



ALDEA and ABPD Partnership FAQ

What do we do?

Our overarching strategic objective is to improve the health and well-being of Indigenous and rural families in Guatemala through an integrated, community-based approach that strengthens healthy household practices, community systems, and local leadership.

Together, ALDEA and Asociación BPD (ABPD) work alongside communities to support lasting improvements that communities can sustain long after our direct engagement ends. Our integrated approach combines three interconnected areas of work: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH); Healthy Households; and Community Leadership and Empowerment. Through sustained, multi-year partnerships, we work with communities to strengthen household practices, improve access to safe water and healthy home infrastructure, and build the local leadership needed to sustain progress over time.

You can find more about our joint program [HERE](#).

Who are the partners?

Asociación Bienestar Progreso Desarrollo (ABPD) is an independent Guatemalan nonprofit organization established in 2006. ABPD leads program implementation in Guatemala, working directly with Indigenous and rural communities to design and deliver integrated community-based programs. Its staff predominantly speak Kaqchikel and Spanish and bring expertise in water and sanitation engineering, nutrition, agriculture, community empowerment, and monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEAL). Together with community promoters, ABPD works alongside communities to strengthen local leadership and improve family health and well-being. Both organizations emerged from Dr. Carroll Behrhorst's philosophy of health and development. You can read about the ABPD staff [HERE](#).

ALDEA (Advancing Local Development through Empowerment & Action) is an independent U.S.-registered nonprofit organization established in 1967. ALDEA mobilizes financial resources, builds strategic partnerships, raises awareness, and provides organizational and strategic support to advance our shared mission. ALDEA also works closely with donors, foundations, and partners to help ensure long-term investment in community-driven development in Guatemala. You can visit ALDEA's website [HERE](#).

Although ALDEA and ABPD are independent organizations with separate governing boards, leadership, finances, and legal responsibilities, they have worked together in close partnership since 2006 under a shared strategic plan. Each organization fulfills complementary roles while maintaining its own governance and fiduciary responsibilities.

Our most important partners are the Indigenous and rural communities that invite us to work alongside them. We also collaborate with municipal governments, local health systems, and other organizations to strengthen existing community systems and support long-term sustainability.

Both organizations are rooted in Dr. Carroll Behrhorst's philosophy of community-led development:

"Genuine development requires creative, participatory processes that encourage self-reliance and a balanced sharing of available resources...the fundamental goal is empowering the poor."

You can learn more about our history [HERE](#).

How do we determine our mission and define and strengthen our program?

ALDEA and ABPD share a joint strategic plan that guides our mission, vision, priorities, and approach to community development. The strategic plan was developed collaboratively with input from staff, community members, and the governing bodies of both organizations and is approved independently by each organization's governing body.

While strategic priorities are shared, each organization maintains independent governance and fiduciary responsibility. This structure provides accountability while allowing each organization to fulfill its distinct role in advancing our shared mission.

You can read our current Strategic Plan [HERE](#).

How do our governing bodies collaborate?

The governing bodies of ALDEA and ABPD meet regularly to review progress toward shared strategic priorities, discuss organizational performance, and strengthen collaboration. Joint meetings and community visits provide opportunities to learn directly from staff, partners, and participating communities while respecting the independent governance responsibilities of each organization.

How do we implement our program?

ABPD leads program implementation in Guatemala, working directly with communities to deliver integrated programs focused on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Healthy Households, and Community Leadership and Empowerment.

ALDEA supports this work by mobilizing resources, strengthening strategic partnerships, engaging donors, raising awareness, and providing organizational support that helps sustain the partnership over the long term.

Together, the two organizations align around a shared strategy while fulfilling distinct and complementary roles.

How do we raise funds for our program?

ALDEA and ABPD work together to secure the resources needed to implement their shared strategic plan.

As a U.S.-registered nonprofit, ALDEA leads fundraising and donor engagement in the United States and serves as the primary recipient of many grants and charitable contributions. ABPD also cultivates support within Guatemala and works with institutional partners and local stakeholders.

Funding is managed through formal agreements, with each organization maintaining its own financial systems, oversight, and accountability in accordance with applicable laws and nonprofit best practices.

You can view the ALDEA Annual Report and audited financial reports [HERE](#).

How do we make decisions about our budgets?

ALDEA and ABPD each develop and approve their own annual budgets through their independent governance processes.

Budget planning is closely coordinated to ensure resources are aligned with the organizations' shared strategic priorities. Funding provided by ALDEA to support programs implemented by ABPD is governed through formal agreements that establish expectations for reporting, accountability, stewardship, and financial oversight.

Throughout the year, both organizations monitor financial performance and program progress to ensure responsible management of resources and continued alignment with their shared mission.