
LATIN-AMERICAN & THE CARIBBEAN REGION

ANNUAL REPORT - 2019



1. ACOMUJERZA DE R.L. – El Salvador

Originally called Mujer y Comunidad, in 2003 they became the first IPM Project Partner (PP) in El Salvador and subsequently acquired legal status as cooperative. ACOMUJERZA is a women's cooperative, which recently seeks to integrate the participation of men to empower associates as agents of change in their homes and community, providing income opportunities



through the different areas of work. The basic work item is the production and marketing of clothing and handicrafts in local markets with international expansion vision. The cooperative not only offers women income, but also social organization and a sense of independence by recognizing that they are able to have control over their work and empower themselves. In 2019, 32 families have benefited directly.

What have we done in 2019?

- The cooperative has worked on school uniforms as part of the Ministry of Education project, where the government provide uniform to children attending public schools in E.S. They have also designed and created business uniforms to different institutions, as part of the clothing services offered by the cooperative. Since PRODEMOR, a governmental institution, machinery donation the cooperative has made some progress in the production area. This has translated into permanent work for our associates / employees and for the temporary workers.
- ACOMUJERZA managed to be part of a bigger cooperative named RETAR de R.L. This will allow the project to have more commercialization opportunities. Soon they will be selling their products in a local shop in AQUA, a non-profit organization in Zaragoza, El Salvador.
- On June 2019 the cooperative celebrated their Ordinary General Assembly of Associates, celebrated every 2 years. The Executive Board of Directors Changes, giving new leadership opportunities to other members of the cooperative.
- They have created new committees to improve their work. They have 4 now, which are: Education Committee, Commercialization Committee, Credits and Resources Committee and Partnership Committee.
- ACOMUJERZA has partnered up with different professionals and institutions to receive educational and training workshops. For example, the have received training on the maintenance of industrial machines, strategies for individual and collective saving, conflict resolution and leadership promotion.

- They added new members to the production team. Four students were training in Management of Industrial Machines for five months. They celebrated their graduation during June 2019. Now they are active participants of the cooperative.
- Participated in a Fair-Trade Product Fair at UCA, Jesuit University in El Salvador, where artisan products were commercialized. They managed, along other PP, to make this event annually.
- ACOMUJERZA finished successfully paying the \$4,000.00 revolving loan they had with IPM since 2016. With the 10% interest rate they paid \$1,600.00 which served to support other PP.

IPM's support during 2019:

Annual donation of \$1,000.00 which will be used for a revolving loan program inside the cooperative and community next year (2020), with the significant purchase of some handmade products, purchase of institutional banner for commercialization events, transportation, food, taxi payment, telephone refills for annual Sister Parish gathering, and donations of lost objects of German School for flea market sales.

Looking forward! Future actions:

Develop an Action Plan where 4 important objectives will be addressed: Increase the membership of the Cooperative and increase the number of employees, improve sales of ACOMUJERZA through the commercialization of handicrafts abroad, innovation in the line of ACOMUJERZA handmade products, improve the production processes of the artisanal line. Brand launch and advertising activities to gain national and international recognition and improve the cooperative incomes. Training workshops for associates, the topics to be taught are: Self-care, Self-esteem, Empowerment of Women, Teamwork, Conflict Resolution, Basic Accounting, etc.

Testimony from one of our participants:



"The associate Janeth Argueta joined the Cooperative two and a half years ago and has been benefited with work in the production area, this has allowed her to have income to take the livelihood to her house where she lives with her two children, after the husband she abandoned them, joining the Cooperative gave her greater self-confidence and empowered her role within the Education Committee" Ana Morales, Board of Directors ACOMUJERZA

