

BASELINE ASSESSMENT:

PeaceFIELD¹ Report Prepared for the Project: “Promoting the Management of Social, Political and Institutional Environment to Diminish Agrarian Conflict in Polochic Valley, Guatemala”

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¹ The Peacebuilding Fund Impact Evaluation, Learning, and Dissemination (PeaceFIELD) initiative conducts impact evaluations of projects supported by the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), builds capacity to conduct impact evaluations on PBF-supported projects, and disseminates key evaluation findings. Launched in January 2021, the initiative is a collaboration between the International Security and Development Center (ISDC), the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), and the Peace Building Support Office (PBSO). Generous support for PeaceFIELD was provided by the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO). The views expressed in this report are of the authors and not necessarily those of PBSO, ISDC, 3ie, and GFFO. The Guatemala baseline work would not have been possible without the additional support of the association Sotz'il; the PBF Secretariat in Guatemala; as well as the joint UN agencies in Guatemala implementing this project: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Program (WFP) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

3ie	Initiative for Impact Evaluation
CCDA	Comité Campesino del Altiplano
CSO	Civil Society Organization
COPADEH	Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights
CUC	Comité Unidad Campesina
ENCOVI	National Living Standards Measurement Study
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FONDOTIERRAS	Land Fund
GFFO	German Federal Foreign Office
IACHR	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
INE	National Institute of Statistics of Guatemala
ISDC	International Security and Development Center
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PBF	United Nations Peacebuilding Fund
PBSO	Peacebuilding Support Office
SAA	Secretary of Agrarian Affairs of the Presidency of the Republic
TOC	Theory of Change
WFP	World Food Programme

1. Introduction

This report outlines the research and analysis conducted as part of the baseline study for the project titled "Promoting the Management of Social, Political, and Institutional Environment to Diminish Agrarian Conflict in Polochic Valley, Guatemala." Funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), the project is implemented by a consortium of UN agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Though initially approved to run for 24 months, starting in November 2021; a no-cost extension was granted, such that the full completion of a project activities is envisioned for May 2024.

As the nomenclature suggests, the project focuses on addressing longstanding agrarian conflict in Guatemala, which is characterized by land disputes rooted in existing inequalities and ongoing social tensions that have persisted since the civil war. Specifically, the project works in Polochic Valley, Guatemala, which consists of remote communities that are highly exposed to these issues. Towards preventing and alleviating such agrarian conflicts in this region, the project interventions are centered around three key objectives, namely: strengthening institutional frameworks that govern agrarian conflicts; empowering indigenous communities through for example capacity building for community leaders; and enhancing mechanisms for dialogue and conflict resolution. By focusing on these aspects, the interventions aim to establish effective institutions for managing and resolving land-related disputes; equip indigenous communities with the necessary tools and resources to engage in dialogue; and therefore, to promote peace through disputes being prevented or resolved peacefully.

This research study was conducted at baseline, i.e., prior to program implementation, and has two main objectives: (i) to provide rich descriptive evidence to profile the populations living in the communities targeted by the project; and (ii) to provide insights into the potential impacts that the project may have on conflict-related attitudes and perceptions of beneficiaries. As such, the research study is intended to provide quantitative data to inform current and future programming in the region, as well as to allow better contextualization of more analytic research findings that will emerge at endline.

Towards these goals, the baseline study adopts a primarily quantitative approach, where survey data was collected from (almost all) individuals living in the ten project communities. For the second objective in particular, an experimental approach was embedded in the survey tool; the 605 survey participants across the ten project communities were randomly exposed to varying information about UN programming occurring in their region. Specifically, a subset of participants was informed about the Peacebuilding project that is the focus of this research, while the other randomly selected (i.e., the control) group was informed about a non-Peacebuilding program occurring in the region. Following this varied information delivery, the survey tool collected data on individual attitudes and perceptions on different conflict resolution channels. This information therefore allows an investigation at baseline into whether the anticipation of the program alone may affect attitudes towards and preferences for resolving at least the type of agrarian disputes detailed in the context of the study.

In the remainder of the report, the study context and interventions are outlined in Section 2, while the quantitative methodology employed for the study is detailed in Section 3. The descriptive and experimental results are presented in sections 4 and 5, respectively. Section 6 discusses these results, bolstered by insights from a qualitative exercise conducted during the project implementation period; and highlights the limitations of the study. Section 7 concludes thereafter, highlighting main take-aways with actionable recommendations.

2. Study Context and Peacebuilding Program

This section provides further detail into the Guatemalan context in which the study occurs and describes the peacebuilding intervention implemented to promote peace in the region.

A. Study Context

In the aftermath of a 36-year civil war, Guatemala was left with 200,000 victims, one million displaced individuals, and a fragmented society (Commission for Historical Clarification 1999; Gauster and Isakson 2014). One of the likely contributors to the civil conflict is identified to be unequal land distribution and social disparities that were inherited from the colonial period and have persisted since (Perera, 1995; Canelas and Gisselquist, 2018). Despite the Peace Accords signed in 1996, which attempted to address inequality in land distribution, these issues remain a critical concern and conflict over land a significant challenge (Carte et al., 2019; Sieder and Witchell, 2001; Granovsky-Larsen, 2018).

The Polochic Valley, located in the Guatemala's Alta Verapaz and Izabal departments, has a high percentage of the population living in poverty². The vast majority of the population is identified as indigenous (INE, 2018) and depends mainly on subsistence agriculture for their livelihood (Mingorría, 2021). Despite this reliance on agriculture, most communities in the region increasingly face insecure land tenure (Alonso-Fradejas 2012). The last two decades have seen growing international demand for agricultural commodities, which has driven a process of land reconcentration by national and foreign investors (Borras et al. 2012). Specifically, there has been an expansion of monoculture farming (predominantly sugarcane and oil palm), mining, coffee and cattle ranchers (Mingorría, 2017).

These trends in land acquisitions to facilitate this growth have disproportionately affected indigenous communities, including those in Polochic Valley, as in addition to legal disputes, they face increased evictions and violence that is associated with evictions (Hervas, 2021). Further, these dynamics have worsened food security, through intensifying competition with traditional food production systems and crops and more directly, as local indigenous and peasant communities' face restricted access to land and their primary livelihoods (Dürr 2016).

² Alta Verapaz and Izabal are two of the 22 departments of Guatemala, located in the north central and eastern coastal part of the country. According to data from the National Living Standards Measurement Study (ENCOVI), an 83.1 percent of Alta Verapaz's residents and 59.9 percent of those in Izabal were classified as living below the poverty threshold in 2014. The 2014 ENCOVI by the National Institute of Statistics of Guatemala (INE) is the most recently available official data source of poverty indicators in Guatemala.

Accordingly, and in response to these ongoing challenges, the area stands out as a hotspot for agrarian conflict (ACLED, 2022).

The institutional response to regularize land tenure and mediate agrarian conflict in Guatemala has come through bodies such as the Land Fund (FONDOTIERRAS) and the Secretary of Agrarian Affairs of the Presidency of the Republic (SAA),³ which have been the main actors in charge of fulfilling the commitments related to land issues contained in the Peace Accords, prior to the creation of the Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEH).⁴ However, these and other actors have faced limitations in effectively addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by ongoing agrarian conflict (Alonso-Fradejas 2012). Furthermore, spaces for dialogue involving local and national institutions, indigenous communities, private companies, and CSOs have failed to deliver viable solutions.⁵ Overall, therefore, this context makes the Polochic Valley highly suitable for targeted PBF investments and more generally, for programming intended for peacebuilding.

B. Project Overview

The PBF has actively contributed to peacebuilding initiatives in Guatemala since 2011, with over USD 48.1 million spent for projects addressing weaknesses in the criminal justice system, impunity, agrarian conflicts, and violence against women and indigenous communities. The project under study is situated in this portfolio and specifically aims to strengthen the institutional infrastructure and empower communities to prevent and peacefully resolve agrarian conflicts in the project region. Approved for 24-months, it works in ten communities in Polochic Valley that are affected by the abovementioned issues (see the project site map in Figure 1). The beneficiary communities were selected for the program based on three criteria: they have experiences of forced evictions; the implementing agencies have worked there in the past; and they have received precautionary measures from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).⁶

Titled "Promoting the Management of Social, Political, and Institutional Environment to Diminish Agrarian Conflict in Polochic Valley, Guatemala", the project is implemented by a consortium of three UN agencies: FAO, which serves as the lead agency, the WFP, and the OHCHR. In addition, COPADEH acts as the main implementing partner from the State of

³ The SAA was responsible for the direction and coordination of government commitments relating to agrarian issues and rural development between 2002 and 2020, after which it was dissolved, and its mandate moved to COPADEH. The Land Fund is a decentralized institution of the State, which focused on compliance with the Peace Agreements, promoting access to, and regularization of land.

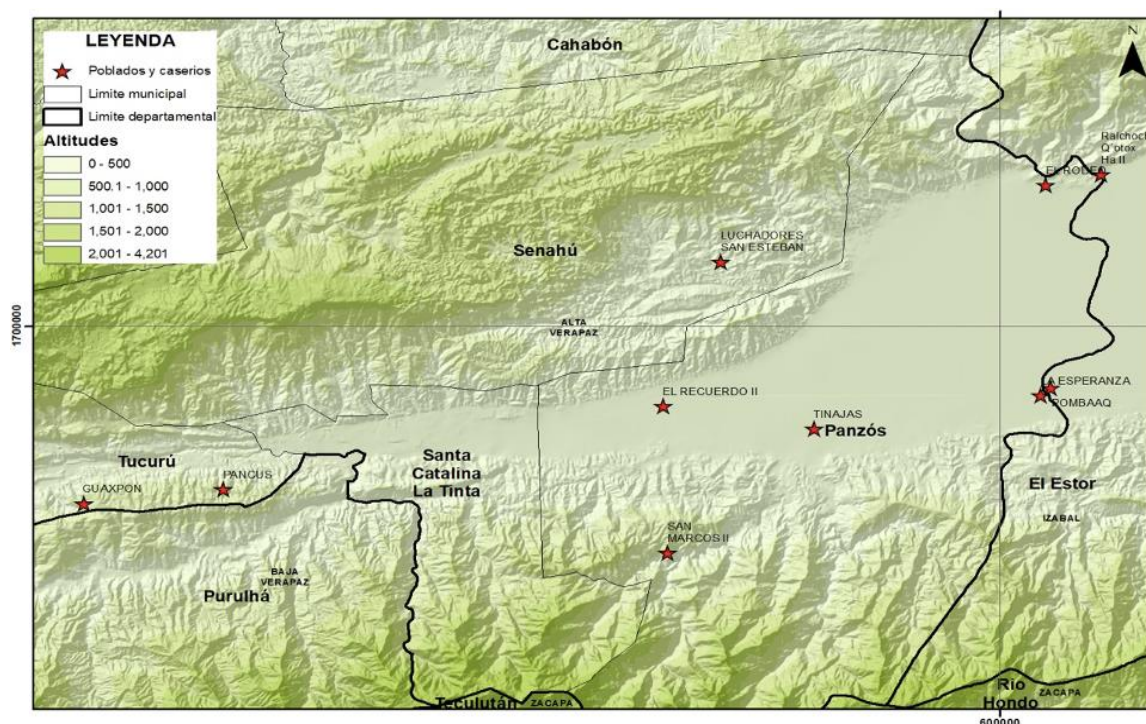
⁴ COPADEH was formed mid-2020 as the government underwent institutional reconfiguration, with the mission to "advise and coordinate with the various agencies of the Executive Branch, the promotion of actions and mechanisms aimed at the effective enforcement and protection of human rights, compliance with government commitments arising from the Peace Agreements and the conflict in the country" (Government of Guatemala, 2020 July 30, [Government Agreement Number 100-2020](#)).

⁵ This diagnosis is based on the program documentation provided to the research team in 2022.

⁶ The precautionary measures of the IACHR are a protection mechanism through which the Commission requests a State to protect one or more persons who are in a serious and urgent situation of suffering irreparable harm. Any person or organization may file a request for a precautionary measure on behalf of a person or group of persons, identified or identifiable, who are at risk (Article 25 of the [IACHR's Rules of Procedure](#)).

