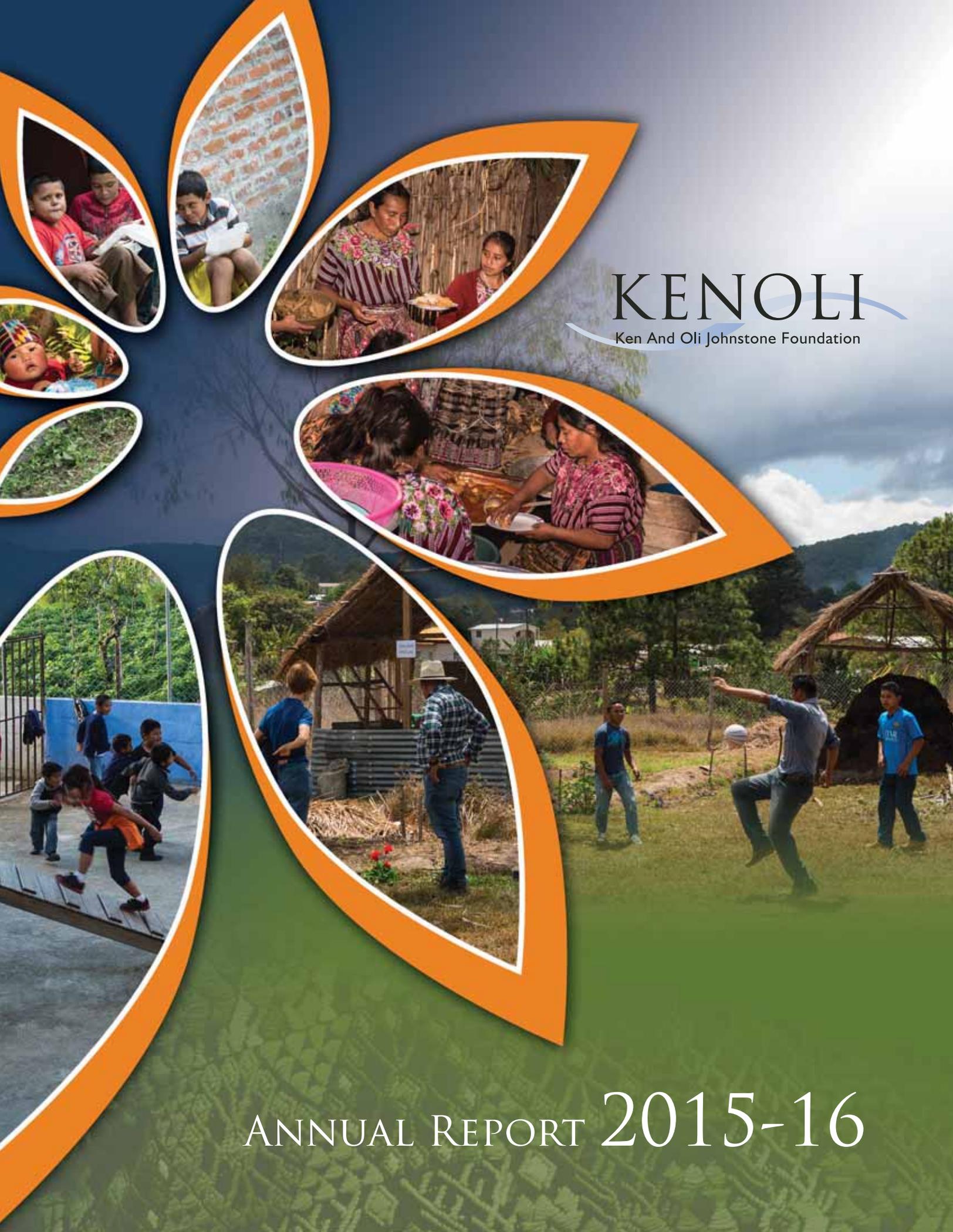


KENOLI

Ken And Oli Johnstone Foundation



ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

Vision

Vulnerable people, including women and youth, become self-sufficient and empowered, which leads to greater social justice in the countries where we work.



▲ Ken Phillips, Vera Radyo, CasaSito scholarship student Andrea Tamat, and Magda Lanuza

Mission

Ken and Oli Johnstone Foundation is a private Canadian foundation that works to alleviate poverty and hunger by supporting organizations that build community self-sufficiency and advance human rights in Latin America.

