



World Accord



Annual Report

2023-2024

Cultivating Communities That Thrive

World Accord
International Development Agency
worldaccord.org



Mission, Vision, and Values

We have a vision for World Accord - the flourishing of wellbeing for all where:

Basic human needs are met



Every person has the opportunity to fulfill their potential



Diverse people live peacefully in global community



Care of earth and love of neighbours shape our life together



Message from the Interim Executive Director

Every year is another year to build strength, excellence and resilience so that World Accord continues, through its partners, to support some of the most vulnerable communities across the globe, helping them to thrive and become more self-sufficient.

This year has been a good example of that. We have faced numerous challenges and thanks to wonderful supporters, staff, local partners, volunteers, and board members, we have managed to overcome them and grow much stronger. Today's circumstances in Canada and globally are also one of the most difficult we have faced in many years with much less support provided by our governments and multilateral entities to long-term international development and especially to smaller organizations like ours.

Even so, the issues faced by vulnerable communities that we support through our partners overseas have never been deeper or greater than today. Droughts, conflicts, the resurgence of epidemics that should only belong to the past... The support and cooperation to enable local capacities to face and resolve those issues have never been more valuable. Despite this, the work that our partners have put together is breathtaking. I hope this annual report gives you a good grasp of that, but also of World Accord's dedication to continue empowering those positive initiatives.

Looking forward to 2025 and our 45th anniversary, we are incredibly determined and hopeful for the future. Although the situation might seem daunting for our sector and organizations like ours, we continue to build resilience and improve our methods and skills to better serve our cause. Through the marvellous collaboration and drive we are getting from all World Accord partners and supporters, our organization will be able to bring a unique element to international cooperation, bringing sustainability and justice for communities through their own inclusive decisions and actions.

I also wanted to thank from the bottom of my heart all the staff, Board members, partners and supporters for a wonderful year managing World Accord. It was my honor to serve for this position and it is with lot of confidence and excitement that I welcome Kristin Douglas' return as Executive Director in November 2024.



FLORESTAN FILLON
INTERIM EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR



OVERVIEW



World Accord



Overview

This report will showcase the incredible endeavours of our partners globally and highlight the impacts that they have made in their communities over this past year. This work has been made possible by the combined support of our dedicated individual donors, family foundations and Global Affairs Canada.

This report delves into the uniqueness of World Accord when it comes to international development. You'll find out the "why" behind our approach and see how our theory of change is implemented in the field and transforming the lives of the participants and those most vulnerable.

We hope you'll immerse yourself in both the information we are sharing and our partners' stories. APDA will showcase their experience in resilience despite major climate crisis impacts on the Afar region while ADCASMUS continues to empower vulnerable farming women in El Salvador despite their limited resources.

Our Role and Approach

World Accord continues to adapt, launch new initiatives, and create new relationships in Canada and in the regions where our South Asian, East African and two Central American partners work. Even though they have been heavily impacted by COVID-19, natural disasters, hunger, failing food systems, high inflation and increasing living costs, all four local NGOs were able to provide opportunities for women and men living in poverty so they may achieve food security, meet their basic needs, and promote sustainable development in their communities.

Using a partnership model, WA collaborates with these established organizations to carry out participatory planning with their local communities, identifying specific needs and opportunities as well as ways to improve the overall well-being of their members. This approach cultivates sustainability, local leadership, and ownership over development as it is based on long-term relationships and trust with key stakeholders. Furthermore, because of the on-going crises (climate, biodiversity and environmental to name a few), our partners have strived to adapt and adopt new practices which rely on nature or technology while including innovative approaches in the delivery of their projects. In order to report results and be accountable to our supporters and key stakeholders, we monitor all our partners' activities overseas.