Guatemala; and is supported by civil society organizations (CSO) within the intervention area that have vast experience in land tenure and territory issues.⁷

Figure 1: Map of the ten project communities in Polochic Valley, Guatemala



Notes: Project communities are identified by a “red star” on the map. As shown, nine communities are located across three municipalities in the department of Alta Verapaz (Senahú, Tukurú, and Panzós), while one community lies in one municipality (El Estor) in the department of Izabal.

As mentioned, the project focuses on three primary outcomes, which are detailed below.

Outcome 1: Institutional strengthening: The project collaborates with COPADEH to enhance its advisory and coordination role with government entities involved in agrarian conflict. The focus here is to develop training programs in these public institutions at the national, departmental and local levels, such that they adopt a comprehensive and inter-institutional approach to addressing land-related issues, food rights, and improving livelihoods. Specifically, under this component:

- A study was conducted to analyze land tenure disputes in Polochic Valley, considering multiple causes and impacts of evictions. This analysis served as a base for the development of inter-institutional mediation mechanisms to manage agrarian conflict with a comprehensive conflict resolution approach.
- The project provided training for 223 public officials from 18 public institutions involved in agrarian and social conflicts in Guatemala, including government, municipalities, the private sector, the justice sector, and civil society. The training emphasized international standards concerning indigenous land rights and provided officials with the skills for inclusive dialogue and agrarian conflict mediation.

⁷ CSOs in the Project include the Comité Campesino del Altiplano (CCDA), the Comité Unidad Campesina (CUC), the Fundación Guillermo Toriello, Asociación Utz Che, and Fundación Propaz.

Outcome 2: Capacity building for peasant and indigenous communities: The project aimed to enhance the capacity and participation of the ten communities to manage agrarian conflicts, promote community land governance, and improve food and nutritional security. Specifically,

- The project conducted diagnostics and workshops with 230 leaders and community members from the ten communities. The aim was to assess land tenure governance with a focus on gender-inclusive participation in agrarian conflict management. Community leaders were trained to develop mediation and conflict management skills.
- During the workshops, the intervention created community registries, which contain information on land use, measurements, administration, and tenure. Additionally, plans to enhance food and nutritional security were created for each community.

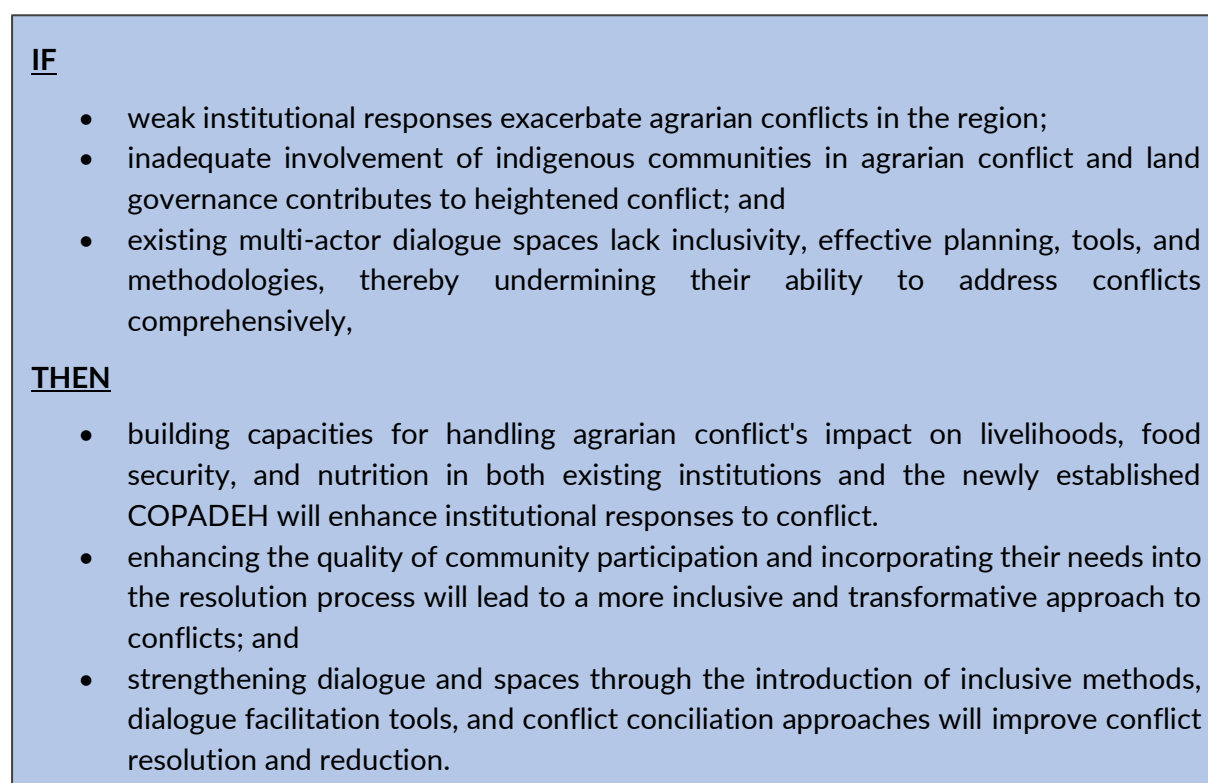
Outcome 3: Improving spaces for dialogue: Finally, the intervention aims to improve evidence-based analysis, discussion, and conciliation for the resolution of agrarian conflicts by generating action plans, methodologies, and tools to do so. As such, this component focuses on improving the spaces created by departmental governments for dialogue, as well as working with community leaders and organizations to support and accompany these spaces. The goal is to develop technical proposals for conflict resolution in agrarian matters, ultimately improving the effectiveness of these spaces and promoting peaceful resolution of conflicts. Specifically, under this component:

- The initiative reactivated nine dialogue tables at both the departmental and municipal levels. These dialogue tables are dedicated to identifying agrarian dynamics and establishing mechanisms for addressing and managing conflicts.
- Community leaders holding precautionary measures granted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights initiated training processes and the restoration of land access routes. The program has encouraged the transfer of knowledge, providing these leaders with an opportunity to share their experiences around land tenure regularization processes with leaders from other communities confronting similar challenges.

Therefore, the project entailed a prong of interventions at different institutional levels, as well as at the community level, intended to improve food and nutritional security on the one hand; and to prevent or peacefully address agrarian conflicts on the other. This link is envisioned to occur through institutions, their officials and community leaders being more knowledgeable and having higher capacity to do so; and communities sharing experiences around land tenure regularization processes such that they can learn from each other how to effectively engage in confront similar challenges. These interventions and project outcomes are outline more formally through the theory of change (TOC) outlined in Figure 2.

As captured in the figure, the TOC for this project assumes that addressing weak institutional responses, inadequate community participation, and the existing limitations of multi-actor dialogue spaces are crucial for effectively managing and mitigating agrarian conflicts. Through this intervention, the project aims to create an environment where conflicts can be resolved peacefully and sustainably, promoting stability and improved livelihoods in the region.

Figure 2: Project's expected theory of change



Source: TOC is authors' own interpretation based on program documentation.

3. Study Methodology

This section describes the sampling and methodology employed in this research, as well as the measures used in particularly the experimental approach previously mentioned. In addition, the procedures through which quantitative insights were gleaned are further described.

A. Sampling and survey approach

To fulfill the objective of generating a comprehensive understanding of the communities living in the project region, a survey was conducted prior to project implementation in November and December 2022. Given the relatively small sample sizes in the communities, the survey aimed to include all households in the ten communities, as opposed to sampling from only a subset of households. Given the lack of precise and reliable population statistics at the community level, the data collection exercise relied on estimations from the project implementing agencies, who had a history of working in this region. Table 1 below shows these estimates, as well as the actual number of households interviewed across the ten communities.

Table 1: community size estimation and in sample (households) across the ten communities

Department	Municipality	Community	Estimated No. of Households	Interviewed Households	Share reached
Alta Verapaz	Tucurú	El Pancuz	77	55	0.71
Alta Verapaz	Tucurú	Guaxpom	95	63	0.66
Alta Verapaz	Senahú	San Esteban	30	38	1.27
Alta Verapaz	Panzos	El Recuerdo II	54	10	0.19
Alta Verapaz	Panzos	San Marcos	204	139	0.68
Alta Verapaz	Panzos	Tinajas	74	29	0.39
Alta Verapaz	Panzos	El Rodeo	58	24	0.41
Alta Verapaz	Panzos	Qotoxja II	55	46	0.84
Alta Verapaz	Panzos	La Esperanza	150	99	0.66
Izabal	El Estor	Pombaac	97	102	1.05
			894	605	0.68

As shown, the majority of households were reached; but meaningful differences exist between the estimated and actual number of households in all communities, and the scale of these differences vary across communities. However, while the initial estimations were a useful guide for survey preparation purposes, they were revealed to be of limited reliability in practice. While informative, therefore, the discrepancies are not deemed problematic overall given the research methodology we employ. Nonetheless, we discuss later in the report where the divergence may have implications for the interpretation of the results. The final sample for the study thus includes a total of interviews from 605 households across ten communities.

The survey tool was designed to collect a wealth of information on individuals and their household, towards profiling the communities intended to benefit from the project.

Specifically, the questionnaire gathered information that allows constructing measures of:

1. **Demographic factors:** such as age, gender, formal education attainment, literacy status, and household composition.
2. **Livelihoods and economic well-being:** e.g., on income generating activities, economic deprivation, and household poverty score.
3. **Personal well-being:** additional data on mental health, economic expectations, and overall life satisfaction.
4. **Land and conflict experiences:** displacement and eviction experiences, exposure to physical and material harm during displacement, as well as threats and fears relating to eviction and potential physical and material harm in the future.
5. **Political and social engagement:** e.g., voting behaviors, protest participation, leadership roles in political and community institutions, engagement in social groups, religious spaces, as well in dialogue spaces.
6. **Trust in leaders and institutions:** i.e., trust in community leaders and public institutions at different levels.

The survey was coded onto tablets, piloted in one community, and eventually delivered by trained enumerators who were selected from the project communities.⁸ In-person interviews were conducted with survey respondents: either the head of the household or a randomly selected adult household member. Interviews were conducted in Spanish or in the local language (Q'eqchi'), based on the preference of the respondent.

B. Experimental approach

Experimental design: The baseline survey incorporated an experimental component within the questionnaire tool, which aimed to gauge the potential impact of the project on individual attitudes and behaviors relating to conflict resolution, a crucial aspect of the peacebuilding program's objectives. Specifically, the approach was to provide information about the upcoming peacebuilding project to a *randomly selected* sub-group of survey respondents. This information was conveyed in an audio format embedded in the survey, having been recorded at a local radio station. The content was about 5 minutes long, described the project components and their envisioned benefits in detail, and communicated in a manner that was engaging for participants (see Appendix D for the audio transcript). At baseline, the empirical expectation or the logic behind the messaging is that hearing this information alone – and thus knowing about the upcoming project – may already improve expectations and perceptions towards the local institutions that play a key role in mitigating and resolving conflict. Given this, and holding all else constant, individual attitudes and behaviors relating to conflict prevention and resolution may also improve as a result.

