogue alternatives and, as stated in the follow-up meeting to the National Human Development Agreement, the road to reduce poverty is already traced, and it is only a matter of giving the right monitoring and to take actions to comply with the agreed commitments, no matter the language we speak or the ethnic group we belong. We all want a better Guatemala.
YOU DO NOT FORGET WHERE YOU COME FROM

BECAUSE WE WERE BORN IN THE SAME PLACE, WE SHARE YOUR EMOTIONS.
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WE SHOULD NOT ONLY SEE THE PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS OF GUATEMALA FROM 10,000 METERS HIGH. WE NEED TO GENERATE HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS OF JOBS, TRAIN HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF YOUNG BOYS AND GIRLS TO INCREASE THEIR EMPLOYABILITY, RESCUE MILLIONS OF CHILDREN FROM CHRONIC MALNUTRITION AND GUARANTEE THAT CHILDREN COMPLY WITH THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS IN THEIR ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE NOT LEFT BEHIND IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY.
When visiting a community and speaking in person with a child, a youngster, a mother, a grandmother, a farmer, a priest, a teacher – when you step outside the cold numbers and begin to think about stories of real people, you realize that, in order to fix the country’s big problems you first need to solve the little problems of each community, one by one.

A community is not just another number in a national policy; it is a group of babies, children, youngsters, adults and elderly people interacting daily amongst each other, each with dreams, aspirations, limitations, fears and hopes. The most common problems they face are: adults who wish to find a better way to earn a living, young people who want to study and make a living later in life; children who want to eat well and be educated. However, the adults have no technical training to search for alternative ways to make money, the youngsters do not have enough money to go to school and the children do not have the appropriate living conditions to achieve their aspirations.

Considering that the future and development of a community involves all stages of life and the perspective of all its different members, Mejoremos Guate is leading an initiative to help communities define and execute a growth strategy, benefitting pregnant women as well as elderly people, to achieve comprehensive change and to make opportunities available for everyone.

This method will mainly focus on the emerging opportunities that these communities may benefit from, based on the capabilities and competitive advantages they possess, or that may be subject, to be developed. For example, a situation may arise where a community is located in a very favorable geographical position to produce value-added products or that another one has technical potential to generate high-return services. The intention is to search for the best growth platform, which benefits each community and helps them build, design and execute high-impact projects within that strategy.

The process consists in defining, in a collaborative way, trends to which a community has to pay particular attention to in order to find niche markets in which the community may have some competitive advantage. By specifying which opportunities they should seize, business ventures would be created focusing on initiatives that have a higher impact and higher viability. Afterwards, execution plans are developed and support is sought to execute such plans.

These strategies would provide an easier way to execute investment projects which would actually generate more income for the families, education projects that would increase employability and nutrition projects that would be sustainable and that could improve life conditions for people. Launching this initiative, we are aiming to eradicate poverty and the difficulties these communities face to eventually eradicate poverty at a national level, one community at a time.
Chronic Malnutrition in children negatively and significantly impacts the life of any human being in their first 1,000 days of life, that is, from the start of a woman’s pregnancy until her child’s 2nd birthday. During this period, human beings must consume the appropriate nutritional requirements and in the necessary quantities, so that they can reach their full genetic potential. This must be accompanied by the appropriate stimulation to activate a child’s psycho neuromotor capabilities. The aforementioned conditions are essential in the life of any human being, otherwise, the effects of chronic malnutrition are irreversible and the opportunities for development will be reduced over the life-cycle.

According to the National Statistics Institute (INE, in Spanish), in Guatemala there are approximately 15 million people, distributed into 4 main ethnic groups: Maya, Garifuna, Xinca and Ladino, among these, the indigenous people represent 43% of the total population. According to the ENSMI (2008/2009)\(^1\), in Guatemala nearly 49.8% of children under the age of 5 years suffer from chronic malnutrition. This scourge is more critical for children of indigenous descent living in rural areas of the country, with an indicator of chronic malnutrition of 65.9% compared to 36.2% of non-indigenous children.

In terms of inclusion of Indigenous Populations, there are legal mandates and national policies included in the Political Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala\(^2\) and on this legal basis, the 4 ethnic groups must be given equal representation, weight and status in the State, guaranteeing the practice of democratic values based on freedom, equality, participation and solidarity, and ensuring a pluralistic State\(^3\). There are also different laws issued by the Legislative Body, leading to the inclusion of Indigenous People.

From this wide-ranging legal framework on inclusion of Indigenous Peoples, it seems that the scope of participation is equal; however, the actual situation is very different. Chronic malnutrition rates among indigenous children under the age of 5 are nearly double compared with non-indigenous children. From therein, from the beginning of their lives, this population is struggling due to the lack, scarce or poor quality services provided by the State (health, education, water and sanitation, infrastructure, and so on). This article is not written to criticize the work of any of the different governments, but to demand that priority needs to be given to this historically relegated population, without overlooking that whatever action is taken, has to respect the conception of life (Cosmovision) of the Indigenous People and must have cultural relevance, in order to accelerate development.