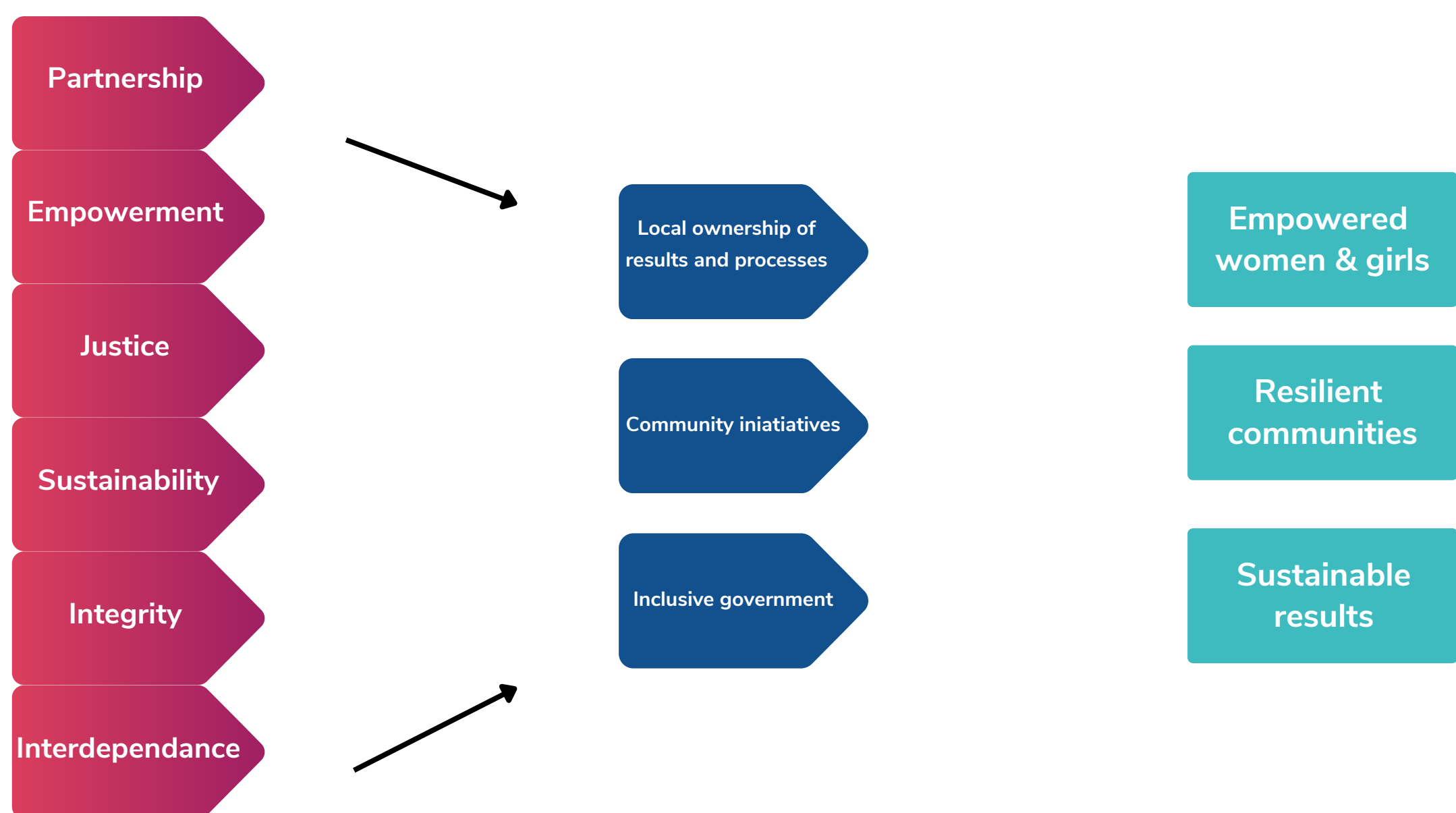
Regular communications, reports, and presentations to all those involved and the wider public in Canada are part of this process. WA resumed with our regular trips to the field to better understand the context in which our partners operate in and the growing challenges they face.

These visits strengthen our relationship, which is based on mutual respect and accountability. This also allows us to be flexible and responsive when needed (for example when a natural disaster or any other unforeseen event hits a country or area).

With this new experience, WA has come to realize the importance of creating strategic relationships, not only to avoid duplicating our resources but, more importantly, to be able to share experiences and learn from one another.