2. Patronato de Desarrollo Integral Lidia Coggiola – El Salvador



Donación de libros

Escuela Alema-IPM



Grupo de inmersión IPM



Programa de nutrición

CONVOY OF HOPE- IPM



PROYECTO TU DECIDES



Niños y niñas CIZ



Participación en caminata por la defensa

Del derecho humano al agua

Patronato Lidia Coggiola is an association born within El Zaité community, is an administrator of three projects: scholarship program, school reinforcement center and Zaité children's center. and 3 subprojects: “Tú Decides”, Sexual and Reproductive Rights Youth Project, “Xilot”, folkloric projection and “Agarra La Onda & La Niñez y su Voz”, radio shows. Our mission is "To promote the formal and non-formal education of children and adolescents, as well as technical training in various arts and crafts". We directly benefit 110- girls, boys, adolescents and young people from El Zaité community. Our organization looks after and works for an education in childhood and youth, education is conceived as an integral education that encompasses formal education from nursery, health, nutrition, environmental justice, human rights and sexual reproductive health with a focus on law, women empowerment, community organization and development in El Zaité community.

What have we done in 2019?

- Attend 50 students in a classroom composed of girls and boys of ages 4 and 5, plus a classroom of 6 years old's. In our staff we have one School Director, three teachers and a volunteer mother She prepares breakfast served from Monday through Friday for the 50 kindergarten students and two days a week for the reinforcement students.
- PLC receives a monthly donation from Convoy of Hope, for their nutrition program, being able to give 2 meals per day to every child in the kindergarten.
- Grant for 27 scholarships for children from elementary school, high school and university.

- Received a Maryknoll volunteer: Becca Muder, who is supporting one of the teachers at the 4 and 5-year-old classroom.
- PLC has graduated approximately 15 young people from the community from a Sexual and Reproductive Education and Right's course for the 3rd consecutive year.
- PLC incorporated to RENAE, a children and youth network to defend Children's Human Rights in El Salvador. RENAE chose Rodrigo, a boy from the reinforcement center, to travel to México and inform about children's situation in the Central America Region.
- Organized the 7th National Ecological Walk. Where more than 50 people, including children, women, youth, men and senior citizens, from Zacatecoluca and Zaragoza participated.
- Started supporting a Women Organization called "El Zaité Women Collective". PLC is providing educational workshops, giving a space for the meetings and snacks for every meeting and looking for seed fund to strengthen the group.
- PLC accompany the process of 10 different women from El Zaité community in their technical formation as cosmetologist specialists with Ciudad Mujer, a governmental institution that promotes women empowerment and economical independence.

IPM's support during 2019:

In the financial aspect, IPM supports PLC with the salary payments for three teachers at El Zaité child center. The donations have been made from January to December. IPM has also raised money to provide school and ludically school supplies. In the technical support, IPM has offer technical training and workshops, inside Tú Decided project, Parent School activities and Radio Balsamo show. IPM has also coordinated immersion experiences, they have brought many people from the U.S. to know our work. Through PLC IPM is sponsoring technical and financial support to a friendly organization IDES- Zacatecoluca, supporting the payment for a control person in the community library, has provided seed money for a chicken farm, tilapia and pig project. Has donated educational materials, with the direct support of the school German School and IPM friends.

Looking forward! Future actions:

Strengthen our projects, continue the empowerment of young people in existing projects and programs, continue in the formation and identification of leadership, with the purpose of giving continuity to them; continue and strengthen the management with other existing local and regional NGOs, maintain the approach with the MINED and the municipal mayor's office for resources management. Moreover, Maintain and strengthen existing networks such as: National Water Forum, alliance against water privatization, Mesa Territorial de la Cordillera Balsamo and

the network of the integrated education system of the municipality of Zaragoza. Finally, we are looking for seed funds to incorporate dignify bathrooms for our children. Right now, they are using latrines and we want that to change, for sanitary, psychological and emotional reasons.

Testimony from one of our participants:



"Live family, they are 13 children, they have four children who are beneficiaries of our school reinforcement program and educational scholarships, the change of life occurs in their educational growth of their children, one in university degree, high school and their other two children in third cycle, they collaborate a lot in the organizational process of the community, they participate in radio balm, you decide project and folk projection" **Carlos Diaz, PLC coordinator"**

3. Soy Program (NUTRAVIDA) – El Salvador

Soy Program (started in February 1994), Nutravida promotes the use of soy products among low-income families to supplement their daily nutrition, by providing a glass of soy milk and a complementary food product each working day of the week. Nutravida is working with and for people from vulnerable areas in the communities of San Ramón, Mejicanos. The Project also commercializes bottled soy milk with different flavors, including cinnamon, vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry; among other soy products. The ultimate aim is to ensure that Nutrivida is increasingly self-sufficient. Under the direction of Ann Greig, Maryknoll missionary who has worked in the community for more than 25 years, the nutritional program has achieved impressive results in the recovery of weight and height for malnourished children under seven years.