Nowadays, there are initiatives moving forward to reclaim a comprehensive attention and participation of Indigenous People. The current Government (2012-2016) has prioritized in their National Agenda the fight against chronic malnutrition in children and inclusion of indigenous peoples in Guatemala.

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\(^1\) V Encuesta Nacional de Salud Materno Infantil 2008/2009 - National Survey on Health of Mothers and Children


malnutrition in children and hunger (mainly in indigenous populations). This strategy is known as the Zero-Hunger Pact, and it agglutinates Governmental Institutions, International Cooperation, the Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations to jointly implement actions to neutralize such scourge. This strategy is driven by the National Council of SAN (Consejo Nacional de SAN) and the Food and Nutrition Security Secretariat (Secretaría de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional) SESAN (Secretaría de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional SESAN), endorsed by the SAN National System Law. Actions are being implemented in 166 municipalities that were prioritized, due to their high prevalence of chronic malnutrition in their population.

Joining efforts with the Government, the Private Sector, CACIF and FUNDESA are leading the Alliance for Nutrition, which is a group of businesses and national civil organizations who have the common mission to advocate for all State policies and all interventions associated with Food and Nutrition Security (SAN, in Spanish), to encourage the implementation of actions of the 1,000 Days Window to reduce chronic malnutrition.

The task at hand is hard and it will be difficult to resolve all the problems. The approach must be comprehensive and take into account the multi-causality of chronic malnutrition, with cultural and intercultural relevance, since each community has its own socio-economic and cultural dynamics. It is important that all intervention processes to fight chronic malnutrition consider the participation of the inhabitants of each community to ensure their ownership and empowerment through the process and to further generate positive capabilities that allow them to identify relevant alternatives to reduce chronic malnutrition.

There are several successful experiences in our country that have left us with important lessons and good practices; however, these have not been systemized and their achievements and impacts are unknown. It is important to value the efforts previously made and the ones currently happening in order for them to be replicated, as it is the case of MSPAS and the attention practices during childbirth for women with cultural relevance (of 45 hospitals at a national level, 29% are already doing this). Acknowledging traditional midwives who attend 48.3% of childbirths at homes, and food security and family nutrition practices through cropping native plants rich in nutrients may also help strengthen the inclusion of Indigenous Populations and their participation in addressing the problem.
The National Civil Police is in charge of protecting lives, physical integrity, people's security and their property, the free exercise of rights and freedoms of the individual, as well as to prevent, investigate and combat crime, and maintain public order. It is an administrative entity, subordinated under Governmental authority, in charge of preventive but not repressive functions, unless while acting in compliance with an investigation activity, to reestablish the transgressed legal order, or to avoid criminal acts that damage Guatemalan society.

In 1996, the Agreement on the Strengthening of Civilian Power and on the Role of the Armed Forces in a Democratic Society was signed as part of the Peace Accords. It stated ideas identified as the basis for restructuring the Guatemalan National Police and the Guardia de Hacienda and transform them into the National Civil Police, through the Decree 11-97 of the National Civil Police Law.
This is the legal framework, but it is important to visualize the population’s perception of the police. According to the project *Public Opinion in Latin America* (Opinión Pública en América Latina) – in 2012, the National Civil Police (PNC, in Spanish) was ranked last in acceptance among 18 evaluated institutions. This extremely low level of trust is primarily explained due to the inefficiency, high corruption and the involvement of police agents and police authorities in severe crimes, as well as the media’s impact.

Nevertheless, in a survey made by Prodatos and published in a local newspaper, it is mentioned that in January of 2014, 50% of the population believed that the PNC was doing a good job, which represents an improvement of 9 points, with reference to the previous survey. Below are the key outcomes carried out by the PNC:

**Elaboration of Police Doctrine**

On June 12 of 2012, a general order was issued to approve the work done by an appointed commission that had compiled and written the contents of the PNC Institutional Doctrine, which was later ordered to be reproduced, published and complied with. This effort was facilitated by CIEN with the support of Mejoremos Guate. However, even though it was presented before the President of the Republic and workshops were conducted to middle-ranking PNC officers, it was not massively disseminated within the institution.

**Improvement of the Human Resource**

In 2011, CIEN estimated that there are 34 police elements for every 10,000 inhabitants in Mexico, Colombia and Peru, and 25 police elements for every 10,000 inhabitants in Central American countries, a region with similar crime indicators as our country. However, the indicator for Guatemala was of 16.4 police elements for every 10,000 inhabitants, below the regional average.

Due to this, CIEN recommended that within a 10 year period the rate should be increased to 34 police elements for every 10,000 inhabitants. Over the past two years, two PNC Academies have been opened in Huehuetenango and Santa Rosa, and there are plans to open a new center in Baja Verapaz this year. For the end of 2013, according to the Annual Report of the Ministry of the Interior (MINGOB, in Spanish), the number of police elements was 29,300, which represents a rate of 19 police elements for every 10,000 inhabitants. The MINGOB is aiming that at the end of 2015 the number of police elements will be increased to 35,000, for a rate of 21.6 agents for every 10,000 inhabitants (See graph I). However, it is worth mentioning that through public media, the Ministry of Finance recommended not to hire additional agents, based on the policy of extreme government expenditure containment, which is still pending to be resolved.