The Foundation was established in 2007 and its assets come from the estates of Ken and Oli Johnstone of Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Kenoli Team

Vera Radyo
Magda Lanuza
Gabriela Quintanilla
Andrea del Pinal
Enrique Gonzalez
Edwin Escoto
Jessica Hoult

▼ Doña Marcos of Vecinos Honduras



The Human Face of Poverty

Kenoli works in the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere: Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Bolivia and El Salvador.

Living in extreme poverty means not having enough to eat, and always worrying about where the next meal will come from; having a house with a dirt floor that does not withstand the elements, and every strong gust of wind or downpour of rain is felt in the house. Poverty often means having no electricity or clean drinking water. Poverty means not having a school nearby to send your children, and even if there is one, deciding whether to send your children to school or have them do something, anything, to earn a few cents. It means not be able to afford the medicines that you urgently need. Poverty all too often means despair!

This is where Kenoli partners come in. These 30 civil society organizations cannot alter the dramatic effects of climate change, which produces long periods of drought alternating with floods. They cannot compensate for the corruption of their countries' governments, or the lack of services in the rural areas. Nor can they prevent the terrible violence and lawlessness experienced by the citizens of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. But what they can do and they do so well, is make a huge difference in the lives of the poor and most vulnerable people with whom they work.

In this annual report, we highlight one group in each country that Kenoli has worked with over time, where we have seen dramatic improvements in the lives of the people. There are wonderful stories with each of Kenoli's partners, but space does not permit us to tell them all at once. We are inspired by the work of our partners and the people we meet. They show us resilience and determination in the face of great odds. They have turned despair into hope, empowerment, and a vision for a better future!

KEN PHILLIPS • Chair, Kenoli Foundation
Trustee for Ken & Oli Johnstone Foundation

Kenoli Partners' Food Security & Sovereignty Forum

June 2 – 3, 2015 in El Salvador

Kenoli's first Food Security & Sovereignty Forum involved forty-two people from 16 organizations in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Bolivia and Canada. This forum was designed to support and strengthen partner organizations to improve their work in the field. Steve Brescia, Executive Director of Groundswell International, provided the keynote address on organic family agriculture as a viable alternative to feed the planet. Working groups discussed: developing baseline data, monitoring systems, and evaluation. Participants found it an enlightening and worthwhile event.



Steve Brescia, Executive Director, Groundswell International



Miquel Marin adding more to the discussion



Participants viewing ADROH's native seeds



Forum participants



HONDURAS

Vecinos Honduras

Holistic Community Development
\$255,800 over 9 years

▲ Vecinos Honduras participants viewing vegetation to provide soil nutrients

Vecinos Honduras was one of the first organizations that Kenoli funded when we began our work in 2007. Over the years, we have seen dramatic improvements in the lives of the people in the original 10 communities of the Michael Newman Program¹ located in the El Guano area of the municipality of Danli.

As a result of an agrarian reform process, some landless farmers “campesinos” were granted land in the remote mountain areas of the Danli. In 2007, when Vecinos Honduras came there, the community leaders stated that food insecurity was a huge problem with an average of 90 days a year when families had no food and were forced to borrow funds at exorbitant interest rates to feed their families. Thus, not only were they extremely poor, but they were in debt!

The reality for these communities has changed dramatically since then. They are now food secure. The families have learned how to grow organic corn, beans, coffee, vegetables and fruits. Their children are healthier and better nourished. Women cook on improved stoves, no longer inhale the smoke from cooking over open fires and they have made many household improvements. The families no longer live in isolation from one another, but have formed coffee cooperatives and micro-businesses.

Because they live in remote mountainous communities, they are easily forgotten. However, they have learned how to advocate for themselves and have received support from the local municipality in the way of water and sanitation, road improvements, construction of a training center and more. Most importantly, community leaders have been trained as agents of change to ensure that the development is sustained. These communities will never regress to the old ways!

The Vecinos Honduras model is unique. The staff of the project live in the rural and remote communities in which they work. This model has been very successful and for the past few years, the staff of the Michael Newman Program have shifted the focus of their work to another 7 villages in the mountains of Azabache, where they are already seeing important changes in the lives of the communities.



