

Vocational Training and Non-Formal Education for Adolescents and Young People in Vulnerable Situations in the Southern Area of San Juan Sacatepéquez, Ciudad Quetzal

Presented by: Asociación Estudios y Proyectos de Esfuerzo Popular (EPRODEP)

Submitted to: GlobalGiving

Intervention Area: Southern Area of San Juan Sacatepéquez, Ciudad Quetzal

Date: July 2026

1. Context and Challenges

The southern area of the municipality of San Juan Sacatepéquez, known as Ciudad Quetzal, is a territory facing significant social and educational challenges. With a population of more than 218,000 inhabitants, it has a high proportion of young people; approximately 34.25% of the population are adolescents and young people between 15 and 34 years old.

The socioeconomic conditions of the area reflect various structural limitations. A significant number of families depend on informal or low-income employment, which restricts access to basic services and educational opportunities. In addition, in several communities, the public education system is mainly focused on preschool and primary education, limiting opportunities to continue studies at the lower and upper secondary levels.

This situation particularly affects adolescents and young people whose families do not have the financial resources to access private education. As a result, many leave the education system, increasing their vulnerability to risks such as violence, involvement in criminal groups, child labor, early pregnancies, and migration.

Family vulnerability is also an important challenge. According to the socioeconomic study conducted by EPRODEP in 2020 among beneficiary families, 95% of households are supported by women, mainly single mothers, who mostly work in informal jobs and face significant difficulties covering educational expenses. Likewise, some adolescents and young people remain under the care of relatives or neighbors due to their parents' labor migration.



In this context, strengthening access to education, school retention, and vocational training for adolescents and young people is essential to reducing social exclusion gaps and creating new opportunities for them, their families, and their communities.

2. EPRODEP's Intervention Proposal

In response to these challenges, Asociación Estudios y Proyectos de Esfuerzo Popular (EPRODEP) proposes strengthening an educational model that integrates vocational training, non-formal education, and support for adolescents and young people in vulnerable situations.

The proposal is based on more than 30 years of EPRODEP's experience in Ciudad Quetzal. Since 1992, the organization has promoted educational processes for people who face barriers to accessing or remaining in the formal education system. Throughout this time, EPRODEP has developed school education programs, non-formal education, technical training, and community support initiatives.

The project will expand learning opportunities through a flexible, practical, and inclusive training offer that responds to local needs and labor market demands. Through vocational training workshops, life skills development, and guidance for employment and entrepreneurship, participants will strengthen their competencies and abilities to build a life plan.

The initiative seeks to consolidate an educational model that provides real opportunities for adolescents and young people who have been excluded from continuous formal education, equipping them with tools to continue their studies, improve their employment opportunities, reduce their exposure to risky situations, and contribute to the well-being of their families and communities.

direccon@eprodep.org
teléfono 22145960
eprodep.org