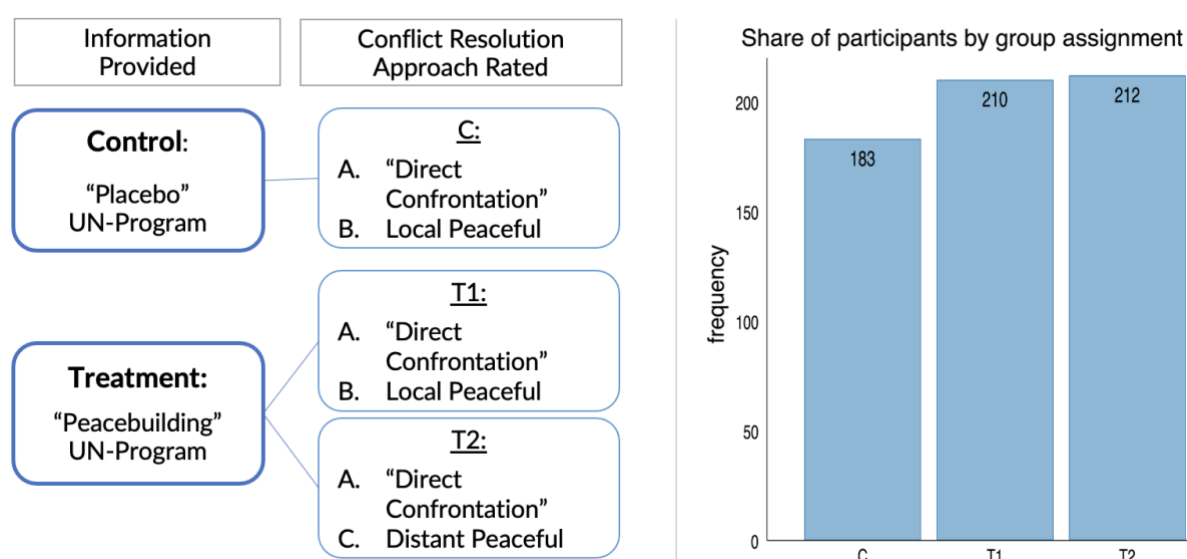
The experimental approach is beneficial in that it allows for there to be a reliable control group. In this setting, the control group was a *randomly selected* set of survey participants who also listened to an engaging audio piece during the survey, which was not at all related to the peacebuilding. Instead, the control group was only informed about an innocuous program happening in their area during a similar timeline; a nutrition initiative also being implemented by UN agencies within the same region aiming to improve health or nutrition outcomes.⁹ Therefore, in aiming to detect treatment effects, the experiment allows for a comparison in outcomes to be made between the two groups: the treatment group (which listens to peacebuilding information) and this control group (that listened to non-peacebuilding or “placebo” information). Crucially: because the design relies on random assignment to treatment versus control, any statistically significant differences can be attributed to the information that participants were exposed to during the survey.

The left-hand-side of Figure 3 below illustrates the core design of the experiment, where roughly one third of survey participants (N=183) were randomly assigned to the control group, while two thirds were randomly assigned to listed to the treatment group that received information about the peacebuilding information (N=422).

⁸ Enumerators were selected from the communities based on recommendations from implementing partners that this would improve participant trust and thus data quality. The enumerator teams were trained comprehensively on the objectives of the study and data collection methods prior to the pilot and data collection.

⁹ The design relies on the identification and selection of a real UN program to inform the control group about to ensure ethical transparency and avoid deceiving participants.

Figure 3: Overview of the design of the information provision experiment and group assignment



Measuring outcomes: following the variation in the information provided about programming occurring in their area, the outcomes of interest in the experimental approach were individual perceptions surrounding conflict resolution. The study measured this by first providing a scenario through vignettes, which presented a conflict that occurred between two communities. Imagining themselves as a member of the affected community,¹⁰ participants were then asked to rate on different scales their perceptions of different approaches to "resolving" the conflict presented. Specifically, three different approaches were possible to rate:

- A. "Direct Confrontation Approach" – which entails a direct confrontation with the other ("opposing") community. It was clear that this approach has the potential to involve violence.
- B. "Peaceful local approach" – which entails engaging in dialogue and negotiation with the other community, through local institutions. Crucially, the institutions alluded to in this option are those that are targeted for improvements through the peacebuilding project that is the subject of this study.
- C. "Peaceful distant approach" – which entails engaging with higher level and more distant or national formal institutions, such as the Public Prosecutor's Office. These institutions are not linked to the peacebuilding project in any way.

From this menu of three possibilities, each survey participants were asked to rate only two approaches to resolving the conflict that arose between their own and another neighboring community. Figure 2 shows the options participants faced or had to rate under each treatment. As it shows, the control group was only asked to rate the "direct confrontation approach" to conflict resolution and the "peaceful local" approach that relies on facilitation through institutions targeted by the program. The treatment group, however, was split: only

¹⁰ The scenario alludes to uncertainty about which community is "responsible for" causing the conflict through the destruction of crops. The respondent is situated in this hypothetical scenario as a member of the one community that can now act in one of the presented ways (see Appendix D for the full vignette narratives).

half of them also rated the same set of options as the control group (“direct confrontation approach” and “peaceful local”). The remaining half, on the other hand, rated the “direct confrontation approach” and “peaceful distant” approach. Therefore, by rating the perceived appropriateness and effectiveness of each conflict resolution strategy, this approach aimed to uncover participants’ implicit attitudes toward direct confrontation and peaceful resolution.

Finally, and in addition to perceptions about the different approaches to conflict resolution, the survey tool gauged out-group altruism, by asking respondents if and how much of their own community’s resources they would be willing to donate to a third (worst-affected) community that was presented in the vignette.

C. Qualitative Insights Workshop

Acknowledging the integral role of qualitative insights in grounding quantitative research findings, a workshop was conducted during the project implementation period (i.e., in June 2023 after the baseline, but before the end of the project and endline data collection). This effort brought together key community stakeholders to a central location, to participate in a one-day workshop that discussed and contextualized the baseline findings. Specifically, a total of 20 community leaders (roughly two per community) were present, along with several members from local NGOs and the project implementation consortium.

Towards contextualizing baseline findings, the group first received descriptive baseline data as well as summary reports of the outcomes (for the sample, at community level, and along key sub-groups). The platform then allowed for feedback and deep discussions on the presented findings, allowing an understanding of where the results appear to align with the expectation of the group and where they may completely diverge from it. This interactive dialogue offered nuanced perspectives that are key in contextualizing and interpreting the findings from a local perspective, as well as offering potential (new) mechanisms that were not previously explored, but can be incorporated at endline.

4. Descriptive Findings

The section provides the descriptive results from the baseline survey, profiling the communities targeted for the project. First, it looks at their demographic and socio-economic profile; and second, at their experiences related land, conflict, and associated (local) institutions.

A. Who are the project beneficiaries?

To gain an understanding of the individuals living in the communities intended to benefit from the peacebuilding program, which is otherwise lacking, the baseline survey collected a wealth of measures relating to their individual / household demographic and socio-economic characteristics. In Table 2 below, summary statistics from the whole sample on some of these measures are presented. As shown in the table, survey respondents were aged 40.5 years on average, with individuals as young as 18 and up to 92 years having been the household representative interviewed. Almost a third of participants are considered “youth”, being of 29 years of age or younger,¹¹ while around three-quarters of the sample were female respondents. Half of the sample report being married, although when including civil unions, the share is much higher at 91 percent. With respect to formal schooling, educational attainment is relatively low: 21 percent attended primary school up to some point, while 28 percent completed primary schooling, and just over half did not attend school whatsoever. Additionally, 48 percent of respondents report that they are able to read and write.

Table 2: Summary statistics along demographic and household (socio-economic) characteristics

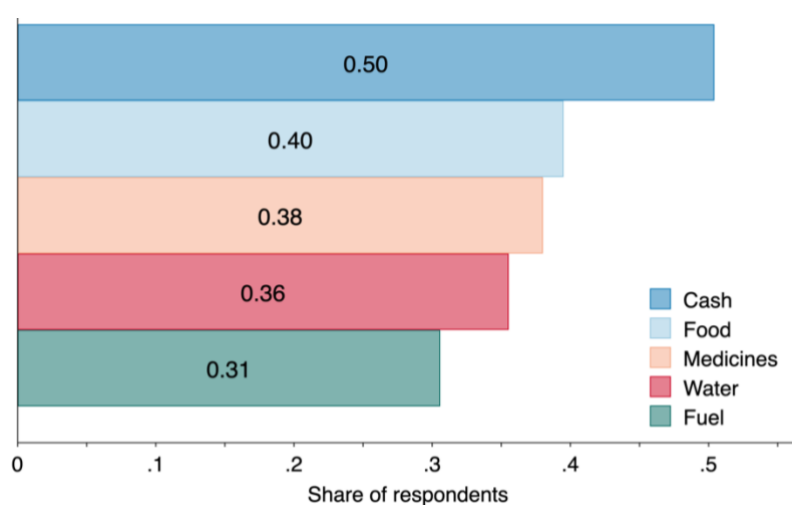
	Mean	SD	Min	Max	N
A. Demographic characteristics					
Age (reported)	40.57	14.91	18.00	92.00	605
Is young (age 29 or less)	0.29	0.45	0.00	1.00	605
Is female	0.75	0.43	0.00	1.00	605
Is married	0.50	0.50	0.00	1.00	605
Is married/in civil union	0.91	0.29	0.00	1.00	605
Has some primary schooling	0.21	0.41	0.00	1.00	605
Has completed primary school	0.28	0.45	0.00	1.00	605
Has no formal education	0.51	0.50	0.00	1.00	605
Literacy: can read/write	0.48	0.50	0.00	1.00	605
B. Household income and characteristics					
No. in household	5.88	2.79	1.00	19.00	605
No. of dependents in household	3.75	2.19	0.00	11.00	605
Income source: community day laborer	0.98	0.16	0.00	1.00	605
Home: has one room only	0.66	0.47	0.00	1.00	605
Home: has wooden walls	0.67	0.47	0.00	1.00	605
Home: has branches as roof	0.21	0.41	0.00	1.00	605
Home: lacks toilet facility	0.30	0.46	0.00	1.00	605

¹¹ The classification of youth is the one used locally, and is based on the standard set by the Guatemala National Institute of Statistics (or Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas, INE).

The lower panel of Table 2 reports household characteristics for the sample, and shows that household size is on average 5.8 persons, with roughly 3.7 individuals being dependents within the household (i.e., children or elders who do not earn any income). As shown, almost all (98 percent) of respondents earn a living through being a “community day laborer”, meaning that they rely on informal work on accessible farms and plantations for their livelihoods, and suggesting that there may be limited options overall for earning income in the project area. In terms of household infrastructure, most participants live in a home that only has one room (67 percent), has a wall that is made of wooden materials (67 percent), and a smaller share using branches as roof material (21 percent). Further, 30 percent of households appear to lack access to a toilet. These measures are typically used to construct a “poverty index” in different contexts, and thus in general, these numbers are in line with data reported in other statistics, that these communities may experience poverty to a non-negligible degree.

Other measures of household socio-economic well-being are captured in Figure 4, which is a bar graph showing the degree to which participants report experiencing deprivation along several categories during the past year (i.e., the 12 months prior to the baseline survey). In this figure, the measure of deprivation is a dummy that equals one if the respondent reported that they experience the corresponding deprivation “very frequently” or “always”.¹²

Figure 4: Deprivation of basic necessities



As shown, 31 percent of survey participants report being short of fuel, while 36 and 38 percent report being deprived of water and medicines, respectively. Even more severe is deprivation of food and relatedly cash, as 40 and 50 percent of participants reported having lacked these basic necessities of food and cash, respectively, during the past year. These figures thus

lend credence to the notion that the communities in question experiences a high level of poverty, regardless of the measures used to capture it.

Delving further into describing the sample, Table 3 captures respondent well-being and perceptions, first highlighting reported personal wellbeing, and then life satisfaction and expectations for the future. As it shows, 96 percent of the sample report having experienced frequent headaches in the past 30 days, while 93 and 91 percent report that they were constantly tired or nervous, tense, and worried, respectively. The other personal wellbeing

¹² The underlying deprivation scale ranged from values 1-5, which correspond to experiencing shortages 'never,' 'once or twice,' 'several times,' 'many times,' and 'always' in the past year. For the analysis, very frequent deprivation is experienced by participants who reported a frequency of 'many times' or 'always.'

indicators reveal that 66 percent reported having slept badly, 66 percent had trouble thinking clearly, and 89 percent had discomfort in their stomach during the reporting period.

