

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES 2018



And you will know the truth and the truth will make you free. John 8:32

a Liberating Faith

Published by CEDEPCA Guatemala

January 2019

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Cover photography: Adolescents work a puzzle with key words of the encounter, dignity, patriarchy, self-esteem, and then they explained the meaning and the importance to them. Adolescents of the encounter Tamar Follow-Up, Stop Violence Against Adolescents, 2018. This activity was held in Santa Cruz Alta Verapaz. First group of adolescents in Coban from Educational Center Timoteo, Central Nazarene Church.

Dear friends of CEDEPCA,

During 2018 we had to face two humanitarian crisis in Central America. The first one was on June 3rd with the eruption of the “Fuego” Volcano in Guatemala, and the second was the caravans of migrants from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala moving to the United States.

CEDEPCA responded to these humanitarian crisis through the Disaster Ministry facilitating psychological support, hygiene kits and food to persons of the affected communities.



All the actions of CEDEPCA are possible thanks to your accompaniment, donations and solidarity.

I invite you to read this 2018 Summary of Activities and to continue walking with us in making possible God’s Kingdom here and now.

With hope,

Judith Castañeda
General Coordinator
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PROTESTANT CENTER FOR PASTORAL STUDIES IN CENTRAL AMERICA

CEDEPCA's General Objective is to contribute to (a) the empowerment of women and men so that they can exercise their leadership, (b) the formation of their critical thinking skills and (c) the strengthening of their capacities [to engage] in contextual biblical-theological analysis, in the development of transforming pastoral proposals, and in social participation and advocacy.

STRATEGIC PURPOSES



MISSION

To promote, in persons and in communities, the development of pastoral actions [that are] innovative and transformative in their contexts, for the construction of a more just world.

VISION

To be a common space of encounter for communities of learning and mutual accompaniment, communities grounded in a liberating faith that work to achieve abundant life and peace with justice.

VALUES

- Solidarity
- Peace with justice
- Nonviolence
- Respect and inclusion of diversity
- Integrity of creation
- Transparency

In 2018 we worked with:

18,218

People served in humanitarian aid and participated in courses, workshops and seminars.



14,235

People received humanitarian aid through assessments, pastoral and social actions, psychosocial support, food bags and water filters.



3,983

People participated in different courses, workshops and seminars in CEDEPCA's programs.



“WE HAVE LEARNED THAT WE HAVE TO BE FREE...”

Marta Alicia Bol, student of the Biblical Pastoral Institute (IBP) – Coban



Biblical Pastoral Institute Course: “How to study the Bible I”, group analysis of a Bible Scripture – Quetzaltenango

From a liberating faith, **the Biblical and Theological Program (FBT)** is a space of reflection, investigation and theological education that prepares persons from churches and communities to respond to the challenges of the current context with a transformative pastoral practice.

In 2018 the program reached:



154 STUDENTS

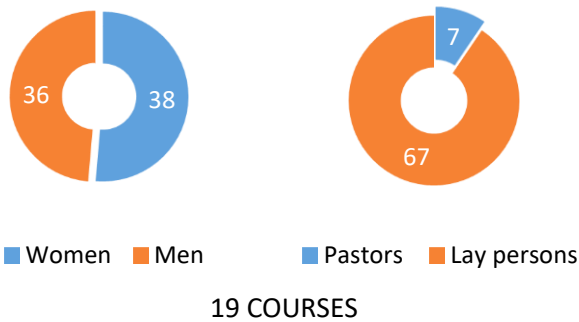


42 COURSES

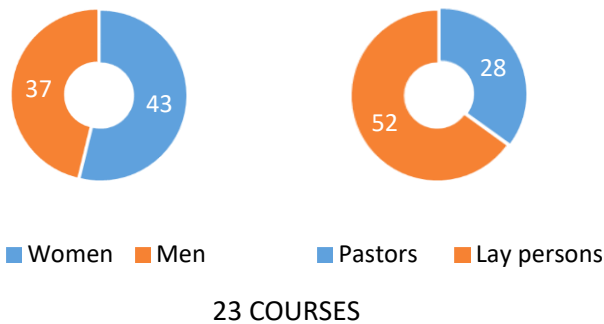


5 LOCATIONS

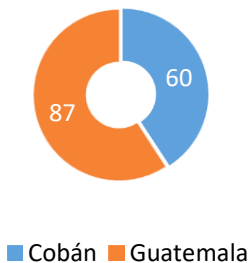
74 STUDENTS IN HIGHER LEVEL



80 STUDENTS IN THE BIBLICAL PASTORAL INSTITUTE



147 PARTICIPANTS IN REFLECTION ENCOUNTERS



In the Higher Level, the Biblical and Theological Program offers a degree in Bible and Theology to students with a High School Diplomas.
Guatemala / Coban



Course: Introduction to Psychology – Guatemala

In the Biblical Pastoral Institute, we offer formal education in different areas to people from churches, communities and organizations with elementary school degrees.