Despite of the significant increase reached in recruitment, the poor-quality of service has not been adequately dealt with, mainly due to the deficient initial training for agents. There were minor improvements on the curriculum and initial training, but they have fallen short to effectively combat crime. The training period is too short (6 months) and to train agents in service is an inefficient challenge in terms of results, without mentioning that a clear training policy for agents in service is inexistent. In 2012 the PNC Officers School was created from which, after completing a one-year program, two classes have graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Police Sciences.

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1. Decree number 11.97 of the Congress of the Republic.
Promotions granted within the police force continue to be given under the current procedure, thus, it can be assumed that no specific regulations have been developed.

STRENGTHENING OF THE GENERAL INSPECTORATE

One of the most significant weaknesses of the institution is internal control. During this administration, it has been strengthened, due to some improvements in the organization in charge, the General Inspectorate. However, it is pending to implement important tools in order to improve its operations. Hopefully, the increase in number of agents is done jointly with the inspection, because on the contrary, it could negatively affect the monitoring power and controls of the institution, without any relative progress in the strengthening of the Inspectorate.

IMPROVEMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE

There is no knowledge of substantial infrastructure improvements on the PNC in the last years; A challenge is property ownership of police stations. According to a study, more than 40% are not State-owned.
Conclusions and Recommendations

There are low levels of trust from the public towards the PNC, hindering the work of police agents. A broad dissemination and internalization of the Institutional Doctrine is recommended, as well as a systematic program to monitor practices.

With respect to the Human Resource, there were improvements due to the opening of two PNC Academies (which supports the regionalization strategy); also the Officers School is a beginning to train agents in service, which could lead to promotions. It is recommended to improve the curriculum as well as the instruction and formation of values in Police Academy centers, in order to strengthen careers inside the PNC. The number of police agents has increased, but this must be accompanied by a greater monitoring capacity. It is also necessary to substantially improve installed capacity, technical and scientific criteria to be admitted into the PNC Academy, as well as reinforcing procedures to validate information provided by potential candidates during the admission process, in order to recruit the best prospects.

Additionally, for police agents in service, it is important to implement mechanisms to evaluate performance and incentives to acknowledge merit of distinguished agents. The political decisions of granting generalized salary increases, compensations and other benefits, does not contribute to dignify the public servant, on the contrary, it demerits the service vocation. Increasing monitoring systems, parallel to the recruitment process of agents is key to guarantee good performance. The Inspectorate must continue to be strengthened as well as support to the institutional career.

There is no knowledge on substantial infrastructure improvements on the PNC. Therefore, it is recommended to immediately design an investment proposal for a 10 year plan to improve current infrastructure and for future investments.
During ENADE 2013, meetings with representatives of different indigenous cultures such as Maya, Garifuna and Xinca, as well as representatives from all social sectors were held. Politicians, academics, government officials, Indigenous Authorities and entrepreneurs also attended these meetings. The purpose was to assess the progress made in the last years and to generate an open dialogue among sectors. The outcomes were very positive, since it was possible to exchange experiences, perspectives and agree on possible joint actions to support a national agreement for the construction of a better country.

The group which takes part in the Intercultural Affairs Commission is very representative. Since its creation it has been received very positively. This is a unique proposal where entrepreneurs and indigenous leaders meet and have discussions, in order to acquire a better understanding for both parties. It is a space to leave aside all prejudice and stereotypes and focus on the strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities that all sectors and cultures face and work together for the betterment of Guatemala.

In the dialogue process of the Intercultural Affairs Commission there is mutual respect and observance to foster fluent dialogue. Members of the commission assume the commitment to learn and respect codes of conduct in order to appropriately respect differences, looking for consensus in opinions and decisions. Although members are part of different organizations and institutions, their participation in this commission is in personal capacity.

After six months of weekly meetings, the members of the Commission have agreed that they have rediscovered the country through new socio-cultural relations, experiences and traditions of a living Maya Culture and even though this interaction has been happening for only a short period of time,
there has been significant mutual learning. One of the participants stated in one of the meetings that if this type of dialogue had taken place before, conflicts could have been prevented and our country would be very different today.

From its creation, the Commission has received visits from several political, academic and public leaders, as well as representatives from international cooperation, indigenous municipal authorities and community radios, to share their perspectives, visions and initiatives to achieve a better country. This commission has allowed the necessary space to discuss past experiences, share observations and issue recommendations for the future.

The work agenda for the Intercultural Affairs Commission includes subjects such as Indigenous Institutional Rights, Indigenous State Institutions, and a close relationship with Indigenous municipalities from various communities. Discussion topics include social conflict as well as other successful alternatives for conflict resolution. Additionally, other subjects, such as corporate social responsibility in rural communities, natural medicine, state medicine and alternative radio communications in local languages have been analyzed. We have also had the privilege of speaking with James Anaya, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, about socio-economic issues and other initiatives for human development in regions where there is little State presence. The Commission has also made field visits to observe different productivity projects and business ventures headed by women in rural areas, as well as successful experiences on consultations and dialogues, among others. All of this has been done respecting cultural relevance and the principles and values of Mayan Cosmovision.