Thanks to our small staff of two employees in our Ottawa office and one in Waterloo, WA works in Canada to enhance the knowledge of our supporters and the general population, about the interconnectedness of our world through international development education and public engagement. Furthermore, via presentations and events, we explain how people can participate in fostering social justice in developing countries.

Our Theory of Change



Our six core values listed in the red arrow above contribute to local ownership of results and processes from our partners which then leads to community initiatives that respond to the needs of the participants, especially women and girls, as well as a governance model which is more inclusive. Ultimately, the community members become more empowered, with the support of men and boys; while their communities become even more resilient. This is especially true in these times where we have observed a stark difference between localities where our partners have been building the capacity of smallholder farmers and their neighbors. Finally, this produces more sustainable results as all key stakeholders are involved during the different steps of the process and can then continue to implement the project's activities while including best practices.

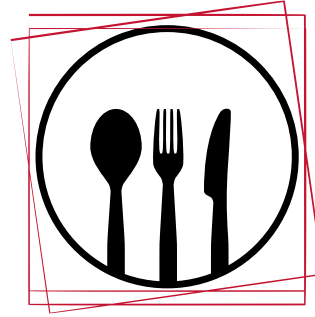
Our Theory of Change

WA's theory of change contributes to the following United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):

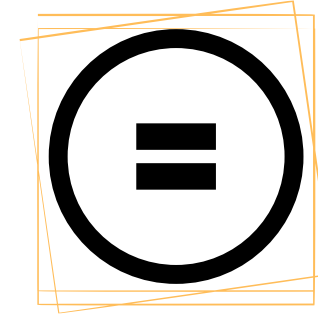
1: No Poverty



2: Zero Hunger



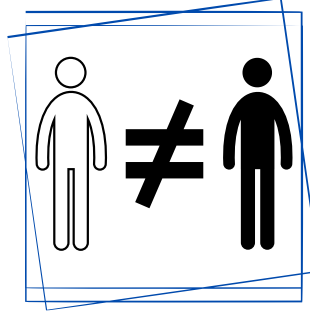
5: Gender Equality



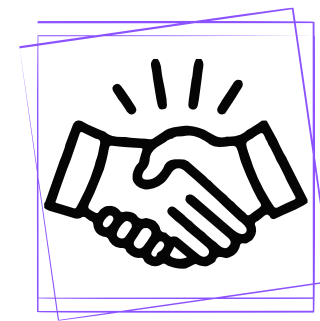
16: Peace, justice and strong institutions