Guatemala / Coban / San Cristobal / Baleu / Quetzaltenango



Course: Proclamation, Contextual Reading of the Bible – Quetzaltenango

Reflection Encounters promote theological and pastoral reflection about current issues in our context to build interest in relevant pastoral answers.

Guatemala / Cobán



Workshop about deconstructing and transforming with Dr. Nienke Pruijsma in Coban.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS, FEMINIST THEOLOGY, AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE

CEDEPCA's Women's Ministry is committed to develop critical thinking in women who, when empowered, contribute to the deconstruction of patriarchal and androcentric structures and to the building of equal and equitable relationships

Women participants of courses and workshops



This is accomplished through of education, accompaniment and networks and alliances.

Women increase their self-esteem, learn how to own their rights, learn to prevent all types of violence especially sexual violence, to resist religious fundamentalisms, to practice a liberating faith to transform their realities at a personal level and in their communities.

Regional impact

Women's Ministry works in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.



Women's Ministry celebrated 15 years of work in Mexico.



Graduates of the course Theology from Women's Perspective.

-Chinandega, Nicaragua

Tamar: Stop Sexual Violence Against Adolescents

The Tamar Project works with vulnerable girls and adolescent victims of sexual violence. Tamar provided tools that empowered them, and they learned how to stop all types of violence against them. The adolescents strengthened their knowledge about their rights, education, and sexual and reproductive health.



Lesly -17 years old - Quetzaltenango, Guatemala

“Tamar taught me to know my rights. Previously, I had a boyfriend, but he tried to hurt me. I remembered what I learned in Tamar and I decided to end that relationship. Another time, my father who immigrated when I was a baby came back and treated me badly, so I confronted him and told him that he and I are equals and we have the same rights.”

Diversity...

Women's Ministry works with women of diverse ages and diverse indigenous groups such as Kaqchikel, Q'eqchi', K'iche', Mam, Poqomchi', Achi' and Mestiza (mixed)



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Humanitarian response is a form of solidarity and cooperation that guides efforts to build strong communities and empower the less vulnerable by applying plans of preparation and prevention before disaster strike from an integral perspective: physical, psychological and spiritual.

The work areas in the Disaster Ministry are:

Prevention: Focus on the topics of risk reduction, psychosocial and spiritual care with the objective that churches and communities are more prepared before the risk of disasters.

During 2018, we worked with:

137

103 W - 34 M



Participants in workshops of Risk Management and Psychosocial Care

Attention: Provide material support, psychological and spiritual care to diminish the negative impact of disasters.



400

People had access to filtered water by delivering 80 water filters



164

Family gardens by delivering vegetables seeds



Response to the Emergency of the “Fuego” Volcano Eruption

Project developed along with **ACT Alliance** Guatemala Forum



On Sunday, June 3rd, 2018, the “Fuego” Volcano located 27 miles to the Southeast of Guatemala City erupted generating ash columns up to 10,000 meters of height above the sea level.

The community was exposed to lava mixed with mud that descended from the volcano, and volcanic dust covered the area giving the surface a toxic appearance.

This catastrophe resulted in the deaths of many people and buried homes. Coffee, corn and bean plantations were lost and roads and bridges were damaged. The community suffered emotional effects of uncertainty, deep sorrow, helplessness, anger, and recurring memories of the disaster.

CEDEPCA, as a member of **ACT Alliance** Forum, applied for funds through an Appeal of **ACT Alliance** to support the affected communities in the states of Sacatepequez and Escuintla.

The Disaster Ministry was able to provide psychosocial support, workshops and delivering bags of food.



Psychological
Support

12,128

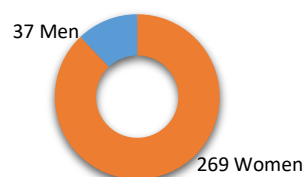
Participants received psychological support in funerals, shelters, schools, morgues and communities



Workshops

306

Recipients received training about healthy relationships, conflict management and adaptation in shelters



Food Security

46

Families received food

Response to Migrant Caravans - RRF **ACT** Alliance



When migrating travelers are subjected to ideologies and gestures of those who want to extort and exploit. Migrants feel forced to look for new life opportunities as they are discriminated against in their homeland limiting their development including their survival possibilities.

CEDEPCA as a member of **ACT** Alliance Forum provided Psychosocial Support to diverse groups hosted at Casa del Migrante [Migrants House], and covered migrant's basic needs with humanitarian supplies and food.