What have we done in 2019?

- Nutravida is providing health soy-based meals to 40-50 families with limited resources, from Monday to Friday. Also, soybeans are distributed to families every afternoon in different presentations. This is a nutritional reinforcement that benefits mostly girls, boys and the elderly who have little nutritional education and access to diversity and quality products.
- Nutravida has been providing workshops for women. The organization has partnered up with a Feminist Institution: Las Dignas, which organizes workshops every month to facilitate information about Gender Equality, Women Violence, Self-Esteem and other topics related to women empowerment. Around 30 women from the community participate in these activities.
- Nutravida participated in a Fair-Trade Product Fair at UCA, Jesuit University in El Salvador, where artisan products were commercialized. They managed, along other PP, to make this event annually.
- Nutravida is now selling their product at Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas (UCA), the Jesuit University of El Salvador. It is also selling many of their products in other restaurants and gyms.
- Nutravida has started to develop new recipes and soy-based products that will innovate the market, the main goal is to sell more and become sustainable through time.

IPM's support during 2019:



The funds we receive from IPM help pay for the expenses of the Nutravida account: benefits: pension, health insurance, taxes, commercial license, audit, etc. The Regional IPM Staff, purchase soy milk monthly and have it available in their office. The LAC Regional Office also serves as distribution point, if someone needs any of our products, instead of coming to our community (which can sometime be insecure), the clients can come to a more accessible place: IPM's Office, which is located at the center of the city.

Looking forward! Future activities:

Innovate new soy products such as soy fruit lollipops. I have requested technical assistance from a food engineering agency. The next step is to promote and visit some new possibilities to market the products. Most of our clients are through social networks. Increase the number of beneficiaries. Some of our beneficiaries have advanced, so we would like to offer the program to some of the other communities with limited resources. Continue offering workshops for beneficiaries at least 10 times a year.

4. ACACCPAMU / MUSAS CREATIVAS – El Salvador

Located in the municipality of Armenia, EL SALVADOR, is a project partner that works to generate income for the local population. The women's group serves two different communities: San Juan and El Progreso. The women leaders have developed four productive projects and a basic water service project.

What have we done in 2019?

- Musas Creativas participated in a Fair-Trade Product Fair at UCA, Jesuit University in El Salvador, where artisan products were commercialized. They managed, along other PP, to make this event annually.
- In their bakery project they were able to integrate 2 community members, who benefit from the selling of the products inside the community.
- Musas Creativas partnered up with a non profit organization called Blessing Operation. They recently donated an industrial oven, an industrial mixer, a cooking table and other items that will increase their production, therefore their incomes as well.
- Women worked in several new handmade products to sheep to the U.S.A.
- Women have participated in several activities related to Memoric History in El Salvador, since two of them have civil war testimonies. They are gaining empowerment in this area, which is helping to their healing process.



IPM's support during 2019:

Financially, IPM has made an annual donation of \$1,000.00, which has been used for personal incomes and cooperative activities and savings. We have also donated funds to repair some damaged machines. In terms of technical support, we arrange visits from two to three times per month. During these visits we arrange training sessions around different topics, like community organization, fund management, productive projects assessment, network facilitation and others. IPM has also made in kind donations through the support of the German School of El Salvador.

Looking forward! Future activities:

Musas Creativas is hoping to continue a good relationship with Operation Blessing and other institutions. With their support they want to start a family garden project, which will allow their families to reduce food monthly expenses and to have more healthy diets.