Current subjects included in the Intercultural Commission’s agenda for analysis and actions are:

1. Indigenous institutional rights in the structure of a Republican State
2. Indigenous municipalities and strategic alliances
3. Compiling a manual of best practices of private investments in indigenous territories
4. Preparing an observance code for private investment in rural areas
5. Propose alternative actions and monitor 11 law initiatives related to indigenous people, presented to the Legislative Body
6. Support and promote the commitments of the National Human Development Agreement signed during ENADE 2013
7. Recommend public and private investment policies with cultural inclusion

During the process of an open dialogue between members of the Intercultural Affairs Commission, there have been more coincidences than differences and it is a fact that all sectors experience the same difficulties, the same challenges and visions, although with slight differences; we all want a better Guatemala, more prosperous and in peace, to leave as a legacy for present and future generations.

Therefore, in this new era, the new B’aktun, the era for reconciliation and knowledge, as destined by our ancestors, there are suitable conditions for us to work together without divisions and to embrace new members and sectors from other linguistic regions of the country to germinate a new perspective and a new country. Let us be prepared for the new B’aktun on the road to a new and peaceful era of development, reengaging with our past. With equal opportunities among Guatemalans, without any distinction due to race, religion, social condition, cultural and linguistic characteristics, we are drawing the road to the bicentenary. Let’s Improve Guate!

“Interculturality is the road that will lead us to a comprehensive urban and rural development”
Guatemala is one of the countries with the highest inequality rates in Latin America. These results are presented in the Human Development Report and are evident in poverty, social exclusion, high-levels of corruption in all areas and the absence of accountability, which difficults the possibility to generate opportunities for inclusion and equality.

To speak about citizens’ participation in a country submerged in a culture of fear seems utopic. However, the National Integrity Network through the Citizen Observatory Network, has succeeded in identifying people in various parts of the country who dedicate their time tackling these problems, establishing mechanisms that allow joint efforts among Government Institutions and Civil Society, building alternatives.
to solve problems and allowing to democratize municipal participation spaces, incorporating different visions and building social channels.

Citizen participation, in simple terms, is the process by which citizens, directly or by means of associations, advocate in certain Governmental processes that disseminate or orient public policies.

In this regard, it is important to deliberate on experiences obtained by promoting citizen participation as a new paradigm that seeks to contribute to the democratic function. We should therefore distinguish the different areas of advocacy inside Governmental activity. Some of these advocacy areas are focused on reducing inclusion gaps and therefore invite different social actors to play a leading role for comprehensive human development.

One of the most important aspects of citizen participation has a social aspect, where any citizen, group or organized community has the right to promote public policies to establish better mechanisms for social audits and monitoring in areas such as education, health and municipality management.

In this regard, it is essential to highlight that Visible Guatemala has become an alternative mean of information, because knowledge is power and transparency is the remedy for the darkness which underlays corruption and abuse. Democracy is based on informed citizens, and broad access to information will allow them to participate fully and actively in public life, to collaborate in determining government expenditure priorities, to look for equitable access to justice and demand accountability from public servants.

A new challenge to promote inclusion consists on socializing and informing the majority of citizens, who live in rural areas of the country, the importance of elections made through the Nominating Commissions, from 2009 to date. Visible Guatemala opens a window of opportunity for social audits in the Nominating Commissions and in Congress; to make sure that the most competent, suitable and honorable professionals are the counterweight for the Executive and Legislative Bodies, through their impartial actions.

Another aspect of citizen participation that is currently being developed by Visible Guatemala is the association of citizens and organized groups in the election processes for Magistrates and Judges, events which are relevant for the exercise of democracy. Times have changed, and thus there is greater public awareness on the corrosive effects of corruption. Public access to Government information allows citizens to better understand their own role and decisions made on their behalf. Well informed citizens will be able to demand accountability from their Government policies and thus, choose their future leaders effectively.

"Knowledge is power, and transparency is the remedy for the darkness which underlay corruption and abuse"
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Guatemala’s reality is multiracial, where different development visions converge while interacting amongst each other to construct a society capable of providing better living conditions for all. Beyond the individual positions on the moral and philosophical implications between man and deity, man and conscience, man and man and man and environment, there is a certain degree of consensus on aspects that must be addressed by the different social actors to promote a comprehensive development of the individual and its immediate surroundings.

To make the commitment viable with respect and protection of human rights, a major boost must be given to the compilation, analysis and dissemination of information. A solid investment for comprehensive human development along one’s life cycle implies the need to know the status on health services, the progress on changing habits to prevent chronic malnutrition and a historical perspective to contrast with; how the formal, informal and alternative schemes of education enrich the minds of children and young people, giving them knowledge and useful capabilities for life.

Similarly, social investment efforts should be oriented to provide citizens freedom from violence, and time and space for social interaction and recreation. However, compliance of these basic rights cannot be guaranteed if a series of indicators are not developed to correctly assess the different national realities. The most valuable information one can obtain is the progress of an individual’s potential through increasing access to opportunities, which implies fighting discrimination and inequalities, and the exclusion of basic social services for the development of a healthy, prosperous and peaceful environment.
Only through reducing the access gap to basic services and at the same time, ruling for a policy framework that is universally applicable, would results be visible in the process of building a Guatemala that is **more prosperous, safer, inclusive transparent and with more solidarity**.