Congratulations Vecinos Honduras! We are very proud of your accomplishments!

¹ Michael Newman of World Neighbours Canada supported the Vecinos Honduras programs for over 20 years and passed away in 2013. The program was named in his honour.

ADROH

Tackling Poverty and Restoring Dignity
\$29,000 US

ADROH strengthens the capacities of 125 rural indigenous Lenca families in sustainable farming, collection of native seeds, production of natural medicines and promotion of gender equality in 7 remote mountainous villages of San Francisco Opalaca, Intibucá. They have also purchased a vehicle for transport to the communities.



ADROH participants with the harvest from San Francisco Opalaca



◀ CEDIF children having their after meal juice

ANDAR

Children & Family Development Centre
\$44,000 US over two years

ANDAR fosters children's rights to an education by providing a preschool for 50 vulnerable and malnourished children in Cedeño, Choluteca. They are also developing a school garden, and training 80 mothers and 20 fathers in gender issues.

Asociación de Mujeres Defensoras de la Vida

Improving Food Security and Nutrition
\$24,930 US

Asociación de Mujeres Defensoras de la Vida (AMDV) improves the health and nutrition of 138 children, builds 30 improved stoves, develops 32 family gardens, 2 communal gardens and 1 school garden.



AMDV women in their community garden at Jicarón



COFADEH

Supporting Human Rights Defenders
\$20,000 US

COFADEH strengthens support to human rights defenders through training, psychological support and an emergency fund. In addition, they conduct 6 risk assessments and support Kenoli partners in the development of security plans.

◀ Grave site of murdered human rights activist Berta Caceres

Grupo Juvenil Dion

Mobile Technical Training Workshops
\$25,000 US

Dion provides mobile workshops in baking and garment making for 80 young people in two rural villages. Along with the technical training and practice, the youth receive training in values and how to start up their own small businesses. This provides the youth with opportunities they would not otherwise have!



Kenoli and Dion team meet with the municipality of Comoyagua to discuss the project



VECO Mesoamérica (VECO MA) and ASOFAIL

Higher Living Standards for Small Farmers
\$20,000 US

VECO MA works with ASOFAIL in Honduras to contribute to better living standards for 285 Lenca small farmers in Intibucá. Activities include strengthening the productive capacity of small farmers, developing a sustainable business model and strengthening organizational capacities in relation to selling to formal markets.

◀ ASOFAIL youth participant with his tomato crop in protective cover



Lidia, a CEPROSI participant, in her garden

NICARAGUA

CEPROSI

Improving the Quality of Women's Lives
\$108,445 US over 7 years



Kenia and Kevin, youth leaders

Kenoli's first grant to CEPROSI was \$1,000 to develop a strategic plan and have an exchange with a successful women's organization. They have never looked back! The lives of impoverished women in three rural communities outside of Managua have been transformed.

Now women and their families in the communities of Nindiri, Masaya are healthier, are eating better and feel more empowered. Since the women now cook on improved stoves, they and their children are no longer breathing in smoke from open fires. The women have also made many improvements to their homes, like protecting the drinking water, building cupboards to hygienically store their dishes and improving latrines. They have planted organic vegetable gardens, built pilas for water collection, tested simple irrigation systems and developed worm composts. The women have learned how to cook nutritious meals from local foods. Some families are raising goats as sources of milk. Women have also started micro-businesses, and generated income to better meet their families' needs, including earning enough income to improve or re-build their homes!

Not content to just bask in their successes, the CEPROSI women identified gender violence as problem in the communities. After trying unsuccessfully to start a men's group, they formed a youth group that has been trained in building equitable, harmonious gender relationships. These youth have become empowered and are providing leadership in their communities, like training others and organizing events for younger children.

From very humble beginnings, the CEPROSI women have transformed the communities in which they live.

Rosalia with her worm compost



We are very proud of you. Congratulations to all!



Chabelita Castro Network

Promoting Economic Rights of Rural Women
\$15,000 US

Chabelita Castro is working in 7 villages in Matagalpa to improve the economic conditions of 45 of the poorest rural women through a community revolving fund, training in business skills, 25 family gardens and nutrition workshops.

