Proyecto Acción Transformadora
Guatemalan Diversity

- Mestizo: 42%
- White: 18%
- Other Indigenous: 9%
- Quiché: 8%
- Mam: 8%
- Q'eqchi': 6%
- Kaqchikel: 9%
70% of Guatemala’s population
1951 - Colonel Jacobo Arbenz Guzman becomes president, continuing Arevalo social-democratic reforms, including setting up a social security system and redistributing land to landless peasants.

1954 - Land reform stops with the accession to power of Colonel Carlos Castillo in a coup backed by the US and prompted by nationalization of United Fruit Company plantations.

1966 - Civilian rule restored; Cesar Mendez elected president.

1970s - Military rulers embark on a program to eliminate leftists, resulting in at least 50,000 deaths.

1981 - Around 11,000 are killed by death squads and soldiers in response to growing anti-government guerrilla activity.

1989 - Attempt to overthrow president Cerezo fails; civil war toll since 1980 reaches 100,000 dead and 40,000 missing.

1996 - Alvaro Arzu elected president, purges military officers & signs peace agreement ending 36 years of civil war.


1994 - Peace talks begin between government & rebels.

1995 - Rebels declare a ceasefire; UN and US criticize widespread human rights abuses.

2000 - new president Alfonso Portillo pays compensation to some families of those killed.

2003 - Businessman Oscar Berger, former Guatemala City mayor, elected president.

2004 - UN mission to monitor post-civil war peace process ends. But UN says country still suffers from crime, social injustice, human rights violations.

2006 - Government & UN create a commission to identify & dismantle clandestine armed groups.


2009 - Center-left Alvaro Colom elected president with nearly 53% of the vote.
200,000 victims
45,000 disappeared
½ million forcibly displaced people
Genocide + massacres
Comisión Internacional Contra la Impunidad en Guatemala: CICIG 2015
“Guatemalan youth are the political, social, and cultural seedbed of our people. It is a beautiful feeling to see so many youth walking bravely and in peace the path towards unity and the purging of government public institutions.”

JUAN PABLO ROMERO
78% believe that after 2015, there is less fear to go onto the streets to protest.
A new paradigm of political leadership
TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP
TRANSFORMATIVE ETHICS
CRITICAL THINKING
Proyecto Acción Transformadora
Local partners

- DEMOS
- Oaz Joven
- Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy
- World Vision
- PADF
- USAID
- IREX
Objective 01

**Potential leaders**
Demonstrate leadership aptitude and need initial political formation

Objective 02

**Developing leaders**
Leadership skills are visible and have had some political formation

Objective 03

**Active leaders**
Skilled in political and civic leadership roles
Active leaders
Developing leaders
Potential leaders
Potential leaders

- Initial political training process
- Community projects
- Youth Network - Proyecto Acción Transformadora

Developing leaders

- Scholarship program
- Internship and mentoring program
- Youth Network - Proyecto Acción Transformadora
- Training to young candidates

Active leaders

- Interaction spaces, camps, exchanges and festivals.
- Strengthen youth organizations and colectivos.
- Social innovation competitions and media initiatives
- Youth Network - Proyecto Acción Transformadora
Project progress so far...

Potential Leaders

- **10 modules developed** for foundational training
- **Foundational training implemented** in departments of Guatemala, Quetzaltenango, and Totonicapán
Project progress so far...

**Developing Leaders**

- Scholarship Program underway (4 Diploma Courses, 1 Masters).
- Partner diploma courses and short courses developed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Implementing Organization</th>
<th>Training Topic</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender Leadership and Advocacy for the Defense and Exercise of Human Rights of Indigenous Women</td>
<td>Miriam Project</td>
<td>Women’s leadership based on an understanding of women’s human rights in Latin America and reflection on the challenges and obstacles of indigenous Guatemalan women in promotion of a full life.</td>
<td>Quetzaltenango</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public policies, management, and local development</td>
<td>Chi Pixab’ Institute</td>
<td>Municipal development management, public policy and local development to strengthen strategic tools and levels of awareness, in everyday life and a framework of indigenous peoples to lay a foundation for “human potential.”</td>
<td>Quetzaltenango</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political social leadership and advocacy</td>
<td>ASOLIDES Association</td>
<td>Political-social impact via understanding different types of leadership and the exercise of citizenship drawing on Guatemalan history and reality, social, political and economic issues, and tools for more efficient political-social communication in political spaces.</td>
<td>Guatemala City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political innovation</td>
<td>Asuntos del Sur</td>
<td>Strengthen innovative leadership by rethinking the relationship between state and society and understanding the political challenges of Latin America, citizen innovation in the digital era, open and participatory governance, and collaborative, inclusive, and sustainable economies.</td>
<td>Online along with three workshops in Guatemala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Degree in Fiscal Policy</td>
<td>Rafael Landivar University/ICEFI</td>
<td>Specialization in Fiscal Policy Tools and Fiscal Policy for Development looks at taxation from a state perspective; corruption and national, local resources, and public goods as the patrimony of all to achieve values of equity and justice.</td>
<td>Guatemala City</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Leaders in Action

- Youth Leadership Committee created & providing input
- Assessment of youth political participation almost completed
- Assessment of youth organizations & collectives underway

Organizational Strengthening

Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) Tool applied to determine strengths & weaknesses in each organization

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS e.g. communications, advocacy, coalition-building, administration, finance
Youth Leadership Committee
Youth Leadership Assessment
Advice and counsel
Networking
Guatemala Political/Electoral Cycle

- **2018-2022**: Pre-Election
- **2019**: Campaigns and Elections
- **2020-2021**: Governance
“We are diverse and we build politics from other spaces: from the bottom to the top. We work better as a network and building in collectiveness makes this efforts more sustainable.”

MARIELOS CHANG
“It is a space for critical political discussion. A process of exchange, and information flows.”

ANDREA IXCHIÚ
Guatemala?
Youth leaders from different fields and sectors will have the commitment and capacity to face the great challenges facing Guatemala at community, municipal and national levels.
Youth organizations and groups will be strengthened with solid mechanisms to promote political advocacy & continuous participation of youth.
A network of young leaders will be developed and actively working, through collective action, to influence the changes that Guatemala needs.
Gracias