### What is the socio-economic profile of Guatemala?

Understanding the diverse reality we all are part of is the starting point to identifying the appropriate strategies to be implemented and the actions to follow. Describing the socioeconomic factors, which greatly explain development in the country, comes with the responsibility of disaggregating the analysis sufficiently enough to where communities can identify existing differences that lead to a different approximation of the particular context of each territory.

The administrative institution closest to the reality of each community is the municipality, which is mandated to execute public policy with the support of the Municipal Council and the National System of Urban and Rural Development Councils. Thus, information will be presented at this level of disaggregation, using the available, up to date data, which varies depending on the source.

In addition, it is important to highlight the core objective of this publication, which is to demonstrate the reality of Guatemala from an indigenous perspective, emphasizing variations that may occur in each variable based on the number of indigenous people present in each municipality. For this document, municipalities have been divided according to the proportion of the population in each municipality that consider themselves indigenous, using the Population Census, the Populations Projections and the National Survey on Life Conditions of the National Statistics Institute as a reference.

### Guatemala in numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification: % of the population =</th>
<th>Absolute Majority 80% or more</th>
<th>Relative Majority 50% to 80%</th>
<th>Relative Minority 30% to 50%</th>
<th>Absolute Minority 0% to 30%</th>
<th>National Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of municipalities</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>333*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total population in the municipality</td>
<td>5,059,959</td>
<td>1,428,806</td>
<td>781,241</td>
<td>8,168,378</td>
<td>15,438,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous population in the municipality</td>
<td>4,704,579</td>
<td>936,912</td>
<td>321,926</td>
<td>683,656</td>
<td>6,647,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Indigenous population (average)</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Information available for only 333 of 338 municipalities.
The previous table aims to show that one cannot be restrictive when claiming that a territory does or does not have an indigenous population. The existing diversity in Guatemala and its confluent coexisting social schemes reflect different proportionality of indigenous populations living in each municipality (due to data availability, the analysis is limited to only 333 municipalities). Currently, 43.1% of the population living in Guatemala consider themselves indigenous, being an absolute majority in 124 municipalities and an absolute minority in 153 municipalities, with varying figures in the other 46 municipalities.

Having said this and using the four pillars that constitute the poverty reduction proposal of Mejoremos Guate, the following sections examine the available information for each and every monitored indicator; as part of the proposal to generate greater levels of development in Guatemala.

A more Prosperous Guatemala

The key indicator from which all of this analysis derives from is the overall existing extreme and general poverty rate in each municipality. This indicator refers to the minimum amount of income that an individual needs to acquire goods and services that guarantee a sustainable and dignified life for them and their closest family circle.

The importance of starting the analysis with this indicator is the magnitude of actions that will be necessary to reach the goal of reducing the amount of people living under the poverty line to only 35% by the year 2021. Therefore, this indicator may be compared to the information generated by the United Nations Development Program UNDP on the GDP per capita in each municipality (the reference used is the Income Indicator which is part of the Human Development Index at a municipal level, generated by UNDP in 2002, adjusted to the economic and demographic growth registered from that year through 2012).
Improving economic conditions of a municipality is a task that implies a direct effort to improve conditions of human development of the population during their life cycle. A reduction in the poverty rate is reached only through increases in production and the family income; however, the better use of the capabilities and potentialities of every Guatemalan is the base to achieve this objective.

Two particular conditions overwhelmingly affect human development of Guatemalans; chronic malnutrition and a low quality formal education system. The lack of appropriate attention to pregnant mothers and their babies in their first two years of life cause a reduction in development of physical and mental capabilities, which are irreversible conditions during adulthood. Similarly, low quality education, from elementary school throughout high-school prevents children and young adults from developing the right tools to be able to work in a productive manner and on a competitive global scale.

Lastly, recognizing every family’s reality; a lack of prioritization, coordination, and continuity of social investment is one side of the problem that tends to be left in second place in most analysis. It is not only necessary to increase the amount of available resources to improve social conditions for Guatemalans, but these resources must be oriented towards cost-effective initiatives in territories that present the greatest challenges.

The following chart shows some figures on Chronic Malnutrition, the quality of the public education system and the amount spent on social investment per inhabitant (budget executed by the Central Government in 2013 for education and health sectors).

### Guatemala — a more Solidary country:

Improving economic conditions of a municipality is a task that implies a direct effort to improve conditions of human development of the population during their life cycle. A reduction in the poverty rate is reached only through increases in production and the family income; however, the better use of the capabilities and potentialities of every Guatemalan is the base to achieve this objective.

The highest poverty rates and the lowest income per capita are registered in municipalities were indigenous population represent an absolute majority (more than 80% of the population). Development plans, as well as social investment must prioritize these territories, where challenges are higher in comparison to the rest of the country.
The above table shows a higher amount of resources prioritized towards municipalities where the indigenous population is an absolute majority. Additionally, higher rates of Chronic Malnutrition are present in municipalities where an indigenous population is the absolute majority. Lastly, the lowest levels of Educational Progress (an average among the coverage rates in kindergarten, elementary school and junior high-school and the completion rate of 6th and 9th grades) are in municipalities with an absolute majority of indigenous people, coincidentally where results of evaluations for high-school students in Language and Mathematics in 2013 show the lowest proportion of students with a minimum level of achievement.

