

# GCD & PROTEGO – PARTNERING IN GUATEMALA

## *Protego Prototype Takes Shape in Guatemala*

The Institute for Women's Health (IWH) partnered with the Government of Guatemala to create, test, and implement a prototype of Protego. Consistent with the public policy priorities of the nation and as a natural extension of their membership in the Geneva Consensus Declaration, Protego promotes collaboration across agencies to implement consistent programs and policies throughout the government.

First, IWH met with President Giammattei who introduced us to various Ministers to create the Guatemala-specific model of Protego. We then partnered with NGOs, the business sector, and the faith community to expand the vision of supporting women, families, and life in Guatemala.



Guatemala is defending its nation's sovereignty, its people, and its future. Protego comes alongside to accelerate success.

## Six Steps To Partnership In Guatemala

### **STEP 1. IWH Presented Protego to Guatemala's President Giammattei**

We requested partnership for the development of a unified, coordinated implementation of the Legal, Diplomacy, Education, and Health components of Protego across the government and between Ministries. The President agreed to the partnership.



Scan here to watch  
President Giammattei's  
Message

**STEP 2. President Giammattei Appointed Two National Leaders** to oversee the Protego process and to be the main points of contact in the partnership with IWH. Almost immediately, IWH met with the Minister responsible for developing a national plan and ensuring consistent policy implementation across the government. In addition, the senior official in the Guatemala President's office responsible for domestic and international policy began planning and scheduling. Together, we created a clear timeline for implementation.

**STEP 3. A Plan of Action** was developed with Ministers who reviewed their Ministry activities and identified gaps in current programming that could be addressed through Protego resources.

**STEP 4. A Multi-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** was signed between IWH and Ministries in the government to support the coordinated implementation of Protego principles, and to ensure continuity and sustained partnership.

**STEP 5. Partnership with Non-governmental Groups**, including faith leaders, business leaders, civil society, academics, and health professionals was begun to identify shared goals and activities. Parliamentarians and legal experts were also consulted. All collaborations were designed to increase the likelihood that every citizen and every sector benefits.

**STEP 6. Ongoing Evaluation** will be conducted to monitor implementation, impact, and opportunities for continuous improvement in efforts to support women, families, life, and national sovereignty



Step 4: Signing the Multi-year MOU

### Expanding IWH Consulting

The IWH will (1) offer Protego to other sovereign countries that desire to protect and expand health, education, legal, and diplomatic programs and efforts ; (2) partner with nations in a consultative role, being sensitive to their unique culture, health needs and programmatic patterns while Protego is implemented in their nation; and (3) connect countries with one another to facilitate strategic cooperation.

IWH is the only family and life affirming women's health policy organization in the U.S. – and possibly anywhere – giving it a unique platform to promote optimal women's health and thriving throughout every phase of life. By removing ideological agendas, our aim is to clear the path for real health advancements for women and girls.

# PROTEGO IMPLEMENTATION

## EXAMPLE: THE EDUCATION COMPONENT

After months of partnership, The Institute for Women's Health (IWH) and the Guatemala Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) launched the freshly-printed Parent Child Communication Guide to equip and empower parents as important role models and guides for their children - even on the most sensitive topics. This resource was developed based on input and perceived needs by the Ministry of Education. IWH then worked with the Ministry to develop a culturally appropriate guide that is consistent with the values of the nation.



**Launch of Parent Child Communication Guide**  
Left: Valerie Huber, IWH President, Right: Claudia Ruiz, Minister of Education, Republic of Guatemala

**IWH met** with faith leaders, business leaders, and influencers who supported partnerships to expand the reach of the Guide themes to every corner of the nation.

**IWH trained** the Directors in the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) for use of the Guide with the most vulnerable and impoverished families across the nation.



**Meeting with President Giammattei, National Religious Leaders, and IWH Valerie Huber**

**Impact & Scaling** IWH trained regional directors on the research, content, and activities of the Parent Child Communication Guide. It is being distributed to all public-school families in Guatemala. A 5-year MOU will ensure continuity, research, and model improvement.

**Impact:** 3 million school-aged children nationwide



**Parents & Children Bonding Session at Guide Launch**

MINEDUC & IWH piloted the first lesson of the Guide to 40 parents in a Guatemalan public school. The lesson was followed by an activity which tightened the bond between parents and children, displaying an emotional and familial reality to the importance of the Guide. Since then, hundreds more trainings have given parents skills to guide discussions about important topics with their children.



**Children Enjoy Family Activity After Guide Launch**

**We anticipate this unique partnership will benefit Guatemalans for decades to come as its value transcends any Presidential Administration**

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