Table 3: Summary statistics along socio-economic and individual perceptions

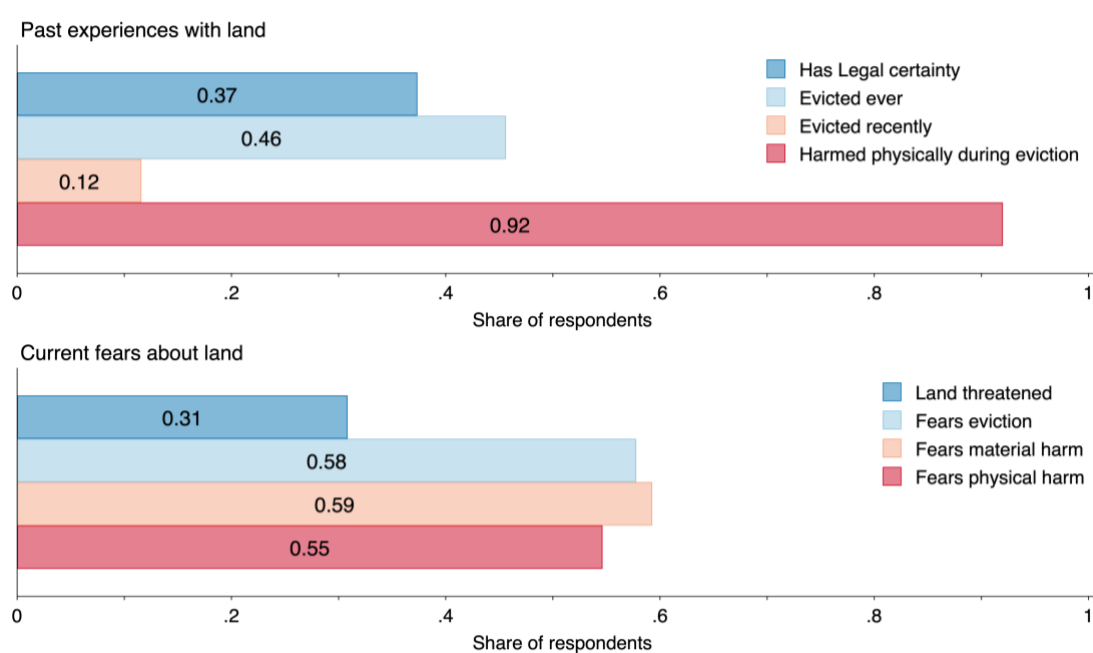
	Mean	SD	Min	Max	N
A. Indicators of personal wellbeing					
Frequent headaches	0.96	0.20	0.00	1.00	605
Constant fatigue	0.93	0.25	0.00	1.00	605
Nervous, tense, worried	0.91	0.29	0.00	1.00	605
Sleeping badly	0.66	0.47	0.00	1.00	605
Trouble thinking clearly	0.66	0.47	0.00	1.00	605
Stomach discomfort	0.89	0.32	0.00	1.00	605
B. Life satisfaction and perceptions					
Life Satisfaction, 1 (low) – 5 (high)	3.51	1.31	1.00	5.00	605
Thinks life better in 1 year	0.44	0.50	0.00	1.00	605

As Panel B of Table 3 shows, however, life perceptions and expectations were not as low as one may expect in light of the previous trends. On a scale of one to five, life satisfaction was 3.5 on average, and 44 percent of the sample believed that their life would be better in one year's time.

B. Experiences with and perceptions about land

Turning to information that is more directly related to the topic of the project, Figure 5 presents summary statistics for participant histories on their land, including agrarian conflict experiences, as well as fears about possible bad experiences in the future.

Figure 5: Experiences with land and agrarian conflict

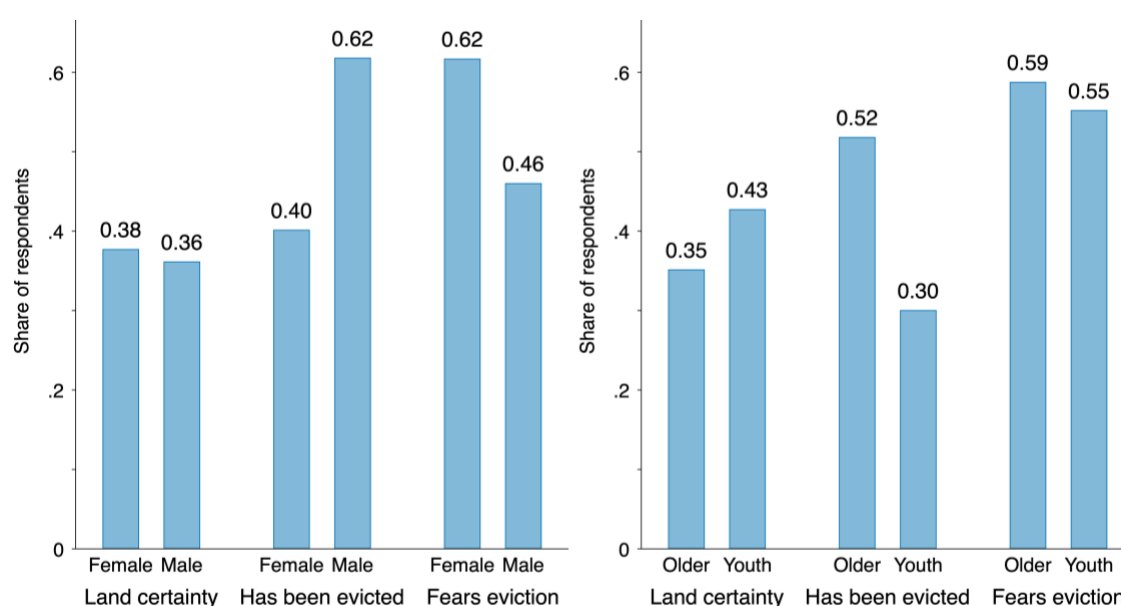


As captured in the figure, 37 percent of the sample currently has “legal certainty” regarding the land on which they reside. According to project implementers, land tenure in this area is held on a communal basis; and as half of the communities were reported as having legal certainty at baseline, this share represents the survey participants who belong to the five communities with secure land tenure. With respect to past experiences, 46 percent of respondents report having endured an eviction at least once in their lifetime, with the majority (92 percent) characterizing it as a violent event. Among those who have suffered an eviction, it was relatively recent (less than 10 years ago) for 12 percent of respondents.

The lower panel of Figure 5 shows that fears about the current land respondents reside on persisted at baseline, with 31 percent of respondents reporting experiencing threats related to land, and 58 percent fearing being eviction from their current land. Furthermore, 59 percent and 55 percent feared that if an eviction occurs in their future, it would not be peaceful, but rather entail material and physical harm for them, respectively.

Finally, we show in Figure 6 how some of these measures relating to agrarian experiences and fears differ by key demographics, specifically gender and age. As shown, 38 and 36 percent of female and male respondents have land certainty, respectively; while a higher share of males had ever experienced eviction: 62 percent compared to 40 percent of women. Conversely, however, a higher share of women feared being evicted from their current land: 62 percent compared to 46 percent of men.

Figure 6: Experiences with and fears about land, by demographic characteristics (gender and age)



As captured on the right-hand-side graph, a higher share of youth compared to older individuals had land certainty (43 versus 35 percent); while a lower proportion of youth had experienced evictions (30 compared to 52 percent), and a slightly lower share express fearing an eviction in the future (59 percent of youth compared to 55 percent of older individuals). Along most, if not all measures, the trends among sub-groups do not diverge significantly.

C. Institutional trust, social engagement, and political participation

The last set of descriptive results explore participant social and political engagement, as well as their perceptions and trust towards institutions both local and more distant. The former set is presented in Table 4 below, which shows that 40 percent of the sample is well-integrated in the community, having been born and raised in the area. Nearly 60 percent of the sample were relocated to the area, either voluntarily or involuntarily as a result of an eviction. These families/households are relatively new to the area and are in the process of integration to the community life. The vast majority (89 percent) attends church regularly, while 69 percent report active engagement in social spaces, such as the general assembly, farmers cooperatives, committee of elders, religious groups, community promoters, spiritual guides, cultural groups, health promoters, and midwives. Similarly, 99 and 66 percent report having attended local meetings and dialogues spaces, respectively. As shown, 46 percent of respondents take on active leadership roles in various community committees and assemblies, such as the general assembly directors board, women's committees, COCODEs, pro-improvement committee, local authority (councilors), youth committees, and indigenous mayors' offices. Overall, this may demonstrate the diverse and active participation within the community across different types of groups and committees.

Table 4: Social and political engagement

	Mean	SD	Min	Max	N
A. Social integration and participation					
Born and raised "here"	0.40	0.49	0.00	1.00	605
Relocated, due to eviction	0.30	0.46	0.00	1.00	605
Relocated, voluntarily	0.28	0.45	0.00	1.00	605
Attends church regularly	0.89	0.31	0.00	1.00	605
Participates in social spaces	0.69	0.46	0.00	1.00	605
Attended: local meetings	0.99	0.11	0.00	1.00	605
Attended: dialogue spaces	0.66	0.47	0.00	1.00	605
Leader in the community	0.46	0.50	0.00	1.00	605
B. Political engagement and institutional trust					
Voted in community election	0.62	0.49	0.00	1.00	605
Voted in a general election	0.56	0.50	0.00	1.00	605
Has taken part in a protest	0.46	0.50	0.00	1.00	605
Trusts traditional leader	0.52	0.50	0.00	1.00	605
Trusts religious leader	0.53	0.50	0.00	1.00	605
Trusts municipality	0.47	0.50	0.00	1.00	605
Trusts district governorate	0.39	0.49	0.00	1.00	605
Trusts national government	0.33	0.47	0.00	1.00	605
C. Program awareness					
Knows of the upcoming program	0.59	0.49	0.00	1.00	605

The middle panel of Table 4 shows a more political pattern of engagement in the communities. As it underscores, 62 and 56 percent of participants had voted in a community and a national (general) election, respectively. Just below half of respondents (46 percent)

report having ever participated in protest, which denotes relatively high political participation among members of the ten project communities. The variables relating to trust in institution show that 52 and 53 percent of respondents report having trust in local leaders, i.e., traditional and religious leaders, respectively. Meanwhile, trust in institutions is lower, with 47, 39 and 33 percent of respondents reporting that they have trust in their Municipality, the District Governorate, and the National Government, respectively.¹³ Thus, the data reveals that generally, trust in community leaders surpasses trust in formal public institutions to enforce or resolve local issues.

Finally, the lower panel of Table 4 shows that during the data collection for this baseline assessment, almost 60 percent of respondents report knowing about the peacebuilding project under evaluation.¹⁴ Given that a community process to obtain consent for the project had occurred a month or so prior to the survey, this result is not surprising. However, given that the share is not much higher, this introduces variation with respect to pre-survey knowledge about the program before the audio report embedded in the survey (i.e., in the experimental survey component). As a result, over half of the respondents indicated their familiarity with the intervention prior to its implementation. This suggests that community members already possessed a foundation of knowledge or expectations about the intervention. Therefore, the upcoming analysis takes this into account, controlling for this in the estimation of the effects of providing information about the program on the individual beliefs and attitudes measured.

D. Perspectives on conflict resolution

Before delving into the results, we summarize the main outcomes for individuals in the sample, i.e., how they rated the various approaches to conflict resolution as presented in the vignettes. Across the three conflict resolution approaches, participants were asked to rate its effectiveness and appropriateness: i.e., the direct confrontation (informal), implicitly violent approach; the local peaceful approach through community institutions directly enhanced by the program; and the distant peaceful approach through national institutions indirectly affected by the program. For appropriateness, responses ranged from 'completely inappropriate,' 'somewhat inappropriate,' 'somewhat appropriate,' or 'completely appropriate'; while effectiveness responses were 'completely ineffective,' 'somewhat ineffective,' 'somewhat effective,' or 'completely effective.' In the outcomes, we use these ordinal measures ranging with values from 1 to 4, as well as additionally binary variables that take the value of 1 if the individual considered the approach as appropriate or effective.