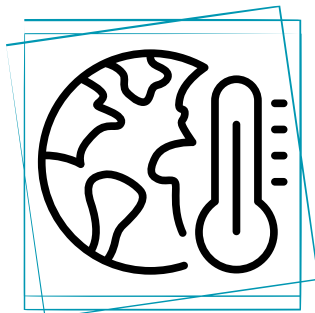
10: Reduced Inequalities



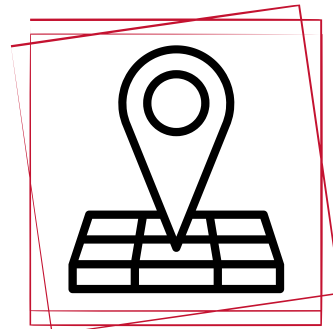
17: Partnership for goals



13: Climate Action

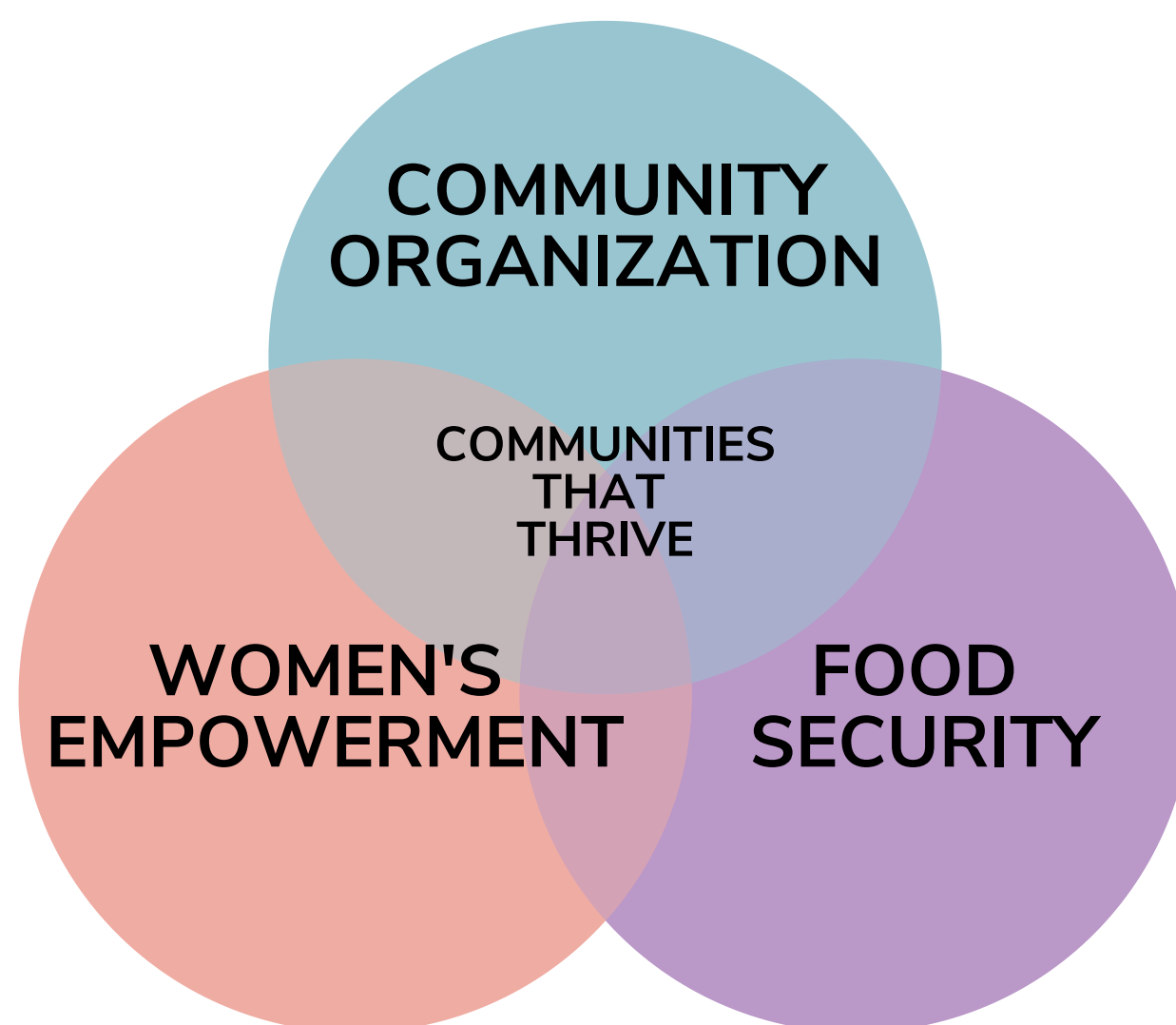


15: Life on Land



Our Integrated Development Approach

Our theory of change guides our development approach, which means that all projects supported by World Accord are holistic; focusing on empowering women and girls through social and economic initiatives founded on a human-rights approach. The illustration below depicts the programmatic areas in which our partners are working and that contribute to increasing food security. This leads to the empowerment of women and girls while contributing to the alleviation of poverty, ensuring environmental sustainability and climate action. These are all essential components of our integrated development approach.



Core Themes

Women's and girls empowerment continues to be our core priority for all our development programming. A holistic approach is needed that includes women, men, girls and boys as stakeholders in realizing gender equality.

Community Organizing

Our partners work with impoverished communities that struggle with social, economic and gender-based barriers. In the face of adversity, with little individual capacity to overcome challenges, community building, group formation and the social capital generated from these initiatives are important support mechanisms in our partners' suite of tools. In this way, participants are empowered by sovereignty and find strength in numbers.