A Safer Guatemala

The third component of Mejoramos Guate’s proposal includes security as one of the minimum conditions needed by a society for the Rule of Law to prevail and for a peaceful coexistence among its citizens. Every effort to improve the economic and social conditions of Guatemala will be diminished if the State fails to guarantee life and property for all citizens.

There are different variables that must be included in the analysis; however, the scarce availability of information restricts data to only the Homicide Rate for every 100,000 inhabitants. Besides including this information, the analysis may be improved by including a specific reference to the least safe municipalities (100 municipalities with the highest homicide rates) and the safest municipalities (100 municipalities with the lowest homicide rates).

The results are shown as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification: % of the population =</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absolute Majority 80% or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative Majority 50% to 80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative Minority 30% to 50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absolute Minority 0% to 30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 least safe municipalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 safest municipalities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The first finding that should capture one’s attention is that the highest homicide rates occur in municipalities where an indigenous population is the absolute minority, and the opposite happens in municipalities where an indigenous population is the absolute majority. Similarly, when disaggregating the data on the 100 least safe municipalities, 88 of them are municipalities where an indigenous population is the absolute minority. Lastly, from the 100 safest municipalities, 74 of them have an indigenous population as an absolute majority and only 14 of them have an indigenous population as an absolute minority.

A more transparent Guatemala

There are different approaches to analyze transparency at a municipal level, taking into consideration timings on available information. In this country, it is complicated to get information that assesses municipal administrations and at the same time includes different indicators on compliance of transparency standards. Nevertheless, it is possible to make a brief approach at analyzing the problem, thanks to the electronic government tools that the country has.

With the cooperation of Transparency Platforms (for example, Open Wolf) administered by the Presidential Commission of Transparency and Electronic Government, 203 municipalities show a registry of complaints received on transparency since 2011 and are up to date (130 municipalities are not part of this platform). This complaint registry at a municipal level does not necessarily imply less transparency, but that information goes hand in hand with the disposition of the population to follow up on the administration of each municipality. A greater number of complaints does not imply the ascertainment of facts, but it does give a broad perspective of the follow up given by the Government to active citizen participation in search of institutional strengthening.

The registered complaints in this platform are shown as follows, describing the number of municipalities that are not part of the platform, the municipalities that are part of it but have not received any complaints and the number of complaints registered by municipality (average).
The objective of the figures shown here is to look deeper into the available information with the highest level of disaggregation possible, cross-referencing the presence of indigenous populations in the different territories of the country. However, independent of the relationship between a specific variable and the presence of an indigenous population in each municipality, from this point forward the discussion must be oriented on how to generate development plans that respond to the reality of each territory, understanding the different contexts under which interventions will take place.

Faced with this reality, it is not possible to overlook the absence of updated information at a more detailed level of disaggregation than the one we actually have. This information will be the basis for the decision-making process and for the evaluation of the success or failure that certain actions may have in a short or mid-term.

Finally, the understanding of the socioeconomic reality of the country must guide citizen participation to identify strategic lines that imply not only a greater involvement and relationship with local authorities, but that lead towards the creation of conditions to face existing challenges on the economic, social and institutional areas, the latter being the foundation of a more prosperous, safer, transparent and inclusive Guatemala, with more solidarity for all.

What is left to do?

The majority of municipalities affiliated to the Transparency Platform are within the group where an indigenous population is the absolute majority, with a non-affiliation rate of only 33.9%. Additionally, while the majority of complaints happen where an indigenous population is an absolute minority, it is in the group of municipalities where an indigenous population is the relative majority where the largest average of complaints are received.

The analysis on these figures should be oriented to explain how citizen participation, both in municipalities with mostly indigenous people as well as the opposite, contribute to monitor public administration at a municipal level. Beyond the number of complaints and the monitoring given to them, the involvement of the population is key to achieving transparent and inclusive institutions.
Cervecería Centro Americana, S.A., por medio de la Fundación Castillo Córdova, impulsa el "Proyecto Tzununá", que busca disminuir drásticamente los niveles de pobreza y desnutrición crónica de esta comunidad.

Gracias a varios programas de carácter social y ambiental ya implementados, las familias del lugar y poblaciones aledañas pueden optar hoy a una mejor calidad de vida.
GUATEMALA

CHALLENGES OF A NEW ERA

By: Valentín Tavico

There is no doubt that there are various challenges for the people and society in general living in Guatemala. It is not a secret that a 54% poverty rate, a 13% extreme poverty rate, a 48.9% malnutrition rate in children from 0 to 5 years of age, among other issues, takes place in indigenous communities. It is also true that the largest extensions of natural resources, which represent high development opportunities, are in these same territories. Due to this, it is necessary to overcome severe problems that affect Guatemalans in general like: prejudice, intolerance, lack of communication among cultures and tying ideologies to projects; because there seems to be a greater eagerness to divide our society than to become cohesive and visualize a better course of action for everyone.

