



# IREX Proyecto Acción Transformadora

**Proyecto Acción Transformadora** is a five-year collaboration between USAID and IREX that aims to empower current and future youth leaders to participate actively in political spaces in their communities and at the national level, and positively impact decision-making processes to address the most pressing challenges facing Guatemala, including inequality, migration, security and governance.

**Why the Program Matters:** Guatemala is a country with a recent history of internal armed conflict that destroyed its social fabric and diminished political participation. The demonstrations of 2015, which culminated in the resignation of the president and vice president of the Republic due to cases of corruption, meant an awakening of political participation, especially among youth. Young people are demanding new forms of organization and participation, and especially new leadership, with renewed visions and commitment to the development of the country.

This new young leadership requires accompaniment, support, strengthening, and innovation, which are foundations of Proyecto Acción Transformadora. IREX and its partners Demos, Paz Joven, PADF, NIMD and World Vision provide training, learning and scholarship opportunities at various levels to young leaders with high potential, facilitate meeting spaces for young leaders from different backgrounds, and support processes of strengthening organizations, groups and youth networks.

## Impact and Reach

### In the first year of the project:

- ✓ 10 modules developed
- ✓ 349 potential youth leaders registered
- ✓ 157 completed foundational training
- ✓ 17 municipalities reached
- ✓ 75 youth received scholarships
- ✓ 76 youth received Democracy School training
- ✓ 5 youth received master's degree scholarships
- ✓ 88% of youth receiving educational support through scholarships and other short courses and certificate programs successfully complete the program

### By 2022:

- 5,000 young leaders from different areas and sectors will have the commitment and skills to face challenges at the community, municipal and national levels
- 40 organizations and groups led by young people will be strengthened, improve youth services, and promote youth participation
- A **network** of young leaders will be developed and will work through collective action to influence political platforms, especially addressing youth policy

## Transformative Leadership Approach

The project is based on a new paradigm of leadership, **transformative leadership**, characterized by a horizontal vision of power, critical thinking, ethics and the inclusion of all. Transformative leadership promotes the collective action of men and women committed to a project.

The project has formed a Youth Advisory Committee of Leaders in Action that is dynamic and highly motivated. Sixteen young people from different backgrounds come together in this Committee to advise on various project activities to ensure that the voices, needs and feelings of young people are considered within the framework of the USAID Positive Youth Development Policy.

*"We are diverse, and we build politics from other spaces: from the bottom up. We work better in a network and building collectively makes efforts more sustainable."*  
 – Youth Advisory Committee member

## Activities within the Project Leadership Framework

| Leadership Profiles | Potential Leaders  | Developing Leaders  | Leaders in Action   |
|---------------------|--|---|---|
|                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Young people between 16 and 25 years old</li> <li>▪ Interest in social and political issues</li> <li>▪ No previous political training</li> <li>▪ May or may not be participating in organized political activities</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Young people between 16 and 30 years old</li> <li>▪ Has significant leadership skills</li> <li>▪ Belongs to an organization or collective</li> <li>▪ Participates in political activities</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Young people between 16 and 35 years old</li> <li>▪ Recognized leaders from relevant organizations or groups</li> <li>▪ Sets trends and is active in social networks</li> <li>▪ Leads various political activities</li> </ul>                      |
| Project Activities  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Initial political training</li> <li>▪ Support for the implementation of community-level advocacy projects</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Scholarships for short, graduate and post-graduate courses</li> <li>▪ Internships and mentoring</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting spaces, camps, and exchanges between leaders from different regions and backgrounds</li> <li>▪ Technical assistance to organizations and groups</li> <li>▪ Competitions for political innovation projects and media initiatives</li> </ul> |

### Award Details

**Timeframe:** August 2017 - August 2022 (5 years)

**Budget:** \$15 Million (\$5.517 Million obligated to date)

**Funding Sources:** Combination of 2017 DV-CEN and CARS1 funding



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Netherlands Institute for  
**Multiparty Democracy**