Psychological Support

212

People received
psychosocial support
based in the
community



Hygiene Kits

445

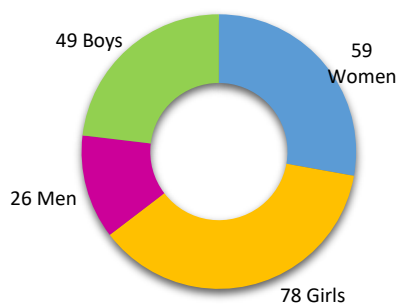
People received
personal hygiene kits



Food Security

3,069

Rations
of food (include
breakfasts, lunches
and dinners)



STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Since 2014 in Lima, Peru, the **ACT** Community of Practice of Psychological Support based in the Community for Latin America and the Caribbean was organized. Its purpose was to be a component that incorporates the response before disasters and social crisis of the ACT Projects.

At the present, CEDEPCA (as member of **ACT** Alliance) is leading this community of practice. Last November CEDEPCA hosted “A Glance before Disasters, Migration and Suicide,” workshop in Antigua, Guatemala. The main areas of focus were psychological support based in the community, trauma, migration and suicide.



Participants included the CEDEPCA Staff and representatives from **ACT** Alliance.

ENCOUNTER, REFLECTION, DIALOGUE AND SERVICE

Intercultural Encounters facilitates the dialogue and the cooperation among people from different countries and cultures in search of a more just, tolerant and equitable world.

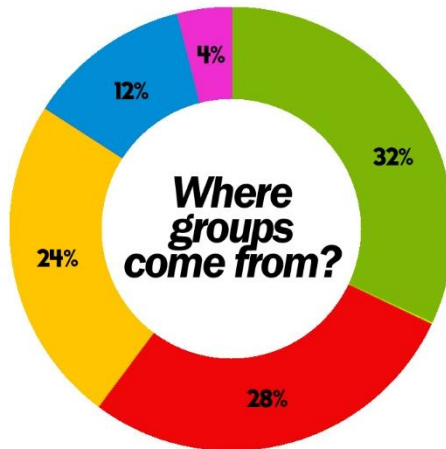
This year we worked with:

25 / 284
Groups Participants

199
70%



85
30%



Churches	08
Universities	07
Presbyteries	06
Health	03
Seminaries	01
Total Groups	25



“Do not conform to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind”... I feel this experience truly opened my eyes to a world of possibility to enrich lives.

—Nikki Gail, Greater Atlanta Presbytery. In the picture, she is with a group of adolescents of TAMAR in Cahabon, Alta Verapaz.

In Intercultural Encounters, we have the following themes of focus:



Education



Religion



Environment



Health



Migration



Spirituality



Gender



Humanitarian
Aid



In a diverse world our abilities are different. We discover that every person has limitations that are influenced by societies' stereotypes. Each person was created with a gift to impact the life of others. At CEDEPCA, we believe that in diversity we find richness. Pictured above youth of The Ability Experience Group shared with some boys at ADISA Educational Center in Santiago Atitlan, March 2018.

JULIA ESQUIVEL LIBRARY

CEDEPCA's Library is honored to be named after a great Guatemalan writer, poet and theologian committed to justice and peace in Guatemala and in the world, JULIA ESQUIVEL.

Library's Move and Remodeling

- In 2018, the Library was moved to the educational area. 210 students were served and 95 books were checked out.
- 5 celebrations were held on the "World Book Day" and 4 bookshelves were donated to study groups in the Biblical Pastoral Institute (IBP).
- New couches were bought so that students would enjoy a more comfortable and welcoming area.





Bookshelves were donated to *Fraternidad de Presbiteriales Mayas* in Quetzaltenango where they host a Biblical Pastoral Institute study group.



A more comfortable and welcoming study room

ACT ALLIANCE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

From October 27 to November 1, 2018, Judith Castañeda and Antonieta Ponce de Morales participated in the General Assembly of ACT Alliance that was held in Upsala, Sweden. Judith Castañeda was elected to be part of the new Governing Board.



Judith Castañeda, Ken Kim and Antonieta de Morales

Thank you for your contribution and support making the work of **CEDEPCA possible!**



First row: Francisco Reyna, Emerson Morales, Nancy Carrera, Esvin Sirin, Jorge Ramírez, Priscila Barrientos, Noemí Ruano, Tania Sochom, Antonieta de Morales, Susana Noriega, Judith Castañeda, Freddy Mejía, Arnoldo Aguilar, Carolina González, Kimberly Ramírez.

Second row: Luis Sarpec, Eduardo Pérez, Lissy López, Astrid Xocop, Ana Paxtor, Elizabeth Carrera, Delia Leal, Pamela Liquez.

CEDEPCA Staff, December 2018



CEDEPCA Governing Board

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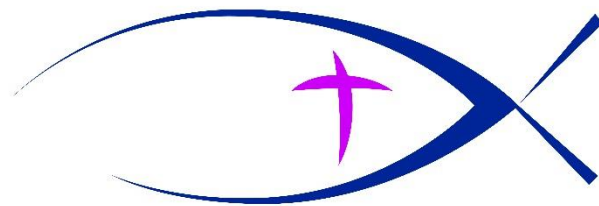
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CEDEPCA

Education
that *transforms*

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