The Popol Wuj, a positive and sacred book for many, as well as one of the greatest legacies of the Mayan culture, reads – “let us all rise, leave nobody behind” and another fragment reads – “have a life, a long life and a useful existence”. When you think about other Mayan legacies such as the stelae, big cities such as Tikal and their calendar, among others, what comes to mind is that there is no doubt that it was a great civilization. But, what happened? Why is there malnutrition, poverty and extreme poverty where their descendants live today?
Public policies of the national and local governments of the country have not evolved during the past 25 years and have been trapped in a vicious cycle, indistinctly of who has assumed power and the models and initiatives that they promote. What makes it worse is that they are not even strengthening leadership, the budgets or the purpose of existing institutions, like the Guatemalan Indigenous Development Fund, the Mayan Languages Academy, the Presidential Commission against Discrimination and Racism, or the Office for the Defense of Indigenous Women and Intercultural Bilingual Education.

Even though the challenges faced are very diverse and of great proportions, there are many things that may be achieved through renovated leaderships in the political, technical, academic, business and cultural areas, focusing on structural needs and not only their effects, generating a new virtuous cycle for the development of the country. To achieve this, it is crucial that people in leadership roles have an open mind to new ideas, generate agreements and build a joint agenda that will allow us to move forward as a country, based on our wealth, our competitive geographical location, cultures and natural resources, among others.

It would be important to support municipal models of development, which in alliance with public and private sectors and organized communities, aim to achieve the economic potentialities currently existing in their territories. This has been possible in a municipality in Ecuador called AgroAmerica.
Otavalo, where 90% of the population is indigenous. They constructed their model with support from national and local entrepreneurs, based on their commercial activity and their natural wealth, by building an ecological, tourist, artisanal and clean energy generation project, considering it as patrimony of the Otalveños. As a result of this policy, involuntary migration was reduced.

Additionally, it is required to strengthen the State’s political, technical and financial institutionalism in order for organizations that already exist and have mandates to support indigenous populations, to have the capacity to implement projects effectively. Our main challenge as Guatemalans is to foster our willingness for intercultural dialogues, with respect and appreciations among participants, just like it is already happening in FUNDESA’s Intercultural Affairs Commission, where knowledge on different cultures is being shared between different sectors and thus, the construction of concrete initiatives is being fostered. It is important to recognize that currently, this is a private-sector effort and the desire would be to have initiatives like this transcend to the public sector and civil society, in order to reduce cultural and sector-based prejudices that have prevailed in the past.

If the above-mentioned efforts are accomplished, for the next Katún (7,200 days – Year 2032) we should have more encouraging human development indicators than those we have today.

This would be the most visible outcome of thinking and acting as a great nation.

Proposal

It would be important to support municipal models of development, which in alliance with public and private sectors and organized communities, aim to achieve the economic potentialities currently existing in their territories.
Development of Crecer, a beverage with vitamins and minerals.

We developed a nutritional and Food Security Program in Santa Apolonia, Chimaltenango.

Together with other important companies, we are part of Operation Smile.

We support 300 communities of microentrepreneurs that are part of the largest PET Recycling Network in the region.

cbc is a strategic ally of the Project “Aprendizaje Verde” that sustains the development of knowledge and environmental culture.

We are part of the Environmental Management Programs for Lake Atitlan, with AMSCLAE and the Municipality of Panajachel.

We support the fight against childhood cancer, being part of the Foundation “Ayúdame a Vivir”.

For a world that evolves with energy, happiness and nutrition.
Follow-up Meeting:
Six months after the First National Human Development Agreement
- How are we doing?

This Forum was a follow-up to the Human Development Agreement signed during ENADE 2013. Before more than 150 attendees, Jorge Benavides highlighted the importance of evaluating the development process while it is being implemented and not until the end of the period, since actions must be taken today so that medium and long-term goals are met. Thus, a series of challenges that prevail in three different work areas were presented and discussed in a panel of the most representative leaders in such areas.
The main objective of the Forum was to discuss possibilities to improve the quality in education based on the indicators provided by the national standardized tests. This Forum is part of an effort to monitor the Human Development Agreement. “Improving education is urgent, the results of the tests are a reflection of how badly prepared we are” stated Felipe Bosch, President of FUNDESA. Eligio Sic, Vice Minister of Education, discussed deeper into the issue of the information that resulted from the tests and how it should be used by educational institutions to improve. During the event, a panel was convened, in which leaders in education presented their perspective on the subject.
In a Cocktail event, the sponsor companies for the program were informed about the progress achieved in the past year and the work plan for 2014. “I am really proud. Guatemala is ours and therefore it is important to continue supporting” said Felipe Bosch, President of FUNDESA. Mr. Bosch expressed gratitude to the companies and stated the importance to have more companies join the initiative to keep generating positive results for the development of the country. Hermann Girón, Vice President of CACIF, also addressed the attendees stating: “We are in the right moment to restate our commitment to the country”. We appreciate all of the companies that believe in a Guatemala that is more prosperous, safer, inclusive, transparent, and with more solidarity.