◀ Las Chabelitas participant has a micro-business growing and selling vegetables

Colectivo de Mujeres Rurales/ATC

Empowering Rural Women and Youth
\$22,700 US

Colectivo works in rural areas of Matagalpa to improve the living conditions of women working in the coffee fields and mills. Colectivo supports a youth cooperative in organic farming and business skills, trains 40 youth promoters about the labour code, trains 50 people in the family code and land access law, and airs radio messages.



Colectivo youth training session in making organic fertilizers



El Porvenir

Community Educators Network
\$54,000 US over two years

El Porvenir trains 60 new community educators and 120 teachers in water and sanitation issues, airs radio programs on hygiene and sanitation, tests water quality, and conducts school and public education campaigns.

◀ Mayra of El Porvenir provides colouring books so that the students can learn about hygiene and sanitation

FEDICAMP

Improving Rural Food Security and Advocacy
\$71,000 US over two years

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FEDICAMP works with 285 families in 18 rural communities in Northern Nicaragua to strengthen food security and improve the diets of the families. They provide technical training in agro-ecology and nutrition, strengthen native seed banks, and train local COMUSSANS—municipal food sovereignty, security, and nutrition committees.



FEDICAMP agronomist and residents of El Morcillo show their community map



Asociación Quincho Barrilete

Restoring Children's Rights
\$27,000 US

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Los Quinchos works with 60 children vulnerable to abuse or the sex trade in Managua. They promote school enrollment and retention, provide technical training in hammock making and crafts, train parents, and work with community leaders to prevent violence.

◀ Los Quinchos after school group

ODESAR

Production and Consumption of Healthy Food
\$80,000 US over two years

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ODESAR works with 300 families in eight rural villages in Esquipulas, Matagalpa, to reduce poverty and empower local people through programs on community organizing, food security, gender and reproductive health, hygiene and sanitation (installing 80 water filters, 50 toilets, 50 waste water treatment, and four chlorination systems), and rural youth leadership.



ODESAR participant shows the list of vegetables that she has grown



GUATEMALA

ADEMI

**Preventing Malnutrition amongst Rural Indigenous Families
\$213,254 US over 7 years**

▲ ADEMI participants preparing lunch during a Kenoli visit

Guatemala has the highest rate of chronic child malnutrition (50%) in Latin America and this reaches a shocking 70% in rural indigenous communities. Malnutrition affects children for life – school performance, and later the types of jobs they are able to do. The effect can be generational, unless something is done to impede the ongoing cycle of malnutrition.

ADEMI is a Mayan women’s organization that is making inroads into tackling malnutrition! They are working within a Mayan cultural context to train over 300 women in organic gardening, saving native seeds, healthy nutrition and raising goats. Community promoters are trained to support the women in 12 communities. Midwives are trained in nutrition and how to assist pregnant women, babies and children under 5 years of age. This training, plus regular monitoring of children’s height and weight led to 84% of the 230 children under the age of 5, reaching normal height and weight within two years. A phenomenal success!

ADEMI also works in the schools with 350 youth to prevent malnutrition by teaching them about the importance of good nutrition. The youth then planted school gardens, painted murals and developed puppet shows about nutrition.

ADEMI recognized that working with women and children is not enough, and that they had to have their voices heard in decision-making processes. They train women in understanding political processes and consequently, many Mayan women attended electoral forums, participated in civic demonstrations, and voted for the first time. The women became empowered to have their voices heard.

The United Nations recognized ADEMI’s work in 2012 when they received the UN Equatorial Prize for their success in the promotion of local solutions to boost sustainable development for people, protect nature and create resilient communities.



Congratulations ADEMI! You make us proud!

ADAM

Economic Empowerment of Women in Xeabaj II \$50,000 US over 2 years

ADAM works with 80 Mayan women living in extreme poverty in the community of Xeabaj II, Santa Catarina to strengthen their economic initiatives: agricultural production, worm compost, grain silos and steers. In addition, 27 women are receiving literacy training, and the community is developing a plan to mitigate the risks created by climate change.



Community teacher and literacy student in Xeabaj II



Young girl working on her project

ADIMTU

Leadership Institute \$15,000 US

Through ADMITU, Kenoli is supporting the first year of the Leadership Institute for girls in enrolled in 13 public schools in San Pedro Sacatepeque. 260 vulnerable rural girls are receiving training to build their self-esteem and develop leadership skills.