5. Intercomunal de Desarrollo Económico y Social (IDES) – El Salvador

The organization started on May 27, 1998. With the intention of creating a local grassroots organization that would meet the needs of different communities in southern Zacatecoluca, department of La Paz, El Salvador. IDES, addresses the needs of 16 different communities in the following areas: attention in case of natural disasters, development of economic autonomy initiatives, promotion of food sovereignty, support in formal and non-formal education, and empowerment of women and youth.



What have we done in 2019?

- We provide financial aid to a family to repair their rooftop, because an ill woman needed to receive a medical treatment and couldn't do it because of the unsanitary circumstances in which her house was.
- IDES initiated a pig farm project. This is the third productive initiative that IPM supports:
 - It was possible to deworm and vitaminize the animals and had the technical assistance of an agronomist from the CENTA / MAG.
 - The pigs were fattened and marketed, there is a profit margin for the group.
 - On the one hand, from the money of the last sale, 2 or 3 pigs will be purchased to continue fattening pigs and then sell more.
- IDES participated in the Annual Ecological Walk

IPM's support during 2019:

IPM has been able to provide income donations through the German School in San Salvador. Through our Immersion Experience Program IDES has also been benefited with school and learning materials. Finally, IDES received financial support to start a new training process in hammock production.

Looking forward! Future activities:

1. To improve on a small scale to a level of entrepreneurship, and to have the ability to expand to more families with scarce economic resources
2. In the future, we intend to constitute an organization of women that empowers their rights and that strengthens the organizational work in different communities and that promote and develop actions that help their family group, and at the level of each community. As well as in the defense of constitutional rights. (But we fear the limitation of the funds to be able to do it.)
3. Support the boards of directors in all their managements at the level of: Organization, Guidance on the management of alternative agriculture with Creole seeds, support for the youth sector, the women's sector, Disaster Prevention and advocacy actions, among others.
4. To continue, improve and expand the work of support to the sector of the organized young people and to look for alternative entrepreneurship, so that they can have their own activity of income generation. This is because the possibilities of employment for the youth sector are very minimal.
5. Maintain support for girls and boys with low grades of schooling. They receive the school reinforcement provided in the IDES in coordination with the schools of La Isleta and the Marranitos school.

6. Mujer y Comunidad - Nicaragua

Women and Community Association, founded on February 26, 1999 in San Francisco Libre, Managua, Nicaragua, wants to contribute to the integral development of women and youth in San Francisco Libre, which leads to a transformation of their living standards and new relationships between genders. Annually, the organization benefits an average of 3,800 people. Their work is currently organized in two working areas: Women and Youth Area, the two areas are divided into 5 programs, which are: Women's Rights Promotion, Comprehensive Care for Women, Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth, Preparation of Human Resources (scholarships program), and the Youth Leadership program within which the Eco Juvenil radio station is located.



What have we done in 2019?

- We signed a Microcredit Fund agreement with International Partners in Mission (IPM) on April 10th, 2018 for an amount of US \$ 4,000 to grant loans for women in San Francisco Libre. During this year we have granted 14 loans, of which 5 are for the second time up to an amount of US \$ 2,800 (two thousand eight hundred dollars) and 9 loans for the first time up to an amount of US \$ 4,200 (four thousand two hundred dollars) for a total of 14 women benefited with a total loan of US \$ 7,000 (seven thousand dollars).
- Likewise, we present in the same format 11 loans canceled up to an amount of US \$ 4,300 (four thousand three hundred dollars), we have as a modality to dispense the interests when the early payments are made, and 3 loans with late payments up to an amount of US \$ 3,300 (three thousand three hundred dollars). The economic problem of the country has generated a little delay in the payments of the benefited women since their sales have fallen and therefore their profits are precarious. However, we believe that the payment of women in this period has been fruitful. With the late loans we have sent the women payment letters to make payment arrangements.
- This program of the Rotating Community Fund has the general objective of strengthening the social, economic and ideological position of women and young people through a program of granting loans for

small businesses that allow them to generate their own income and increase their autonomy in relation to the relations of unequal power between men and women.