Accountability Event — Mejoremos Guate
When we talk about indigenous communities, it can be assumed that ethnic origin and poverty are closely related, considering the historical roots and structural causes which until today, continue in Guatemala. The State, as well as different sectors, including international organizations, have made efforts; but, until now, development plans and programs have not been able to eliminate or reduce poverty levels, malnutrition, illiteracy, access to justice and health services in communities that are mostly indigenous.

There has been some progress, but the challenge is still complex due to the 36 years of armed conflict still lingering, especially in these communities; and therefore, accentuating social inequality and poverty. The adversities that communities face are not just the product of a short-term and restrictive plan that the State has led with little results, but also the absence of laws and solid institutions. Another restraint is divisionism, product of our own history amongst different people.

In this context, all efforts must be developed and agreed to by the indigenous communities, from the moment they start to be developed. It is therefore crucial to understand the dynamic of the organization and authority systems of indigenous populations to give them an active role in participation and take their contributions and vision into consideration at a national level, not only from the community’s point of view, as it is the case of Ancestral Indigenous
Authorities who have more than 420 years of legitimacy, moral authority, capacity and enough representation to play a leadership role in important processes for communities. Among these authorities, we can mention the Indigenous Mayor of Sololá, Indigenous Municipality of Chichicastenango and the 48 Cantons of Totonicapán, among others. From the trajectory and representation they have, they can and must contribute to the strengthening of important processes, not only for the communities but for the country. For several years they have been contributing to the governability of their respective communities, however; until now, this great contribution has not been visible, acknowledged or used properly by the different sectors.

I am convinced that if the opinion and contribution of Indigenous and Ancestral Authorities, indigenous youth and academics, who promote dialogue, peace and harmony, jointly with other sectors are taken into consideration, we will generate viable mechanisms to contribute to the reduction and overall to the prevention of social conflicts that surely, in a short-term will allow the generation of new horizons for the development of indigenous communities and Guatemala as a country.

It is important that decision-makers focus and accelerate their actions toward the development of public policies with cultural relevance, as well as the preparation of a National Development Plan with vision and participation of the indigenous population. This must then be led by the Government, in order to develop better policies, assign financial resources and train people to implement concrete and measurable actions, because it is not enough to acknowledge that we are a diverse country but it is important to give legitimacy to the indigenous population. As Guatemalans, we must all join in these efforts so that together, with serious responsibility, we can all contribute with thoughts and actions, to the construction of a better society.
As Gianni Vattimo once said: “It is not when we have the truth that we agree; it is when we agree that we find the truth” (Santiago de Chile, 2006).

Politics are understood as the art of the possible while taking care of the plurality. Political freedom is possible and it is also a development factor to the extent that it makes it viable to construct options to choose from in accordance with cultural identities, values and personal and collective aspirations.

In Guatemala, as in other Latin American countries, we carry a history of an authoritarian culture, denying the existence of “others”, installing a classist system where “the other” is the enemy to conquer, destroy or purchase, or with whom there is a relationship of convenience because it is useful at some time; but not really coexisting.

Some academics and experts in Sociology consider that to democratically overcome the habit inherited in our society of “denying others”, it must cross the toughest barriers of these historic and current legacies, which are inequality and exclusion.

The problem of denying that there are “others” who are not part of our socio-economic group, because they either look, speak or think differently, is longstanding. Denying the “other who is different from me” started since the Conquest, mutated during the colonial times and it has prolonged in different ways since the creation of our Republic, in the various phases lived by our society.

The actors of citizenship do not appear out of thin air; they do not exist in emptiness; they are built by projects, communicating with their own identities and assuming that YES, they are there.
We have learned to live in crisis, in fact, we pass from one crisis to the next, even without noticing it and we frequently ask ourselves: What do we have to do so that the conflicts among Guatemalans are transformed? How do we build communication channels that work, that are positive and permanent among us?

Inequality and exclusion reinforce each other, generating today a new field of conflicts where there are new actors and new game rules. These actors are looking for an order in a more plural society, acknowledging their right to participate, and thus seeming fairer. This is not a phenomenon, it is a reality that has come to stay and it is neither something exclusive that happens only in Guatemala, it has happened and will keep happening in all of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In Guatemala, most people make reference to the existing problems: insecurity, weak institutions, problems in the business environment for investment, corruption, social opposition and so on and so forth. But nobody really proposes a way to build a collective and argumentative plural action, coming from different sectors of society. Therefore, it is important to take diversity into account and not just as a newspaper headline or a symbolic speech.

The common good, which is what we are all looking for and a well-being that goes beyond the economic aspect but aims for a better coexistence amongst different individuals, will become possible to the extent that public, deliberative and inclusive spaces are built.

However, today, to assume a historical commitment beyond the rhetoric of some organizations, which are part of the Guatemalan society and that recognize the value of diversity in a multi-cultural and multi-lingual country like ours, requires a clear and convincing willingness from all actors.

As citizens, change is our duty and we must stimulate our own curiosity, the decision of wanting to get to know the “others” with whom we coexist. Guatemala needs more bridge-builders to pave the way to a culture of peace and prosperity for all.
TRANSvisible

19 BAP
Bienal de Arte Paiz

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