

Capacity building for project management, a reflection by Billy Lopez



Billy Lopez, Project Manager for Global Visionaries (GV) in Guatemala.

In partnership with [LINGOs](#), SIF offered its grantee organizations in Guatemala an opportunity to complete the PMD Pro1 certification, a project management course for the development sector run by [GEPAL](#). This course is designed for professionals working as directors, project managers, supervisors, or other related positions in civil society organizations. The course is comprised of virtual classroom workshops as well as individual training sessions.

Billy Lopez is the Project Manager at [Global Visionaries](#) (GV) in Guatemala. Global Visionaries empowers young people to become global leaders in creating a just and sustainable future. GV's programs offers high school students, young adults, and adults leadership training, a cultural immersion trip to Guatemala, and local and international service projects focused on social justice and environmental conservation. GV participants learn how to become leaders in their local and the global community.

Billy participated in the PMD Pro course, and has kindly shared his reflections on this capacity building opportunity with us:

The PMD course was very interesting -- we had 8 sessions. I liked the way that the facilitator and the instructor interacted with the participants, giving us the opportunity to participate and share our various experiences managing projects. I also liked the diversity of participants; there were people from different parts of Guatemala, which allowed us to learn what other projects are out there and how we can support each other. I learned some tools that I can apply to my current job; tools that can facilitate my work, since I work a lot with logistics. I focused on how to schedule activities to accomplish an objective. This comes easily to me but I still learned more and enjoyed it. Walking away with tools that can help communication between staff and people involved with the organization or project is another part that I think was really useful. This course helped me learn how to use the SMART indicators which I have been using, but in this course I was able to learn more about it, which was a bit difficult since I wasn't too familiar with the indicators beforehand.

I faced some challenges with the learning platform -- it was easy to access but once I was on, it bumped me offline a couple of times, which I think may have been due to the internet connection, by that time we had some server problems. However, having the video and audio recordings of every single class and the materials that we used was super helpful to re-study or to re-evaluate what I learned and what was not clear. I'll have 10 more sessions focusing on all the tools that we learned in the first 8 sessions, but this time we are going to apply them to real situations. If we can have another course online, I'd like to have one how to manage volunteers or how to interact with persons that are involved with the organization or projects.