Food Security

All of World Accord's partners have honed in on food security issues as most of the populations they are working with are vulnerable and poor. As such, many of them suffer from hunger. WA strives to enable our partners to implement food security strategies that will enable them to become even more autonomous; linking this fundamental question to other key aspects of their programs such as empowerment of women and girls or inclusion of the youth.

Sustainable Agriculture Practices

One of our priorities is ensuring that the world's poor and most vulnerable, especially women and girls, have access to, and can produce their own, food. We advance food security by supporting projects which develop the capacity of subsistence farmers to farm sustainably, raise livestock, and develop innovative and locally adapted techniques to generate greater and more diversified production.

Micro-Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

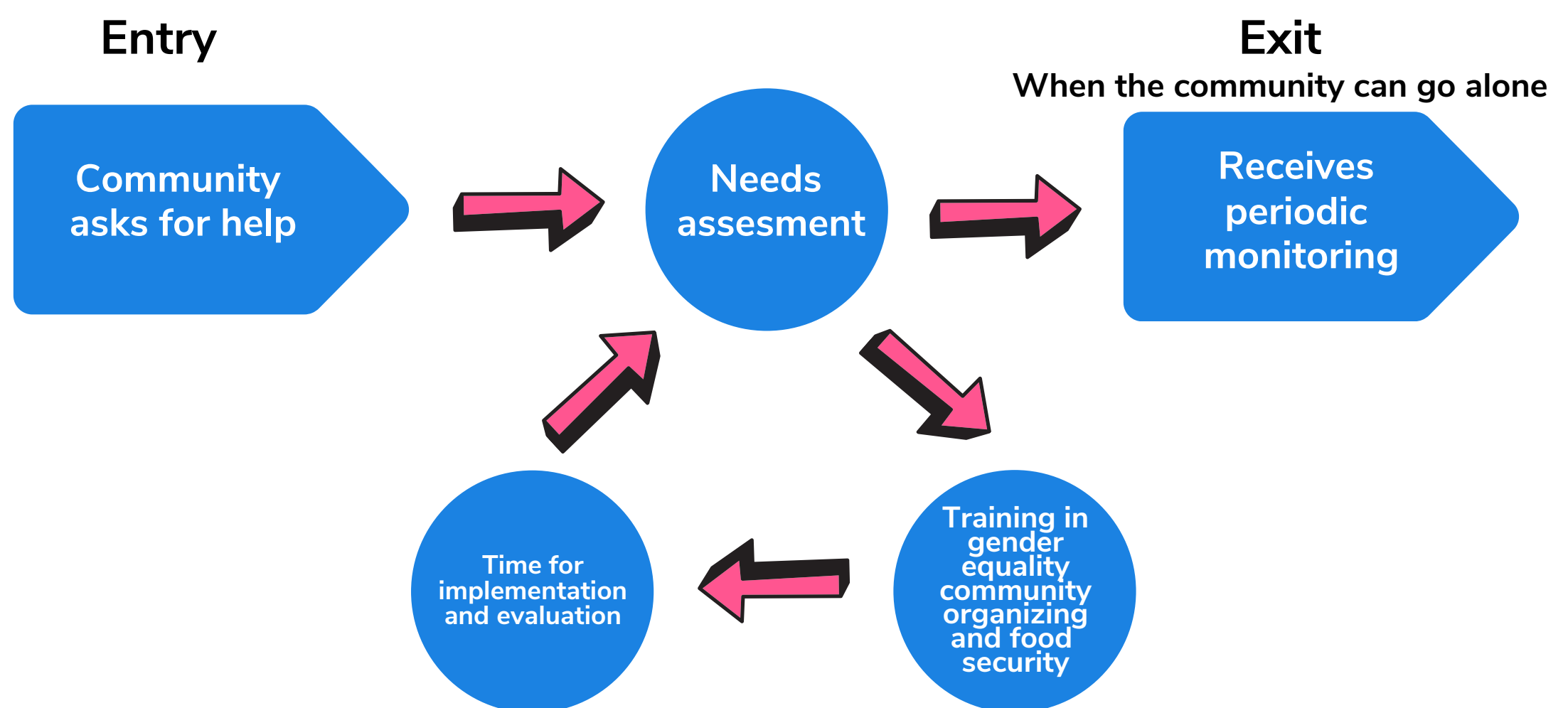
Another essential element towards social and economic empowerment is access to credit. Once participants are provided with training, they require micro-credit offered at a nominal rate, so they can invest in inputs or inventory and start small micro-enterprises or expand existing ones. This component is a unique means to empower women and youth.

