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## SUCCESS STORY

### Nexos Locales Launches its Regional Office in Huehuetenango

**Nine mayors from the department of Huehuetenango, including USAID WHIP partners and the Mancomunidades of the Huistas, attend USAID Nexos Locales regional office launch.**



Foto: Rodrigo Motta/Nexos Locales

*Siendo entrevistados por la Prensa Local: Representante de Sociedad Civil, Alcalde de Huehuetenango, Directivos de Nexos Locales, Representante de USAID y Secretario Ejecutivo de ANAM.*

“Es un gran beneficio para Huehuetenango que exista una oficina regional del proyecto Nexos Locales de USAID en Huehuetenango, porque facilita la comunicación y coordinación con las municipalidades, además se agilizan los trámites de las acciones con el proyecto y así el proyecto está más cerca de los municipios y estos también del proyecto. En general viene a ser un gran beneficio para la población del departamento, por el apoyo que brindará el mismo para el desarrollo de los municipios”.

*Sr. José Mario Silvestre Camposeco,  
Alcalde del Municipio de Jacaltenango,  
Huehuetenango.*

USAID's Nexos Locales officially launched its Huehuetenango regional office on Thursday, February 5, 2015. The launch was attended by over 102 participants, including nine mayors from the department of Huehuetenango. The regional launch drew together key civil society organizations (Asociación Maya AMOYEB, FUNDAECO), government institutions (MINFIM, SESAN, SEPREM), university leaders, partners of the USAID Western Highlands Integrated Program (WHIP), including NUTRISALUD, and TNC/GNCG, representatives of the Huehuetenango Governor's office, and representatives from regional MANCOMUNIDADES as a show of commitment to improving local governance and citizen participation processes at the municipal level. The event provided a propitious opportunity for healthy dialogue around local government issues, municipality needs, and strengthened capacity for better coordination and cooperation between mayors, indigenous authorities, and key associations, such as ANAM and AGAAI.

The Huehuetenango regional office, located at Sector 4, OO-38, Zone 11, Cambote Huehuetenango, will cover 10 municipalities in the department of Huehuetenango, including: Chiantla, Jacaltenango, San Sebastián Huehuetenango, Todos Santos, Cuilco Huista Concepción, San Antonio Huista, Freedom, Democracy and Santa Cruz Barillas. The office will also provide technical coverage to the area of Quiché: Santa María Nebaj, Cunén, San Juan Cotzal, Sacapulas, Chajul and Uspantán. This important footprint in the country's region of greatest need strategically positions Nexos Locales to provide technical assistance and rapid response mechanisms that lead toward the strengthening of municipalities' capacity to foster more responsive, inclusive, and effective socio-economic development while reducing local vulnerabilities such as food insecurity and natural disasters. Nexos Locales will achieve this end by ensuring that local governments are better able to manage public resources and deliver services in an efficient and transparent manner, a commitment recognized by those in attendance at the regional launch. The Director of the Mancomunidad, MAMSOHUE, reaffirmed this by stating the establishment of the Nexos Locales office in Huehuetenango will create a degree of trust with the project and the municipalities in which it serves.

The Nexos Locales Project, with its principal office located in Quetzaltenango, began in June 2014. The project will work in the areas of public financial management, citizen participation, water, local economic development, climate change, institutional strengthening for AGAAI and ANAM. The project will emphasize and incorporate key cross cutting issues—Gender, Youth, Feed-the-Future initiatives, and Indigenous Communities—into all of its program activities. The Nexos Locales base period will run through June 2017 with the option of two one-year extensions through June 2019.

#### Telling Our Story

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