CasaSito

Scholarship Program and Educational Fund \$30,700

Through Kenoli, CasaSito provides scholarships, workshops, and counseling for 20 rural high school and university students. Kenoli also supports the Theatre of the Oppressed program, and provides nutritional and educational support for 40 vulnerable children at Semilla de Esperanza y Amor (SEA) in San Mateo Milpas Altas.



SEA Christmas event with school principal Señora Liz



Harvest ceremony with Mayan women and children

CONIC

Sustainable Farming in Mayan Communities \$65,000 US over two years

CONIC works to improve the lives of 170 Mayan families living in poverty in seven communities in Chimaltenango. They strengthen skills in community organizing, sustainable farming, food security, nutrition, gender equality, and advocacy. CONIC has been very successful in obtaining Indigenous land rights!

Distribution of supplies for improved stoves



COMUNDICH

**Food Security for Ch'orti' Families
\$24,000 US**

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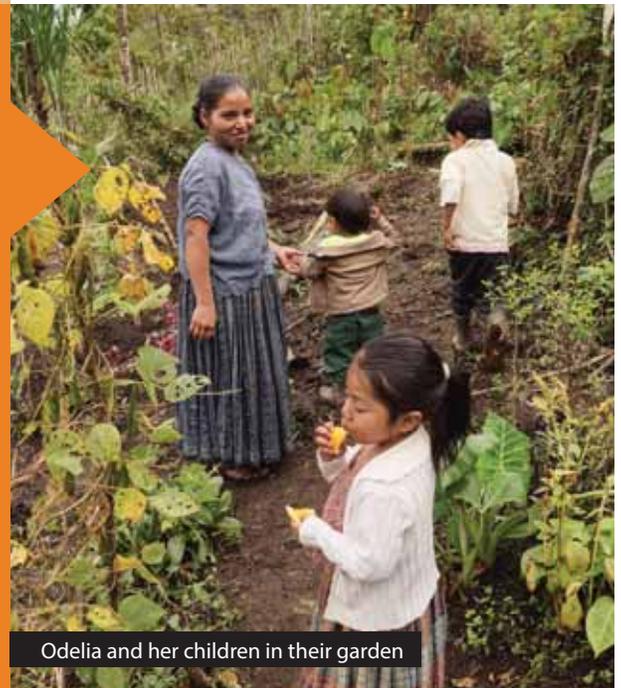
After their success in achieving indigenous land rights and recognition of indigenous Ch'orti' mayors, COMUNDICH is working with families living in extreme poverty to develop 40 family gardens and 30 improved stoves.

FUNDENOR AQ'AB'AL

**Strengthening Rural Families in Las Verapaces
\$72,700 US over 2 years**

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FUNDENOR works with 350 impoverished families in 14 indigenous communities to empower the families in sustainable farming practices, livestock management, nutrition, family health, healthy home improvements and strengthened community capacity.



Odelia and her children in their garden

Regional meeting of human rights defenders



UDEFEQUA

**Emergency Support for
Human Rights Defenders
\$52,000 US over two years**

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Through Kenoli, UDEFEQUA supports human rights defenders and their families by providing emergency assistance, a safe house, and psychological support. In addition, four other human rights organizations receive support to address small infrastructure vulnerabilities.



EL SALVADOR

Asociación Mangle

Diversified Production and Commercialization
\$187,837 US over 7 years

▲ Kenoli team meets with participants of Mangle project in Puerto Parada



The chicken collectives have been successful!



Don Lupe shows his crop of green beans

When we first met the residents of Puerto Parada, Jiquilisco Bay in southern El Salvador, they told us of how difficult their lives were. They were living in extreme poverty. Although many men were fishermen, they could not make enough from fishing to meet the basic necessities of their families and most of the year they did not have enough food to eat. In addition, the area that they live in environmentally fragile and often the San Miguel river floods, submerging crops and flooding houses. Other times, the area experiences extreme dryness.

In spite of these many challenges, the change in the last five years is astounding! In a recent visit, one of the elders in the community commented, "We now go to bed with a smile on our faces, knowing that there is food to eat the next day". Not only do they have enough to eat, but they are selling their excess produce in the local market. What did they do?