- Business practices workshops for women. In all these years, we have seen how women with loans granted started their businesses and have improved their living standards, which has allowed them to be more independent, self-sustainable and expand their businesses
- Keep the first and only radio on the air in the municipality, where the message is carried through 6 different programs: Culture and Traditions of Nicaragua, Environment, Primary and Preventive Health, Sexual Health and Reproductive Health, Human Rights, Gender, Violence and Citizen Participation (Cultural Window, Green Drop, Woman, Health and More, Young Power Radio, Myths and Realities and a sports program).
- Meetings and training workshops on gender, sexual and reproductive health and the organizational strengthening of the youth network. Plus, legal and psychological assistance to women who suffer domestic violence. As well as accompaniment in the criminal process at the local level.

IPM's support during 2019:

During 2019 we have received one accompaniment visit from José, Fátima and Adela. We went visiting at least 3 women and their families, inside San Francisco Libre, who are being benefited from the Revolving loan program. This visit was very significant for us because we felt supported during a very difficult situation for our country Nicaragua. We hope to receive more visits like this one next year.

Looking forward! Future activities:

At the beginning of the year we received an annual donation of \$1,000.00 from IPM. At this moment the country is going through difficult times with partial strikes, business closings, sit-ins, marches, confrontations and persecution. Unfortunately, our youth project is suffering problems, mainly lack of funds, which has caused the dismissal of two people at the radio station. To resolve this situation a bit, we hope to manage with fundraising to keep working with young people as part of the Association's staff.

Testimony from one of our participants:

"My name is Mary Rojas Castillo, I am 38 years old and originally from San Francisco Free Lomas del Sol neighborhood. with my loan that I received from the



Women and Community Association because with this, there are three of them that I have received, which have helped me a lot to expand my business, which I have been improving thanks to my loans since the interests are very low. It helps me because it is the month that I pay my quota which helps me to be able to turn the business and have more profits, thanks to God I am doing very well in the business I sell a lot, I thank God first for the opportunity I was offered by the women in charge of the loan program, since they had the confidence in me to give me the loan, I hope to continue having these benefits and I ask goodbye to give me the strength to move forward and not be bad to continue in the program". **Maria Rojas Castillo**

7. CEPROSI - Nicaragua

Center for the Promotion of Integral Health

We work in a credit granting program for vulnerable women and underprivileged sectors, so they can carry out various economic activities, construction for housing improvement and land purchase, to improve their and their family's lifestyle. Our vision is to create a program that establishes a financial institution based on the community and women managing these resources. The Community Rotating Fund-*Women and Change* aims to include low-income women by granting micro-loans improving the quality of life of



the women of the program through facilitating more life opportunities and empowerment to decide on their future. Finally, this will allow the alleviation of poverty, vulnerability and the increase of their well-being. Achieve the economic, social equity of women and their empowerment to remove them from a condition of violence.

What have we done in 2019?

- We have benefited a total of 80 women directly and more than 250 people from 5 different communities in the municipality of Nindiri, Department of Masaya, Nicaragua. Some of our achievements in recent months include:
- The creation of different grassroots leaderships: we have been formatting 7 leaders with collective welfare vision, contributing with their knowledge and skills for the functioning of the FRC-Mujer program and change in 5 communities.
- Program Administration: Financial and administrative monitoring of the program is strengthened with growth and sustainability, for 18 months now:

- **Baseline:** We are conducting research and an information base against which to monitor and evaluate the progress and effectiveness of the program during its implementation and after it has been completed. This study is linked to our monitoring plan and the research method is based on surveys, databases, registers, photographs, diagrams and testimonies of women.

IPM's support during 2019:

IPM provided a significant contribution of \$ 1,000 dollars. We have used this money to follow up with the formation process of different community leaders. In the technical assistance level, IPM maintain at all times active and respectful communication in all its forms; They provide feedback on the financial and social reports we send, analyzing progress and challenges of the project. IPM has support our decisions and collective thinking, framework and operational guidelines program related. They have also provided follow-up visits (although very limited still) to hear feelings and thoughts of the women leaders in the program committee. They have also facilitated health and self-care workshops in the past that helped women to release the strong emotional burden in times of social-political crisis. They have also organized visits to the women from the project, where they get to know first-hand their progress and achievements. Finally, we have been strengthening friendship and solidarity bonds with the staff, generating trust and unity with everyone.