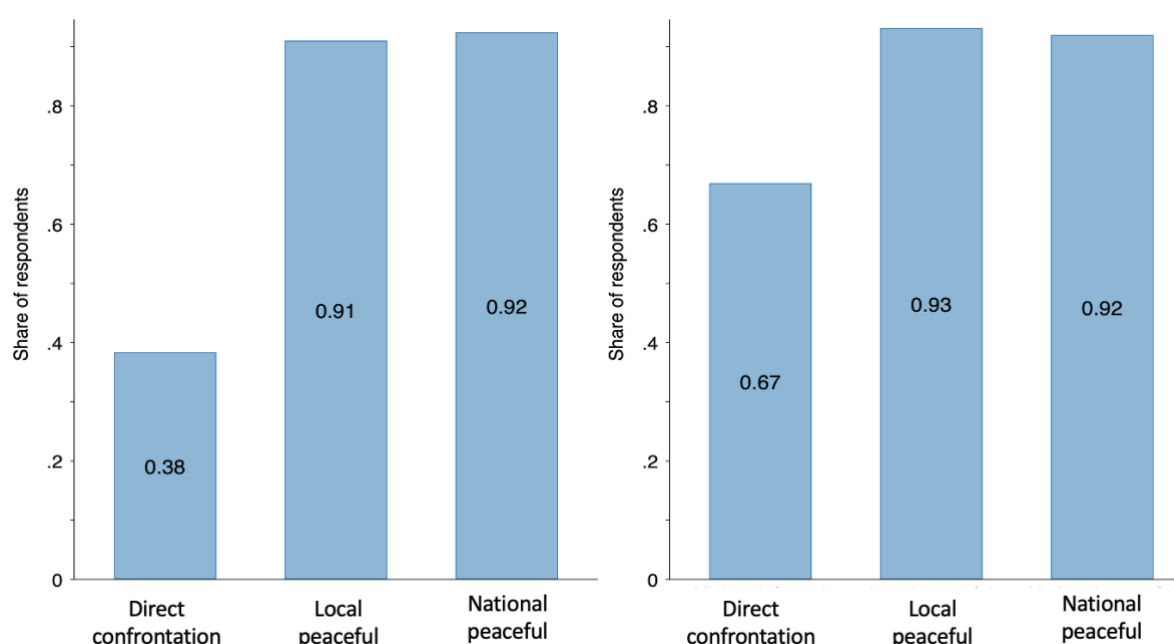
While the full distribution of outcomes along the three conflict resolution approaches is shown in the appendix (see Table A2), we show averages in Figure 7. In this figure, the left graph shows the share that perceived each approach as **appropriate**, while the right graph shows the share that perceived each approach as **effective**. At face value, it generally shows

¹³ In the appendix, a more detailed distribution of these trust variables is shown, where responses ranged from values 0 – 4, corresponding to having “no confidence”, little confidence, “a fair amount of confidence” and “a great deal of confidence” in said institution (see Figures A1 and A2). Here, a respondent is considered to have trust if they report “a fair amount” or “a great deal” of confidence.

¹⁴ Specifically, almost half of the respondents were fully aware of the peacebuilding intervention before its implementation, with an additional 12 percent expressing some level of awareness.

that a low share of participants perceived the potentially “violent” recourse to conflict resolution as appropriate, but are more likely to consider this approach as effective (38 versus 67 percent). On the other hand, perceptions regarding the formal institutions, both local and national, are similar and interestingly rather high – with over 90 percent of the sample affirming that these are appropriate and effective means to resolve the type of conflict discussed.

Figure 7: Share perceiving approach as appropriate (left) and effective (right)



A final outcome to be investigated in the experiment framework is whether behavior towards others may be affected by the information prime. Specifically, we employ a measure of altruism, which is captured by an item that asked individuals if they would be willing to donate part of their own resources (harvest) to an out-group (external community) in need. For individuals who respond that they are willing to donate, the share willing to be donated is then elicited. In Table 5 below, summary statistics along these measures are displayed, where the first row is constructed from a yes/no question on whether they are willing to donate;¹⁵ while the second captures the amount they are willing to donate; and the last is a dummy variable for a willingness to donate the highest amount possible.

Table 5: Donation willingness and amounts

	Mean	SD	Min	Max	N
Would donate to help affected community	0.97	0.18	0.00	1.00	605
Amount would donate	2.73	0.79	1.00	4.00	584
Would donate a lot	0.17	0.38	0.00	1.00	605

¹⁵ Here, response values range from 1 to 4, corresponding to “very little”, “little”, “some”, or “a lot”, respectively.

As shown in the table, communities in general display an overwhelmingly high level of altruism: the vast majority (97 percent) were willing to contribute a share of their own harvest to support another community in need, while 17 were willing to donate a very high amount.

5. Experimental Results

This section presents the main findings from the experimental approach of the baseline, assessing whether the provision of information about the peacebuilding project has a discernable effect on individual attitudes and perceptions relating to conflict (resolution).

A. Estimation strategy

To test the effect of the (information) treatment on outcomes of interest, a linear probability model (LPM) is employed,¹⁶ which allows estimation for binary outcomes in a framework where the effect sizes are easier / more intuitive to interpret. In doing so, we estimate the following regression equation:

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 T_i + \beta_2 X_i + \varepsilon_i \quad ,$$

where Y_i is the outcome of interest; T_i is the treatment indicator that takes the value one if respondent i received information on the peacebuilding intervention and zero otherwise; X_i is a vector of covariates; and ε_i is the standard error. The main outcomes of interest, Y_i , relate to measures of individuals' perceptions on the *appropriateness* and *effectiveness* of the conflict resolution methods outlined earlier in the methodology section. Another outcome of interest is individual altruism towards the out-group, measured as the willingness to donate and how much to donate in a hypothetical scenario.

In most estimations, a set of control variables, X_i , is included: specifically, gender, age, deprivation, land tenure security, and eviction incidents. These variables are included because on the one hand, they expected to have a direct impact on the outcome. Further, the choice of these variables is influenced by the program's TOC, which suggests that females and younger individuals are more inclined to prefer peaceful forms of conflict resolution; that less deprived individuals may have a lower preference for (implicitly) violent conflict resolution, and those with secure land tenure may be less likely to choose a direct confrontation approach. Nonetheless, both sets of results are shown: those where a vector of these controls are not included, and results where they are included. We do not include any other covariates due to an unbalanced sample, as tests of randomization were performed and do not reveal insignificant imbalances by treatment along key measures (see Table A1 in the appendix). Finally, and as earlier mentioned, all estimations control for reporting knowledge about the program, which is predicted to be strongly correlated with how individuals respond to the information treatment.

¹⁶ Following Doi et al., 2012, the main estimations rely on the LPM as it has been demonstrated to be suitable and reliable when the odds or probabilities of the outcome occurring are not extreme (Horracea and Oaxaca, 2006), as is the case here. Thus, as it has the advantage of being more intuitive, we rely on it here as opposed to binary estimation models (i.e., probit or logit) that would require interpreting marginal effects.

B. Findings I – Perceptions on the “Direct Confrontation” Approach

Turning to the main analyses, Table 6 first presents the experimental results on perceptions towards the direct confrontation approach, showing if the perceived appropriateness and effectiveness differ significantly by treatment. In this analysis, we pool together the two treatments in comparisons to the control, as all individuals in this grouping responded to the same option set of questions regarding perceptions towards the (implicit) use of violence.

As shown in the table, there is no discernable effect of the treatment on the perceived appropriateness of a direct confrontation approach. In other words, individuals who were provided information about the upcoming program were no more likely to think that direct confrontation would be appropriate, and this holds true for both the ordinal and the binary measure (columns (1) and (2), respectively).

Table 6 - Direct confrontation appropriateness and effectiveness (Pooled Treatment vs Control)

	(1) Direct confrontation appropriateness	(2) Thinks direct confrontation is appropriate	(3) Direct confrontation effectiveness	(4) Thinks direct confrontation is effective
<i>Peacebuilding Information</i>	-0.073 (0.073)	0.002 (0.040)	-0.220 (0.112)	-0.093* (0.041)
Knows the program	-0.572*** (0.068)	-0.344*** (0.038)	-0.386*** (0.105)	-0.122** (0.039)
Mean Outcome in Control	2.049	0.377	3.153	0.732
Adjusted R-squared	0.102	0.118	0.024	0.021
Number of observations	605	605	605	605

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. Significant coefficients as: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

The last columns of Table 6 report treatment effects regarding the perceived effectiveness of direct confrontation. As it shows, the sign across both the ordinal and the binary measure are negative, suggesting that treated individuals are less likely to think that direct confrontation is an effective recourse to conflict resolution. Quantified, the coefficient on the last column suggests that compared to those individuals who were informed about the placebo UN-program, participants who were informed about the peacebuilding project were around 9 percentage points less likely to think that direct confrontation is effective. This effect is statistically significant at 10 percent, which suggests that there may be positive anticipation effect of the program on perceptions towards implicit violence as effective to solve disputes.

Table 7 presents the same set of results, but with the vector of selected control variables included. As it shows, the (lack of significant) results on the treatment effect are rather robust; and in fact, the statistically significant coefficient earlier observed is now muted. This withstanding, it is worth noting the coefficients on the socio-economic traits and past experiences: across all outcomes, gender and age do not have robust impacts on perceptions towards direct confrontation, while experiences appear to play a role. Specifically, these results suggest that those who faced higher levels of deprivation and those with secure land tenure are significantly less likely to report that the (implicit) use of violence in conflict resolution is appropriate or effective, effects which are large and highly significant. On the other hand, participants who experienced evictions display the opposite trend: they are significantly more likely to report that direct confrontation is both an appropriate and

effective mean of conflict resolution, the coefficients of which are also large and statistically significant at 1 percent. Lastly, there is also a direct and robust effect of reporting having known about the peacebuilding program, as those individuals are significantly more likely to think that direct confrontation is appropriate and more likely to think that it is effective (highly significant at 1 percent). The magnitudes of these effects are also notably large: they were about 19 and 12 percentage points to think that violence is not appropriate and effective, respectively.

Table 7 - Direct confrontation appropriateness and effectiveness (Pooled Treatment vs Control)

	(1) Direct confrontation appropriateness	(2) Thinks direct confrontation is appropriate	(3) Direct confrontation effectiveness	(4) Thinks direct confrontation is effective
Peacebuilding Information	0.017 (0.061)	0.034 (0.037)	-0.043 (0.070)	-0.029 (0.027)
Female	-0.071 (0.067)	-0.089* (0.041)	0.160* (0.077)	0.044 (0.030)
Young (29 or less)	0.054 (0.065)	-0.004 (0.039)	-0.143 (0.075)	-0.030 (0.029)
High deprivation	-0.371*** (0.058)	-0.184*** (0.035)	-0.256*** (0.067)	-0.096*** (0.026)
Has land certainty	-0.983*** (0.071)	-0.369*** (0.043)	-2.277*** (0.081)	-0.796*** (0.031)
Has been evicted	0.413*** (0.067)	0.242*** (0.040)	0.492*** (0.076)	0.149*** (0.030)
Knows the program	-0.203*** (0.061)	-0.187*** (0.037)	0.317*** (0.070)	0.122*** (0.027)
Mean Outcome in Control	2.049	0.377	3.153	0.732
Adjusted R-squared	0.388	0.283	0.632	0.584
Number of observations	605	605	605	605

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. Significant coefficients as: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

C. Findings II – Perceptions on Peaceful Approaches

Table 8 presents the results on perceptions regarding the appropriateness and effectiveness of local formal channels for dispute resolution, which specifically refer to engaging in the dialogue spaces that are to be improved through the peacebuilding intervention. As such, this analysis compares individuals in treatment 1 to those in the control group.

The results shown in the table suggest that exposure to peacebuilding information does not significantly affect perceptions on the appropriateness and effectiveness of local peaceful

resolution methods (consistent with the model without control variables presented in Table B1 in the appendix). The coefficients are small and not significant, and their direction is also not consistent. However, the results again suggest that while demographics do not appear to influence perceptions, experiences of deprivation, having secure land tenure, and having been evicted in the past, does to some extent. Economically deprived participants tend to give a higher score to effectiveness of this approach compared to less deprived individuals. Participants with land tenure certainty tend to perceive this approach as more appropriate than those without land certainty. Notably, participants who have experienced evictions are significantly more likely to perceive the local solution as appropriate for conflict resolution.

Table 8 - Local solution perceptions appropriateness and effectiveness (Treatment 1 vs Control)

	(1) Local solution appropriateness	(2) Thinks local solution is appropriate	(3) Local solution effectiveness	(4) Thinks local solution is effective
<i>Peacebuilding Information</i>	-0.024 (0.050)	-0.021 (0.028)	-0.023 (0.063)	0.024 (0.026)
Female	0.089 (0.061)	0.039 (0.035)	0.031 (0.077)	-0.011 (0.032)
Young (29 or less)	0.018 (0.059)	0.005 (0.033)	0.063 (0.073)	0.029 (0.030)
High deprivation	-0.091 (0.051)	-0.039 (0.029)	0.137* (0.065)	0.037 (0.027)
Has land certainty	0.167** (0.063)	0.101** (0.036)	-0.151 (0.079)	-0.039 (0.033)
Has been evicted	0.121* (0.059)	0.076* (0.034)	0.000 (0.075)	0.002 (0.031)
Knows the program	-0.192*** (0.054)	-0.107*** (0.031)	-0.073 (0.068)	-0.037 (0.028)
Mean Outcome in Control	2.857	0.918	3.760	0.918
Adjusted R-squared	0.072	0.075	0.009	-0.000
Number of observations	390	390	393	393

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. Significant coefficients as: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

In Table 9, we examine treatment effects on perceptions of more distant institutions, which are an interesting comparison as they are not directly targeted by the program. Hence, the estimations entail a comparison of those in treatment 2 to the control group. It is important to acknowledge that the comparison is somewhat nuanced in this case: as the comparison group is Treatment 2, the outcomes are different. Treatment 2 rated the distant – formal peaceful while the control group rated the local-formal peaceful approach. Both approaches are formal and peaceful in nature for resolving disputes; however, one is directed at local institutions while the other is intended for national institutions. Therefore, the comparison is less direct than in previous analyses, but nonetheless informative.