Climate Crisis Adaptation

Not only is the climate crisis impacting all our partners' programs but it is significantly altering the way we and other stakeholders are working in the field. Additionally, it is now a key component in our partners' activities. Besides, most donors are now aiming at strengthening adaptability and building resiliency in their targeted areas of intervention.

Development Cycle

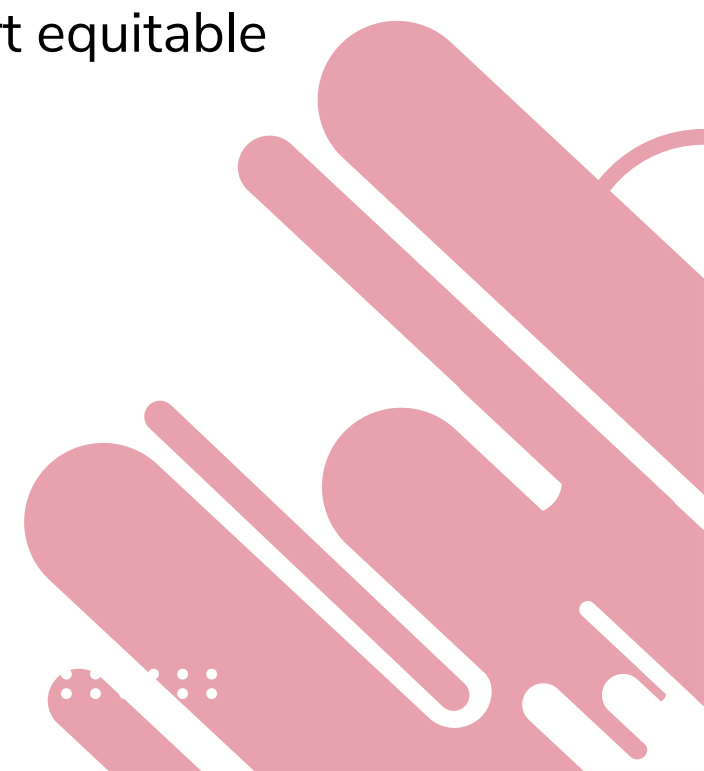
The diagram below identifies the general sequence of steps each of our partners follows when engaging with a community. Through our partnerships with local organizations that have spanned decades, we have observed that not only individuals but entire communities have become empowered. Thus, we continue reinforcing the capacities of our partners so they can deliver services that respond to the diverse and complex needs of their members. Moreover, we focus on using our modest resources as efficiently as possible and continuously strengthen our monitoring component. It is for this reason that World Accord advocates a gradual, long-term approach to development that increases the likelihood that improvements in quality of life will be sustained, and that participants will have ownership over the process. Our experience and research indicate that it can take more than 10 years - and a convergence of ideal social and environmental conditions - for an integrated development approach to bear truly sustainable results. An important indicator of success is when a group of people is sufficiently equipped to move out of relative poverty and become promoters of development themselves.



What's new at World Accord?

This last year, World Accord continued to reflect and implement initiatives as well as actions that reinforce localization. For example, projects implemented by our partners include a component of advocacy so that the participants, after learning about their rights, can advocate for their needs within local structures. This approach not only fosters greater ownership and sustainability of projects but also enhances the capacity of local communities to influence their own development. By prioritizing local voices and perspectives, localization strengthens resilience and promotes more equitable outcomes. Moreover, by including this human rights-based approach in their projects, our partners' activities become even more complementary as well as sustainable. This past May, WA's program manager visited our project RENEW, in Nepal. She was overwhelmed by the transformations the women have experienced. The first time she went to Makwanpur and Nuwakot (2018-2019), many women were very shy and did not even share their names. Some men would not allow them to attend the meetings. Now, not only do the women share what they have learnt from the project, and demonstrate their newly gained confidence; but some have even presented their candidacy at municipal elections and have been elected. These successes demonstrate how holistic projects that focus on gender empowerment, climate crisis adaptation as well as sisterhood and learning about our own human rights, can impact lives and change communities.