Future activities. Looking forward!

Continue the leadership formation process: providing training around gender issues, organization, solidarity economy, basic accounting, self-care and emotional health, accompanied and facilitated by regional IPM Staff. We are planning to conclude this cycle of credits at the end of the 12th. Quarter (2019) and then the last year (2020) to recover the total amount of the loan.

Testimony from one of our participants:



"Aracely Ampie, 32, with her partner have 2 children under the age of 4, lives in the Papayal community and is an active member of the Community Rotary Fund - Women and Change program. Since the beginning of the program (November 2017) he has already obtained 2 credits that allowed him to buy the land and is building his home. This legal access to land constitutes for Aracely the base that erects its solid economic autonomy, through which it feels more secure physically

and economically" Xenia Chevez

8. Centro de Formación para la Paz - Colombia

CFP runs two different projects: “Ser Mujer” and “Niñez Trabajadora”. Ser Mujer is responsible for strengthening and consolidating a group of women in the field of personal development through a methodology that rescue identity as a route for individual and social mobilization. They have been also providing training opportunities in different areas that allow women to empower and to gain economic autonomy. Their other project “Niñez Trabajadora” seeks to promote the prevention and eradication of child labor in 80 children and 20 adolescents in the city of Ibagué, through comprehensive and participatory actions.



IPM's support during 2019:

During 2019 IPM has made a significant donation to the project of \$2,000.00, which has contributed so far to purchase some material to create different hand-made products for the “Ser Mujer” project. They are gathering every week on Tuesdays to produce Christmas decorations, which they will sell on December. The main objective is to collect incomes for the women of the group. With this donation they are also thinking on having different workshops, around self-esteem, self-care and other technical trainings that will allow them to learn new skills, which will contribute to personal and economic growth for the women. With “Niñez Trabajadora”, they are gathering with children every week on Fridays to provide education and information around Children and Adolescents Rights.

LAC REGIONAL STAFF

During 2019 we had to say good bye to our dear colleague and friend Fátima Pacas. She is now perusing her master's degree at Albany University, Network. She is still supporting the organization with advice and assessment and will continue to do it along her master studies. With her transition I am now occupying her role The Regional Director for Latin America and The Caribbean. But I am also begging a new role: The International Director for Projects and Programs for IPM, where I will be working closely to our PP around the globe.

We have also hired two new young professionals in the LAC Office: Eneyda Ramos and Victoria Jiménez. Eneyda is a sociocultural anthropologist, graduated from the National University, with experience in social and political work. She is now our new Regional Associate for Latin America and The Caribbean, she will be working very closely to our PP in the region. Victoria Jimenez is a psychologist, graduated from UCA Jesuit University, with experience in the clinical area and arts, she has been a dance teacher for 10 years. She has become now the Regional Immersion Experience Coordinator.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM-INTERNSHIPS

We have been developing several volunteer programs to strengthen our work in the region. We have been working on our national educational networks and have contact several universities. So far, we have accomplished 3 different volunteers and one intern.

We have one volunteer working closely with our El Salvador PP, attending their technical needs, his name is Napoleon Flores. A psychologist graduated from the UCA Jesuit University. We also have Elena Pacas, who is currently studying her Philosophy major at the National University, she will be supporting the LAC Office with a memory history project. Finally, we have Victor Morales who is supporting with graphic design work, he is studying his 3 year in Universidad Matias Delgado in a Graphic Designer major.

LEGAL PROCESS: EL SALVADOR REGIONAL OFFICE

With the Staff transition all the legal processes are up to date, as well as all the information in the bank and other important institutions. This allows us to operate in the region without any inconvenience.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES

We were supposed to hold our VIII Regional Conference during 2019, being Nicaragua the host country. But because the socio-political situation and other relevant reasons we as a Staff, Headquarters and PP decided to wait until 2020 to make it possible. We have already started planning our Regional Conference in Nicaragua for July 2020, we have gotten the approval of our PP in the country, who say the socio-political situation in the country is improving.