Association Mangle along with the residents association of Puerto Parada used a multi-pronged approach. For families without land, communal land was leased and ten community gardens were established. Seeds and technical assistance in sustainable agriculture were provided. Corn is a staple here and a corn production initiative was launched. A mechanical corn sheller and corn grinder were purchased to assist residents in processing the corn for tortillas. A greenhouse was established to strengthen vegetable production and engage the youth, so that they are safe and not susceptible to gang recruitment. A vehicle was repaired to support project activities. Five collective and 13 individual chicken coops were established so that families could have eggs for protein and for sale. Another chicken fattening farm was developed to sell chicken meat. The El Cerro Encantado cooperative installed irrigation pumps so that families could plant in the dry season. The communities developed disaster-warning plans. Strategic alliances were developed with local organizations and advocacy efforts initiated. As a consequence, the national government has agreed to build a retaining wall on the river to prevent flooding.

Although challenges still remain for the residents of Puerto Parada, their lives have improved substantially. They have enough to eat and even generate income from selling surpluses. They are more organized, empowered and hopeful about their future.



Congratulations Association Mangle and residents of Puerto Parada! We are very proud of you!

ACIDES

Strengthening a Rural Women's Cooperative \$14,970 US

ACIDES improves food security by strengthening a cooperative of 25 women in San Marcos. They provide training and technical assistance in organic farming, drip irrigation and commercialization of produce.



Human rights defenders engage in self-care activities



Teresa of the women's cooperative

ADES

Human Rights Defenders Network \$30,000 US

ADES trains 40 youth and 40 community leaders in human rights. ADES also airs radio programs on human rights, provides legal assistance and emergency support where human rights have been violated, and documents human rights abuses.

APRODAE

Strengthening Local Development \$39,000 US

APRODAE works in five villages in San José Guayabal and San Vicente with nearly 400 vulnerable people. They provide training in organic farming, healthy eating and technical assistance for building 20 improved stoves, 20 small poultries, and 30 plots of native corn. In addition, they purchased a vehicle for safe transport to the villages.



Freddy shows the baby chicks



Band contest to promote healthy food

Asociación Centro para la Defensa del Consumidor (CDC)

Promoting Healthy Eating \$30,700 US

With Kenoli's support, CDC works to influence the law and institutions to accept the human right to food through research and lobbying Congress, governmental institutions and international bodies. In addition, CDC promotes citizen participation to demand healthy foods in schools.



◀ Community promoters weigh and measure malnourished children

FUSANMIDJ

Improving Women's and Children's Nutrition
\$60,000 US over two years

FUSANMIDJ improves the health of 100 malnourished children by training their mothers on healthy nutrition, conducting medical check-ups and training 20 community health promoters. They also educate students and staff at four schools in healthy nutrition and preventing violence.



▲ PRODII participants presenting their harvest



▲ Oca is transformed into cookies for children's snacks at schools

BOLIVIA

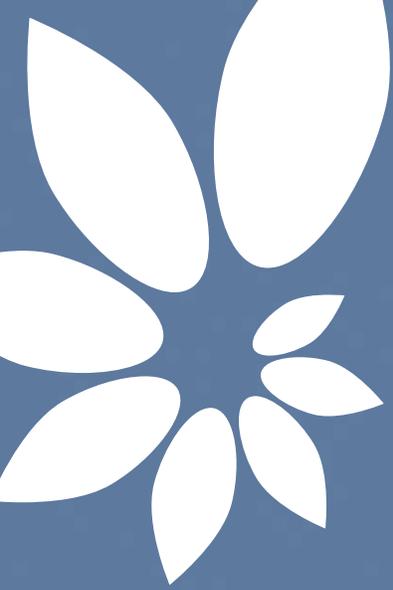
USC Canada / PRODII

Sustainable Livelihoods in Uma Uma
\$25,000 CDN

USC Canada works with their Bolivian partner, PRODII, to secure sources of food and livelihoods for small-scale farmers in the very remote and isolated Uma Uma region of Northern Potosí. PRODII has been successful in promoting agro-ecological practices and saving native seeds. They have also commercialized some food products, including "Api de Oca," which is now used in school feeding programs. The participating farmers no longer need to travel long distances to buy vegetables as they have a greater diversity of food sources, increased incomes, and generally feel that the nutrition and education of their children has improved.

Woman and her child participating in the PRODII project





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