In line with previous findings, the results indicate that exposure to peacebuilding information does not have a (robust) significant influence on perceptions of the appropriateness and effectiveness of the formal resolution methods. The coefficients are close to zero and not significant, and these results are consistent with the model without control variables (see Table B2 in the appendix). Further, the covariates have less predictive power in this model, with only individual deprivation having some impact on the perceived effectiveness of formal solutions.

Table 9 – Formal perceptions appropriateness and effectiveness (Treatment 2 vs Control)

	(1) Formal solution appropriateness	(2) Thinks formal solution is appropriate	(3) Formal solution effectiveness	(4) Thinks formal solution is effective
Peacebuilding Information	0.024 (0.045)	-0.001 (0.027)	-0.078 (0.063)	0.001 (0.028)
Female	0.024 (0.054)	0.011 (0.033)	0.099 (0.075)	0.029 (0.033)
Young (29 or less)	-0.006 (0.053)	0.013 (0.032)	-0.015 (0.073)	-0.008 (0.032)
High deprivation	-0.067 (0.048)	-0.025 (0.029)	0.186** (0.066)	0.057* (0.029)
Has land certainty	0.103 (0.058)	0.058 (0.035)	-0.133 (0.080)	-0.051 (0.035)
Has been evicted	0.035 (0.054)	0.033 (0.033)	-0.084 (0.075)	-0.012 (0.033)
Knows the program	-0.128* (0.050)	-0.065* (0.030)	-0.156* (0.069)	-0.062* (0.030)
Mean Outcome in Control	2.857	0.918	3.760	0.918
Adjusted R-squared	0.016	0.010	0.042	0.016
Number of observations	393	393	395	395

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. Significant coefficients as: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

D. Findings III – Donation propensity/altruism

The final set of results, presented in Table 10, examine treatment effects on the measures of altruism towards the out-group. More specifically, the outcomes are the willingness to contribute resources to aid another community in need, i.e., a binary indicator for this being the outcome in Column (1); and a binary indicator for willingness to donate a very high amount in Column (2). As shown in the table, the vast majority of those in the control group (98 percent) were willing to contribute resources, and this appears to not differ by treatment or programming information received. Similarly, column (2) shows that 19 percent of those in

the control were willing to donate a very high amount; and while the treatment group is slightly less likely to report a very high donation amount, the coefficient is small and not statistically significant. As such, we conclude there to be no significant impacts of information provision regarding the peacebuilding program on this outcome (consistent with results of the model without control variables in Table B3 in the appendix).

Table 10 - Donation propensity (Pooled Treatment vs Control)

	(1) Would donate to help	(2) Would donate a lot
<i>Peacebuilding Information</i>	-0.023 (0.016)	-0.014 (0.031)
Female	-0.012 (0.018)	0.060 (0.034)
Young (29 or less)	0.013 (0.017)	-0.026 (0.033)
High deprivation	0.059*** (0.015)	0.140*** (0.030)
Has land certainty	-0.013 (0.019)	-0.267*** (0.036)
Has been evicted	0.001 (0.018)	-0.025 (0.034)
Knows the program	0.016 (0.016)	0.165*** (0.031)
Mean Outcome in Control	0.978	0.191
Adjusted R-squared	0.018	0.151
Number of observations	605	605

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. Significant coefficients as: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

As also shown, and consistent with the findings thus far, individual experiences have some role on our measures of altruism. Notably, that individuals that are more deprived are more inclined to engage in pro-social behaviors; as well those with land certainty, while demographic factors have no significant influence on the altruism outcomes.

6. Discussion and Qualitative Insights

This section discusses the descriptive and experimental findings, while also incorporating insights from the qualitative discussions conducted to contextualize the findings. Moreover, the limitations of this study are outlined.

A. Discussion of the Results

Descriptive findings: The baseline survey first shed light on the demographic, socioeconomic and political landscape of the communities targeted by the peacebuilding intervention. The descriptive results indicate that the communities face widespread poverty, significant barriers to accessing basic needs, and prevalent mental health issues. On the other hand, responses suggest that individuals in the communities are highly interconnected through various social engagements, as well as political ones. This provides a good foundation for policies aiming to improve well-being, peacebuilding, and other outcomes in. That is, unlike in more communities that may be more fractionalized and/or less organized, the communities in Polochic make for good partners in which to implement approaches whose success hinges on a socially cohesive populace.

The results concerning land ownership and rights show that a significant section of the population lacks legal clarity over their land, with many who have already experienced evictions reporting that they currently live in fear of such events re-occurring, along with some exposure to violence in the process. Accompanied by the data underscoring levels of physical and mental stress, which are by no means prescriptive; these insights are important for understanding the multifaceted challenges faced by the beneficiaries of the project. It may well be that improving higher level outcomes such as conflict and land security alone can improve these individual level measures. On the other hand, however, it may be that future programming may be improved via the inclusion of interventions that also target individual well-being along the different dimensions.

Further, the survey delves into the local communities' preferences for conflict resolution and their broader societal views. A notable finding is the community's strong inclination towards resolving disputes through peaceful means, a preference that extends across both local and national levels. Conversely, while direct confrontation is generally regarded as an unsuitable means for dispute resolution, it is paradoxically seen as effective, at least for resolving the type of dispute discussed in the context of the study. Additionally, the survey sheds light on the aspect of altruism within these communities, demonstrating a high willingness among members to engage in pro-social behaviors. These findings are relevant from a policy perspective, underscoring the community's predisposition towards peace and altruism, and revealing the potential for community-driven initiatives and collaborative efforts in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

Experimental findings: relying on these measures on preferences for conflict resolution, the experimental component of the study examines whether providing information about the project may affect these preferences. The analysis here not only examines the impact of the prime itself (i.e., varied information provision), but the role of other factors that could be

predicted to have an effect. Specifically, these were a set of demographic, well-being and (land-related) experiences variables, all deemed necessary to enrich what can be learnt about the success of the project. A summary of these findings in the experimental baseline study is depicted in Table 11 below.

Table 11 – Summary of results of experimental approach

	Conflict resolution approaches			
	Direct confrontation approach	Peaceful local	Peaceful formal	Donation propensity
Peacebuilding information	No significant impacts, except lower effectiveness * (model without covariates)	No significant impacts	No significant impacts	No significant impacts
Female	Lower appropriateness * Higher effectiveness *	No significant impacts	No significant impacts	No significant impacts
Young	No significant impacts	No significant impacts	No significant impacts	No significant impacts
High deprivation	Lower appropriateness and effectiveness ***	Higher effectiveness *	Higher effectiveness **	Higher propensity to donate, and to donate a high amount ***
Land certainty	Lower appropriateness and effectiveness ***	Higher appropriateness **	No significant impacts	Lower propensity to donate a high amount ***
Eviction experience	Higher appropriateness and effectiveness ***	Higher appropriateness *	No significant impacts	No significant impacts

Significance levels: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

The results across different specifications indicated that at baseline, exposure to information on peacebuilding did not significantly influence individuals' attitudes towards direct confrontation, nor to the peaceful or institutional conflict resolution approaches. We also do not find the provision of information about the project to have a meaningful effect on individual's altruism, or more specific, their reported willingness to donate in a hypothetical scenario. This lack of a significant effect may in part be explained by there already being

widespread awareness about the project, as well as the fact that perceptions surrounding institutional mechanisms were very positive in general (with an implication of ceiling effects being at play¹⁷). Other possible explanations are also possible, but in either case; this open question can be explored further with additional data that can be gathered at endline, which is to be conducted following the project's conclusion.

Worth noting in Table 11, however, is the interplay between socio-demographic factors, land history experiences and the outcomes. Generally, demographic factors of gender and age exhibit weak correlations to the outcomes. Conversely, high economic deprivation was significantly associated with a lower propensity to endorse direct confrontation, while being positively correlated with a higher preference for peaceful approaches, and a higher inclination to donate. Land certainty was correlated with a lower likelihood to perceive direct confrontation as effective or appropriate, and a higher tendency to report that local peaceful solutions could be an effective means of conflict resolution. Having experienced eviction incidents was positively correlated with the endorsement of direct confrontation but correlated with a higher preference for a peaceful local approach to solve disputes. These strong associations support that while the prime at baseline may play a limited role in shifting perceptions on average, there are significant heterogeneities – not necessarily along who individuals may be, but rather contingent on the experiences they have. Investigating the mechanisms, and therefore the implications of these findings, is also a key goal of the endline assessment.

B. Qualitative Insights

In June 2023, following the completion of the data collection, ISDC, the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) /PFB, and a UN interagency team collaborated to organize a workshop in Guatemala. The workshop was attended by community leaders and members of civil society, with the objective of gaining qualitative insights that would inform the interpretation of the quantitative analysis to offer a nuanced view of the data collected¹⁸. As the preliminary findings of the data collection emerged, the workshop transitioned into a series of engaging discussions. Community leaders were invited to share their insights on the nature of conflicts they face in their communities, and to discuss the resolution strategies at their disposal. The discourse thus aimed to uncover the preferences and experiences of leaders as they navigate through the challenges of conflict resolution.

From these comprehensive dialogues, nuanced understandings began to unfold. It became evident that conflicts within these communities were often rooted in natural resource utilization and land-related disputes. These conflicts were not limited to confrontations within communities, as presented in the baseline survey; but extended to complex interplays between communities and private companies, and even with public institutions. Issues such

¹⁷ Ceiling effects occur when a measure reaches its maximum value, thereby limiting the ability to detect differences or improvements between subjects who score at or near the top of the scale.

¹⁸ The qualitative insights were collected from a separate sample that included 30 leaders from the ten beneficiary communities and four members of civil society organizations (Fundación Guillermo Toriello and Pastoral Social).

as resource access, especially water, as well as agricultural losses and the ramifications of natural disasters such as fires, were highlighted as common points of contention. Land disputes, particularly those concerning territorial boundaries, ownership, and occupation rights, were also underscored as significant sources of strife.

The leaders' preferred approach to these issues was notably community-driven and favored peaceful resolutions facilitated by community authorities and assemblies. Yet, when confronted with more complex challenges, the leaders recognized the indispensability of engaging with both local and national institutions. Despite this acknowledgement, they also expressed apprehension regarding the economic costs, as well as the cultural and linguistic obstacles, that possibly hinder effective engagement with institutional mechanisms of conflict resolution.

The workshop underscored the importance the leaders placed on certain issues: the necessity of being prepared for conflicts, the value of promoting dialogue between communities, the need for gender inclusivity, and the recognition that community-led processes, while potentially time-consuming, are crucial for sustainable conflict resolution. This emphasis on inter-community dialogue was particularly salient, suggesting that leaders see it as an opportunity for sharing experiences and finding solutions to the complex conflicts that arise.

Next, a summary of the conflict types and modes of conflict resolution that came out of these discussions are presented.

Characterization of Conflict Types and Resolution Mechanisms:

- **Types of conflicts prevalent in the communities:** Conflicts revolved around issues such as natural resource use and access (e.g., water, crop damage, fires) and land disputes (territorial limits, land ownership, and occupation).
- **Actors involved in the conflicts:** Conflicts involved inter-community disputes, conflicts between communities and private companies, and conflicts between communities and public institutions (e.g., the Police).
- **Preferences for conflict resolution:** The preferred conflict resolution mechanism depended on the actors involved and the type and scale of the conflict. In general, community leaders strongly favored peaceful solutions over the use of violence. They noted that smaller issues were typically resolved internally through community leaders, while larger problems might require the involvement of public institutions. The overall preferred option for resolving conflicts was community-based, emphasizing the importance of community authorities, COCODES, and assemblies in the resolution process.
- **Conflicts between or within communities:** Leaders expressed a preference for resolving this type of conflict through direct dialogue between affected communities, with community authorities playing a significant role as mediators. Community leaders rejected potentially violent mechanisms for settling disputes between communities. Individuals generally had a high level of confidence in peaceful mechanisms, both at the local and national levels, for resolving conflicts between communities. The involvement of local or national institutions was considered a last resort, used only when community leaders could not reach an agreement due to high associated costs (in terms of time and money).

