

Executive Director Report Guatemala, March 2019

Deployments & Trainings

Rotary Global Grant, Barillas and San Pedro Soloma, Huehuetenango

The week of March 4th, we deployed RACHEL and train the teachers in the first group of schools that are benefited by the Rotary Global Grant that was approved last year and that will reach around 50 schools by 2020. Three schools in San Pedro Soloma, eleven schools and one library in Santa Cruz Barillas received one RACHEL Plus, 6 laptops and 6 tablets. There were three training sessions that week, one for the teachers of the three schools in Soloma and two for 10 schools in Barillas, as they were divided into two groups of five.



Training session and handing over of equipment in San Pedro Soloma



For this deployment trip, Peter Tanner from the Chatham Rotary Club in Ontario, and Jeff Harris from the Gig Harbor Rotary Club in Washington, came to Guatemala to travel with us to these communities. It's about 8-10 hours trip from Antigua and there are roads in very bad conditions.

This project has been coordinated with the Rotary Club of Barillas, with whom we did the first project in the area in 2017.



Members of the Barillas Rotary Club



Around 90 teachers were trained in that week and more than 2,300 students have now access to laptops, tablets and RACHEL. The 90 tablets were donated by the [Viaduct Foundation](#), a Canadian organization that supports education projects in different parts of the world, and were shipped directly from China to Mundo Posible.

Rotary E-Club from District 5020

This month we completed the installations in the three schools that the E-Club 5020 funded last year. These schools have computer labs and therefore they only received the RACHEL Plus server.

The Schools are:

- Fray Bartolomé de las Casas School, located in Comitancillo, San Marcos, 278 Km from the capital city (installed on February 2019).
- Ch'ajyu' School, located in Cerro de Oro, Sololá, 129 Km from the capital city (installed on March 2019).
- Santa Ana School, located in Sacatepéquez, 37 Km from the capital city (installed on March 2019).

A total of 20 teachers were trained and a total of 1,259 primary and secondary students from the three schools were benefited through this project.



A wired network was set up in the Ch'ajyu' School



Teachers in Santa Ana School receiving instructions on how to take our offline MOOC

FUNDABANANO

The week of March 11th, 15 schools were visited in the areas of La Gomera, Nueva Concepción and Sipacate in Escuintla to evaluate its infrastructure in terms of security and electricity, and to meet with teachers to evaluate their level of interest and commitment to start using RACHEL and new teaching methods on a regular basis. Since they will receive a Raspberry Pi and 20 tablets, they need to buy a router, a UPS power back up and electrical extensions to charge the tablets. Most of them have a very basic infrastructure and need to make some improvements, but they all agreed to raise the necessary funds to do it and purchase the accessories. Most of the teachers showed a real interest in receiving and using these resources. The plan is to deliver the equipment and train the teachers the first week of April.



Meeting with the teachers



A school with very basic infrastructure, despite being inside of a big private banana plantation farm

Puentes Project, “Puntos Crea” (former Youth Creative Centers)

This month three more “Puntos Crea” were opened as part of the Puentes Project, financed by USAID. Mundo Posible is working together with Vitruvian Consulting and Galileo University to implement these spaces, based on the makerspace model and the STEAM approach. Since 2018, 7 Puntos Crea have been inaugurated. Mundo Posible is developing the offline version of the Puntos Crea [website](#), with a database system within RACHEL, where participants can find different community challenges and all the information to help solve them.



Joyabaj, Quiché



San Rafael Pie de La Cuesta, San Marcos