



WEAVING IN COMMUNITIES AND TOWNS, BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS FOR WOMEN

KEMENIK: Gender and Governance

The KEMENIK - Gender and Governance project is based on the assumption that communities and people in general are organized according to established values and norms and that they strengthen their processes according to the opportunities that the external environment offers them. In Guatemala, the law favors associativism and citizen participation through different mechanisms. For example, the Law on Development Councils promotes participation from the community level to the national level, so that citizens can propose and influence the entire system to some extent through their community leaders.

KEMENIK, as a contribution to the worthy development of women, families, organizations, and community-based networks, seeks to favor their leadership capacity in the equitable construction of a more dignified life, as well as to confirm and multiply their knowledge and ideas through links with different instances, whether private or public.

To this end, it proposes processes that promote dialogue and trust between grassroots organizations as well as through the Community Development Councils (COCODEs) and the Municipal Development Councils (COMUDEs), which must be strengthened by municipal entities such as the Municipal Planning Directorate (DMP) and the Municipal Directorate for Women (DMM).

KEMENIK supports the DMM since its role is essential to ensure the rights and institutional presence of women at the municipal level.

- * **Kemenik = weave in K'iche' language**
- * **Chmol = weave in Mam language**

It promotes training and accompanies the DMM so that they lead important processes such as the development of diagnoses and the design of projects and so that they provide the necessary advice to the municipalities in such a way that municipal policies comply with the principles of good governance and gender equity.

In addition, KEMENIK promotes, through communication tools and art, the dissemination of women's rights so that they are known, defended and promoted by authorities and actors of the community, youth and the population in general.

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

In 2028, the majority of women in the municipalities of Cantel, Huitán, San Martín Sacatepéquez in the department of Quezaltenango and Totonicapán in Totonicapán in Guatemala have better political, social and cultural conditions that meet their current practical and strategic needs.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The KEMENIK project aims at that in the year 2022:

Objective 1: Significantly more women show leadership and participate in decision-making in the 4 municipalities.

Objective 2a: Women decide on policies on their priority issues and they are actually carried out.

Objective 2b: The 4 municipalities implement initiatives to improve public services (such as water, literacy, and health) that women consider to be priorities and unsatisfactory.

Objective 3: A significant number of the men and women in the 4 municipalities have adopted more equitable behaviors and norms.



RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

Outcome 1: Leadership and participation

- 1.1 Train and accompany women leaders in self-esteem, political incidence and good governance.
- 1.2 Strengthen grassroots women's organizations and make it easier for them to fulfill their social and/or productive mandates and improve their effectiveness, legitimacy, and sustainability.
- 1.3 Raise awareness of influential men and exposed women.
- 1.4 Negotiate and sign pre-electoral agreements with 4 to 8 parties or civic committees on participation quotas for adults and young women, as well as training for candidates.
- 1.5 Accompanied to community organizations for the development of workshops, meetings, and lobbying with COMUDEs, municipal, departmental, and national authorities. .

Outcome 2: Good governance for empowerment and gender equity

- 2.1 Establish and maintain women's dialogue platforms (which feed into COMUDE), policy coordination tables, gender/women's agreements, and priority services for women.
- 2.2 The DMMs have been institutionally strengthened.
- 2.3 Strengthening agents of change in good governance and gender equity (municipal agencies, municipal authorities, COCODEs, women's commissions of the COMUDEs, and grassroots mixed organizations and groups that promote the local economy in the municipalities, made up of adults and youth.

Outcome 3: Change to equality norms

- 3.1 Implement a women's rights dissemination strategy that includes communication actions through traditional media, community radio, ambassadors of the new masculinity, theater, music, and other forms of contemporary/community art.
- 3.2 Strengthening communication promoters for change towards better gender equality.
- 3.3 Pilot actions to promote equitable gender relations in primary and secondary schools in the municipalities.
- 3.4 Actions (meetings, circles, workshops, etc.) so that model men with new patterns and gender roles can speak out in public.
- 3.5 Meetings with regulatory authorities to promote gender equity in power relations in families.



FAST FACTS

Geographic location: Municipalities of Cantel, Huitán, San Martín Sacatepéquez of the department of Quezaltenango and Totonicapán of Totonicapán.

Phase and Duration: 1st Phase - 5 years

Start Date: January 01, 2018

Finish Date: December 31, 2022

Main Stakeholders:

Municipal Governments: Municipal Councils and their dependencies, mainly Municipal Directorate for Women (DMM), Municipal Planning Directorate (DMP) and Municipal Financial Administration Directorate (DAFIM) of the Municipalities of Cantel, Huitán, San Martín Sacatepéquez of the department of Quezaltenango and Totonicapán of the department of Totonicapán in Guatemala.

Entities of the Executive Branch: Office of the Ombudsman for Indigenous Women (DEMI), Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM), General Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency (SEGEPLAN); and Secretariat of Social Works of the President's Wife (SOSEP).

Motor Organizations: Women's organizations and mixed organizations of the intervention municipalities.

Main Partners: Armadillo Puppet Association, N'oj Collective; and Association for Community Development Serjus (SERJUS).

Other Interested Actors:

- Municipal Development Councils (COMUDES) and Community Development Councils (COCODEs)
- Organizations representing or supporting women with their own initiatives to promote inclusive citizen participation of this social group.
- Other representatives of Civil Society.
- Groups that promote the local economy in the municipalities to intervene.
- Municipal Development Institute (INFOM)
- National Association of Municipalities (ANAM)
- National Literacy Committee (CONALFA)

Donors:

- HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation



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