- **Conflicts involving private companies:** Finding a solution was more challenging for this type of conflict, as leaders lacked confidence in the ability of institutions to effectively address these conflicts fairly. They had experienced violence and discrimination in the past and expressed mistrust in local negotiation spaces, such as dialogue tables.
- **Leaders emphasized the importance of preparedness and precautionary measures to avoid conflicts.** They also valued the opportunity to collectively discuss conflict resolution with other communities, acknowledging the immense value of sharing experiences and insights from different communities in finding effective solutions.
- **Conflicts related to land tenure security and lack of documentation were persistent issues.** Community leaders expressed the need for institutional support to regularize their land tenure situation. In general, the leaders had low trust in institutional spaces for resolving land issues, except for the Land Fund, which appeared to have provided solutions in the past. Throughout the discussions, concerns were raised about the existence of arrest warrants for community members involved in land disputes.
- **Participants stressed the importance of involving both men and women in conflict resolution efforts.** Inclusivity was seen as a key factor in maintaining community cohesion.
- **The mission recognized that community dialogue processes often took a long time,** as they required the involvement of community members and affected actors. These processing times might not always align with institutional timelines.

C. Study Limitations

While the baseline and qualitative findings jointly provide invaluable information for understanding how the project may work in the communities, which can be gleaned in-depth at endline; it is well-worth acknowledging certain challenges or limitations faced thus far. These are noted in Table 12 below and are to be taken into account when considering the study findings. The table also notes how these limitations can be addressed through the opportunity of conducting an endline assessment.

Table 12 - Constraints, Limitations, and Management Strategies

Constraints/Limitations	Management Strategies
Data Collection	
<i>Restricted access to beneficiary communities /remote rural communities and low trust in external actors</i>	The extensive experience of the PBF secretariat in-country, the joint agencies implementing the program, and Sotzil working with indigenous communities generally, and with the 10 beneficiary communities, proved highly valuable. A key feature of this value worth highlighting, is that we selected as enumerators, members from the 10 communities that are beneficiaries of the program. This meant that the data collection exercise was well-received in the communities, which is important in contexts such as Polochic Valley, where trust of external actors is not particularly high.

Constraints/Limitations	Management Strategies
Scope of the Results	
<i>It is important to recognize that the analysis documented within this report is based on baseline data, collected prior to project implementation. Consequently, this does not provide an assessment of the project's "impact" in the standard sense</i>	The baseline findings allow us a preliminary glimpse into the potential reactions of individuals in beneficiary communities to the project. It offers valuable insights into their perceptions on the use of violence and conflict resolution strategies. This foundational knowledge is significant for adaptive policy design—enabling adjustments to be made in real time as the project rolls out—and helps develop a robust theoretical framework for change that can guide similar projects.
Experimental results	
<i><u>Interpretation of indicators:</u> The main indicators, which assess perceptions of different approaches to dispute resolution, are based on a specific dispute between two communities. Local partners have raised concerns that these indicators may not fully capture other prevalent types of conflicts, such as those involving private companies and public institutions.</i>	A qualitative workshop with community leaders in June 2023, gathering information on conflict and conflict resolution. From this, we note: • The indicators in the study are based on a specific type of dispute, which may be robust in assessing implicit attitudes towards violence and conflict resolution approaches in a general sense. Nonetheless, it is worth examining whether attitudes may diverge when measured in the context of different types of conflict, as outlined in the workshop. • As the intention is to gain valuable insights into the deeper underlying factors influencing individuals' responses to conflict, the endline data collection will incorporate additional contexts to provide a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of conflict resolution attitudes.

Constraints/Limitations	Management Strategies
<i>Interpretation of indicators: The baseline survey lacks specific indicator to directly quantify "access" to conflict resolution mechanisms –a critical component in resolving conflicts according to feedback from the community leaders' workshop, which pointed out economic and language barriers as significant obstacles to accessing formal conflict resolution channels.</i>	• Baseline Data: while it lacked an explicit measure for "access", the evaluation focuses on "effectiveness" of different conflict resolution methods, which implicitly suggests a level of accessibility – i.e., effective tools are typically considered accessible. Education measures can be included to account for language and cultural barriers that may permit or hinder access. • Endline Data: Moving forward, refining the instrument for the endline data collection to include direct queries regarding access issues will allow for a more detailed examination of the barriers and facilitators affecting access to formal conflict resolution processes. Therefore, introducing a direct measurement of access is planned to better reflect the actual availability of conflict resolution resources.

c. How the TOC links with the indicators?

To effectively measure the success and impact of the program designed to address agrarian conflicts, we can link the strategies and goals of the project to a series of suggested indicators.

Outcome	Survey Indicators
Outcome 1: Institutional Strengthening	• Trust in institutions (municipal, departmental, national) • Endline: trust in public officials, COPADEH, Land Fund, and private companies
Outcome 2: Improve participation of indigenous communities	• Appropriateness and effectiveness of inter-community conflict resolution mechanisms. • Altruism measures and pro-social behaviors. • Endline: access to mechanisms and conflict with other stakeholders
Outcome 3: Strengthening of dialogue spaces	• Participation in dialogue spaces • Endline: New questions on perceptions of participation in dialogue spaces.

7. Conclusions

Agrarian conflict in the Polochic Valley is a complex and dynamic issue that involves various stakeholders including indigenous communities, private enterprises, and public institutions. The peacebuilding intervention examined in this report aims to ameliorate these conflicts by enhancing the conflict resolution capabilities of public institutions, empowering community members with the skills needed to mediate disputes, and strengthening the mechanisms for local dialogue. Although this study primarily centers on indigenous communities as one aspect of the broader conflict, the insights gained may provide valuable information for policymakers.

This report systematically presents the outcomes of a baseline analysis aimed at assessing the effect of a peacebuilding intervention. The analysis focuses on the dynamics of conflict and the mechanisms for conflict resolution within the communities benefitting from the intervention. The methodological approach of the study is multifaceted, incorporating quantitative survey data analysis, alongside an experimental method and qualitative insights, triangulated to offer a comprehensive understanding of the situation. In addition, these methodological approaches provide a rich basis for what can be implemented through an endline assessment, towards getting a deeper understanding of if and how the project has meaningful impacts on peacebuilding within the targeted communities.

The findings revealed that the communities under study encounter substantial challenges, such as pervasive poverty, ongoing land disputes, and heightened social tensions. Despite these obstacles, there is a general tendency among community members to favor peaceful means of conflict resolution and exhibit altruistic behaviors. However, there exists a paradoxical view that, while direct confrontation may be considered effective, it is not deemed an appropriate method for resolving conflicts. The experimental analysis further indicates that exposure to peacebuilding information at baseline does not significantly alter individuals' attitudes towards the use of (implicit) violence for conflict resolution, their predilection for peaceful methods of dispute resolution, or their willingness to engage in altruistic acts. This may well differ at endline, when the project has been fully implemented in the communities, and the study does not rely on an anticipation effect. As discussed, however, there may be other explanations for these findings, which will be explored in further analyses. Moreover, the study underscored an interconnectedness between socio-economic circumstances, land-related experiences, and the propensities towards conflict resolution and pro-social behaviors, thereby offering significant insights into policy formulation.

We conclude this analysis on the emphasis that it is based on baseline data, and hence, the necessity for a more in-depth examination through upcoming endline data (planned for April 2024, although the exact date to be determined in consultation with local partners). This forthcoming research efforts aims to fill the gaps outlined in especially the discussion section of this report, allowing a better contextualization of the findings and offering valuable for similar interventions in the region and similar contexts elsewhere. Working with our partners, the endline study will build on insights gained from this baseline analysis, refining the study protocols to ensure a more nuanced analysis, and contribute to meeting the needs and circumstances of the communities in Polochic Valley and beyond the intervention area.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Supplementary Summary Statistics

Distribution of trust measures: the following figures are supplementary descriptive statistics for the sample across the five measures of trust, first in community-level institutions, and then trust in public level institutions.

Figure A1: Trust in community institutions: traditional leader (left) and religious leader (right)

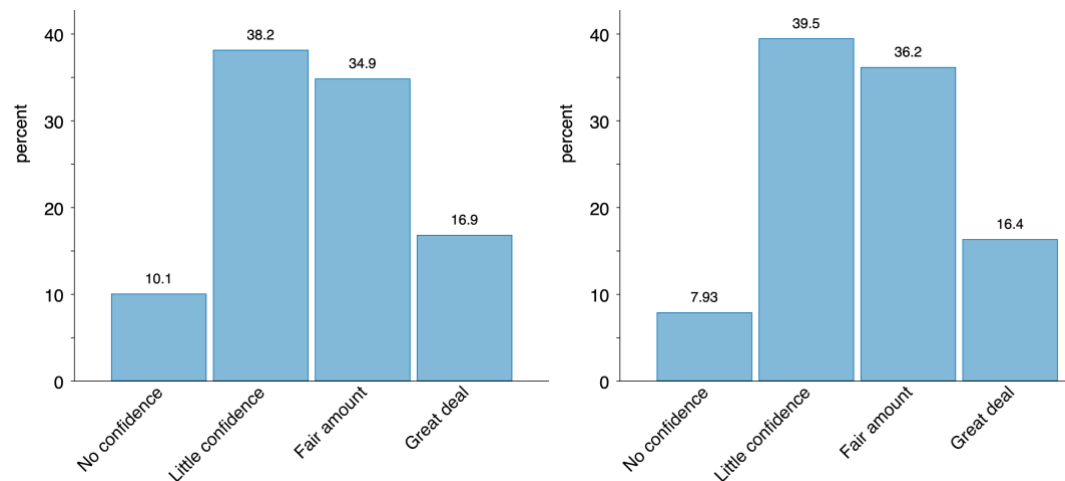
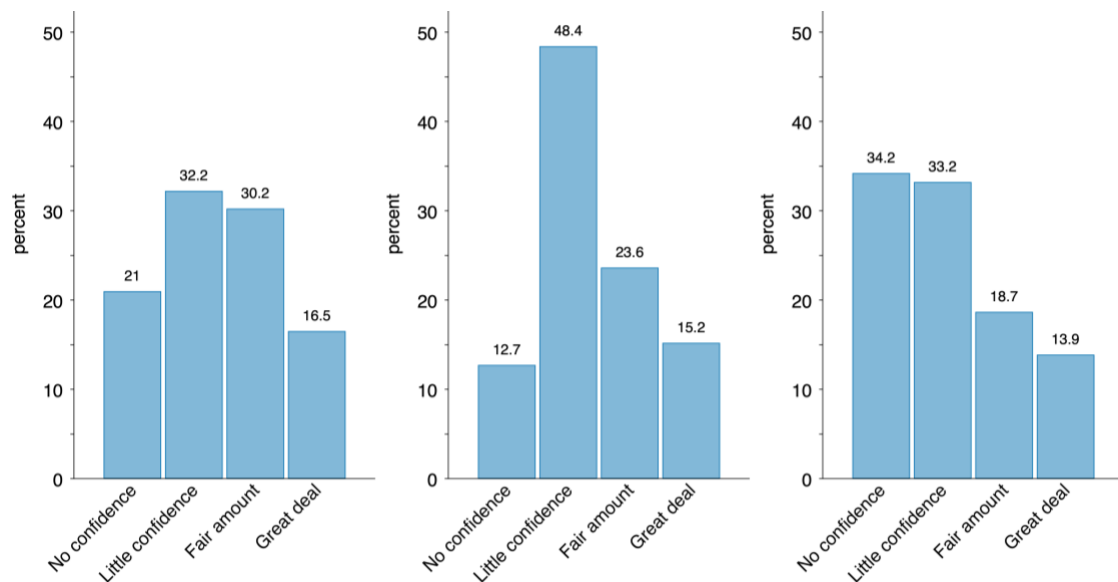


Figure A2: Trust in public institutions - Municipal (L), District (C) and National government (R)



Balance checks: the following table reports tests of balance across the three groups in the experimental framework, showing that most variables are balanced across individuals in the control, T1, and T2.

Table A1: Randomization balance tests

	Mean Control (1)	Diff T1-C (2)	Diff T2-C (3)	Diff T1-T2 (4)	N
Is female	0.76 (0.43)	0.02 [0.62]	-0.05 [0.25]	0.07* [0.08]	605
Age (reported)	40.48 (14.94)	0.19 [0.90]	0.07 [0.96]	0.12 [0.93]	605
Number in household	6.13 (3.02)	-0.31 [0.29]	-0.39 [0.17]	0.08 [0.76]	605
Can read/write	0.44 (0.50)	0.03 [0.56]	0.09* [0.07]	-0.06 [0.21]	605
Main income as community day laborer	0.98 (0.15)	-0.02 [0.25]	-0.01 [0.50]	-0.01 [0.60]	605
Food deprivation frequent in past year	0.84 (0.37)	0.03 [0.32]	0.01 [0.74]	0.02 [0.50]	605
Water deprivation frequent in past year	0.81 (0.39)	-0.05 [0.25]	-0.11** [0.01]	0.06 [0.17]	605
Medicines deprivation frequent in past year	0.73 (0.44)	0.09** [0.03]	0.02 [0.69]	0.07* [0.06]	605
Fuel deprivation frequent in past year	0.73 (0.45)	-0.01 [0.86]	0.02 [0.68]	-0.03 [0.54]	605
Cash deprivation frequent in past year	0.89 (0.31)	-0.01 [0.76]	-0.01 [0.79]	-0.00 [0.97]	605
Land tenure certainty	0.32 (0.47)	0.08 [0.11]	0.07 [0.15]	0.01 [0.86]	605
Has been evicted	0.41 (0.49)	0.06 [0.26]	0.08 [0.13]	-0.02 [0.69]	605
Evicted violently	0.96 (0.20)	0.04** [0.05]	0.01 [0.69]	0.03* [0.09]	276
Leader in the community	0.51 (0.50)	-0.08 [0.12]	-0.05 [0.32]	-0.03 [0.55]	605
Participates in social spaces	0.64 (0.48)	0.07 [0.14]	0.07 [0.15]	0.00 [0.96]	605

Notes: The mean and standard deviation in the control is in column (1); columns (2) and (3) show the difference in means for each treatment compared to the control, with p-value from tests comparing these means reported in square brackets. Column (4) shows the same results, but comparing the treatment groups to each other. Significant coefficients as: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

Outcome variable descriptives: the following table shows summary statistics for the measures on perceptions towards the three conflict resolution approaches across the sample.

Table A2: Descriptive Statistics- Outcome variables

	Mean	SD	Min	Max	N
A. Perceptions on “Direct Confrontation” Approach					
Perceived appropriateness of direct confrontation	2.01	0.87	1.00	3.00	605
Thinks direct confrontation is an appropriate solution	0.38	0.49	0.00	1.00	605
Perceived effectiveness of direct confrontation	3.00	1.29	1.00	4.00	605
Thinks direct confrontation is an effective solution	0.67	0.47	0.00	1.00	605
B. Perceptions on Local Solution					
Perceived appropriateness of local-formal solution	2.85	0.50	1.00	3.00	390
Thinks a local peaceful solution is appropriate	0.91	0.29	0.00	1.00	390
Perceived effectiveness of local-formal solution	3.75	0.61	1.00	4.00	393
Thinks a local-formal solution is effective	0.93	0.25	0.00	1.00	393
C. Perceptions on Distant Solution					
Perceived appropriateness of distant-formal solution	2.89	0.41	1.00	3.00	211
Thinks a distant-formal solution is appropriate	0.92	0.27	0.00	1.00	211
Perceived effectiveness of distant-formal solution	3.68	0.65	1.00	4.00	212
Thinks a distant-formal solution is effective	0.92	0.27	0.00	1.00	212

Appendix B: Supplementary Experimental Results

Results – On Local Solution Perceptions: the following table presents the model estimating treatment effects on perceptions of the local solution, without the inclusion of the set of covariates.

Table B1 - Local solution perceptions appropriateness and effectiveness (Treatment 1 vs Control)

	(1) Local solution appropriateness	(2) Thinks local solution is appropriate	(3) Local solution effectiveness	(4) Thinks local solution is effective
Peacebuilding Information	-0.015 (0.050)	-0.013 (0.029)	-0.016 (0.062)	0.025 (0.026)
Knows the program	-0.174*** (0.051)	-0.094** (0.029)	-0.079 (0.063)	-0.038 (0.026)
Mean Outcome in Control	2.857	0.918	3.760	0.918
Adjusted R-squared	0.024	0.021	-0.001	0.003
Number of observations	390	390	393	393

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. Significant coefficients as: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

Results – On Formal Solution Perceptions: the following table presents the model estimating treatment effects on perceptions of the formal distant solution, without the inclusion of the set of covariates.

Table B2 - Formal perceptions appropriateness and effectiveness (Treatment 2 vs Control)

	(1) Formal solution appropriateness	(2) Thinks formal solution is appropriate	(3) Formal solution effectiveness	(4) Thinks formal solution is effective
Peacebuilding Information	0.029 (0.045)	0.004 (0.027)	-0.087 (0.063)	-0.001 (0.027)
Knows the program	-0.109* (0.046)	-0.052 (0.028)	-0.158* (0.064)	-0.066* (0.028)
Mean Outcome in Control	2.857	0.918	3.760	0.918
Adjusted R-squared	0.011	0.004	0.014	0.009
Number of observations	393	393	395	395

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. Significant coefficients as: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

Results – On Altruism Perceptions: the following table presents the model estimating treatment effects on the measures of altruism, here without the inclusion of the set of covariates.

Table B3 - Donation propensity (Treatment vs Control)

	(1) Would donate to help	(2) Would donate a lot
<i>Peacebuilding Information</i>	-0.018 (0.016)	-0.023 (0.033)
Knows the program	0.023 (0.015)	0.122** (0.031)
Mean Outcome in Control	0.978	0.191
Adjusted R-squared	0.003	0.023
Number of observations	605	605

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. Significant coefficients as: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

Appendix C: Supplementary Qualitative Quotes

Quotes from Workshop with community leaders

"Yes, there have been problems in the communities. The important thing is that the community leaders come to an agreement."

"The second option seems very good to me, because there was dialogue between the two communities."

"In the communities the first, second and third time the problem is solved internally. Subsequently, if it is not solved, it is good and prudent to go to the national authorities."

"Option B is the best; dialogue is important to avoid bigger problems. We always must communicate, with problems like the burning of crops, or with the territorial limits for example."

"We had our trees burned, and we solved it directly by talking with the other community. We did not go to Option C, Public Prosecutor's Office, which economically it was going to affect us."

"What needs to be done is to find a way out so that neither party loses."

"This question or this analysis that you are doing is very important because we are analyzing how we solve problems, and you are sharing with us from the different communities how they solve this problem."

"Dialogue is important and besides that, we must help the other community. We must share if we have corn, if it was corn that was burned, we have to take care of the third community so that they do not go hungry."

"With respect to the land, it is another more difficult issue. As with land issues, the land committee, other instances, have to be present at the time of dividing or distributing the land. They are the ones who decide. And they are the ones who overview the boundaries or the borders, to resolve this issue. Because they know who the owners of the land are, so that we do not incur in a problem or a bigger problem, in land issues."

Appendix D: Study Protocols and Procedures

The following materials are the precise scripts used during the information dissemination portion of the survey; as well as the vignettes that were used to introduce the conflict scenario. In addition, the narratives for outcome measurement are provided, i.e., the possible approaches to resolving the conflict, which participants then had to rate.

Table D1: Audio transcript of information provision

	Treatment	Control
M	A pleasure to greet you my friend Carmen, I have just heard about a program in the Polochic Valley and wondered if you'd heard anything about it?	
F	No, I don't think so! Can you tell me a little about it?	
M	It is a program implemented by United Nations agencies whose objective is to prevent and manage agrarian conflicts in our area.	It is a program implemented by United Nations agencies that links family farming with the school feeding system to improve the nutrition of children and families in the communities in the area.
F	And why do we need this program?	
M	Well, as you know, in the Polochic Valley we have problems of agrarian conflict, due to tensions over land use between communities, companies and public institutions that have been unresolved for years. That is why this program focuses on addressing this issue.	Well, as you know, many people living in this area of our country suffer from malnutrition and lack of food on a daily basis. That is why this program focuses on addressing this issue.
F	How interesting! Can you tell me about the different parts of the program?	
M	First, it will improve the capacities of public institutions in charge of conflict management. To this end, it will provide tools and train public officials so that they can serve us better and in a culturally relevant manner. The second component is extremely relevant to our communities. The program has selected communities in Alta Verapaz and Izabal, with which it will work closely on issues of conflict management and efficient land use to improve their living conditions.	Through the program, business opportunities were created for small farmers in the area. This was done by connecting small family farmers with the school education system. In other words, the food produced by the farmers was used in the lunches of the children in the schools of the municipalities.
F	This is great news! And, what kind of actions will be carried out in the communities?	I think it is very important and necessary to address the problem of child malnutrition in this area! And I think it is great that at the same time support is being given to family farming in these difficult times...
M	First of all, a diagnosis will be made to understand in depth what the needs of the communities are. Community leaders will receive training so that they can better represent our communities at the dialogue tables. Female and youth leadership will be promoted in conflict management and dialogue. Finally, tools will be provided to improve community land governance. This will help us to decide how to use the land, where to cultivate and what to sow, where to locate our	I agree Carmen, and that's not all. In addition, the program focused on promoting culturally relevant menus in the school feeding system. This means that children received traditional lunches, such as "pachay y tayuyos", and very nutritious!

	Treatment	Control
	houses, how to make better use of water, and to obtain measurements of the land.	
F	I find all of this very relevant for communities in this area! I am glad to hear about this program.	I think this kind of program is important to improve the nutrition and food security of the children and families in the area! I hope that programs and initiatives like this will continue to be created!
M	I agree, ... another component will strengthen the dialogue tables to make them more inclusive and with a human rights approach. With this we will be able to obtain more peaceful solutions to our conflicts.	I agree, ... as well as helping children, I think all this allows for their growth and development, and strengthens our cultural identity.
F	Thank you, Pedro! I think this program means a step towards consolidating peace in our communities! I hope to hear more about it soon! Now, I must go to my community as there is an assembly meeting and I would like to talk to the community about this program.	
M	See you later, Carmen! Have a beautiful day	

Table D2: Audio transcript of outcomes measurement

Eliciting preferences for conflict resolution and donation propensity	
Introduction	Please listen carefully to the following story that occurred many years ago in the Polochic Valley. Once upon a time, two neighboring communities had a good relationship with each other. One day the two communities held "rozas" (fire) or burnings on the borders of both communities, on the same day and time. But a problem arose when one of the fires, carelessly and uncontrolled by the wind, reached some seedlings, damaging someone else's crops. The affected neighbors were very upset and asked to be paid for the damage caused. Upon seeing this, the leaders of the two communities met to see who was responsible. The leaders tried to identify the culprit(s), without obtaining the desired results. The affected neighbors blamed both communities and the two communities blamed each other. In one of the two communities, they held an assembly to decide how to deal with this problem. The community leader gave the floor to the community members to give their opinion on what to do about the situation.
Direct confrontation (informal) approach	First Juan took the floor and said: "No, we do not have to take responsibility for this problem. It is their fault, and it is not fair. We have to stand firm in our position and demand to our neighbors to take charge of solving it. If that means we have to confront them physically and make them see our point of view, so be it!"
Local peaceful approach	Ricardo then took the floor and said "I think we should dialogue with the other community and seek the support of the departmental dialogue tables. For example, one community can buy the seeds, and the other can take care of the planting. The dialogue table can help us to decide who is doing what. That way, we can solve the problem without confrontation".
Distant peaceful approach	Carlos then took the floor and said "I think we should go to the Public Prosecutor's Office. Present our case, and have the authorities investigate and help us solve this problem. Let's trust in the institutions and resolve this without confrontation".
Now, we would like to ask you, what do you think about this situation and how would you solve it?	
Donation propensity	Imagine that you live in a neighboring community that was not directly affected by this fire. The leader of the affected community, who lost their harvest, asks for the support of your community as they have lost a large part of their food for the season. Would you agree with your community giving a portion of your own harvest to the affected community to help them get through the season? How much of your harvest do you think your community should donate?