WA also partnered with Cooperative Development Foundation and created a project, RAISE (Building Resilience, Access to Markets, and Inclusion in the Social and Solidarity Economy) which was submitted to Global Affairs Canada under the call Addressing root causes of irregular migration in Honduras. This project aims at strengthening social and solidarity economy organizations and enterprises; and at increasing access to climate resilient technologies, financial services, and markets, in order to mitigate the economic and social disparities and environmental pressures that fuel irregular migration from rural communities within Honduras' Dry Corridor. Gender equality and social inclusion interventions, including advocacy and capacity building of community-based organizations as well as government, would support equitable benefit and enjoyment of human rights for all.





We also submitted PREVEBA (Preventing erosion through vetiver and bamboo) with ASOCIALAYO under the Funds for Innovation and Transformation call. This initiative focuses on reducing risks due to landslides in homes built on hillsides through the plantation of Bamboo and Vetiver barriers. These plants are widely available in the region. It is an innovative method that is of low cost and easy to replicate, utilizing local resources ecologically. This nature-based solution, using the bamboo plant *Bambusoideae* spp, is little known in Honduras and the Central American region. These plants have strong roots, regenerate quickly and are long-lasting. Indeed, because of the depth of the roots, they can effectively prevent landslides on the Santa Bárbara Mountain slopes, particularly in the municipality of Concepción Sur, an area very vulnerable to the climate crisis.

Unfortunately, POWER (which would strengthen the two cooperatives created under RENEW project) was not successful in acquiring GAC funding; however, we will still look for opportunities, in Canada and elsewhere. Indeed, projects that ultimately reinforce groups of women organized in cooperatives are the most impactful and sustainable. While they offer many needed services to women so they may become even more empowered, they also contribute to diversification of household income and reinforce sisterhood amongst the participating women. Finally, by including men and boys, in addition to other key stakeholders, communities become better off and are more equipped to face the many crises we are confronting.

Finally, we signed, in April 2024, an agreement with a new partner, ASUVI-Quiché in Guatemala, and started a new scholarship project with ASOCIALAYO in Honduras. This is slightly out of the scope of this report but we still wanted to present them here in the next section (pages 18-20 and 22) and we will be eager to give you more results on these new programs in our next report.



Meet Our Partners



World Accord



General Introduction

World Accord is still an ally and partner of Women for Peace and Democracy (WPD), ADCASMUS, ASOCIALAYO and APDA. We have also started a collaboration with a local organization in Guatemala, ASUVI-Quiché. With these decades of trust, respect and knowledge-sharing we have witnessed, in our partners, an increased sense of resilience and adaptation to the multiple crises they are facing (including the climate or biodiversity crisis). Furthermore, even though the context of each country is getting even more difficult and complex, we are humbled to share their stories of transformation in addition to how their participants continue to improve their own well-being, that of their households, their village and respective community.

Partner Specific Overview

ADCASMUS - El Salvador

Association for Community Development, Environmental &
Multiple Services of El Salvador

Organizational Overview

ACADAMUS works with families living in poverty or extreme poverty in communities that receive little or no other institutional or government support. Its mission is to “develop programs and projects promoting participation and gender equality, aimed at improving the living conditions of communities and the environment of El Salvador through the use of innovative resources.” For almost twenty years, ADCASMUS has focused its programs on improving the lives of the poor and marginalized Salvadorans (especially women and girls) through economic development activities including agriculture, animal-raising, microcredits, training and youth education. The NGO is based out of San Salvador, where they have their community centre which also serves as a library, but they also travel routinely implement programs in other areas of El Salvador. World Accord is supporting its program, which focuses on increasing food security and diversifying income-generating activities.

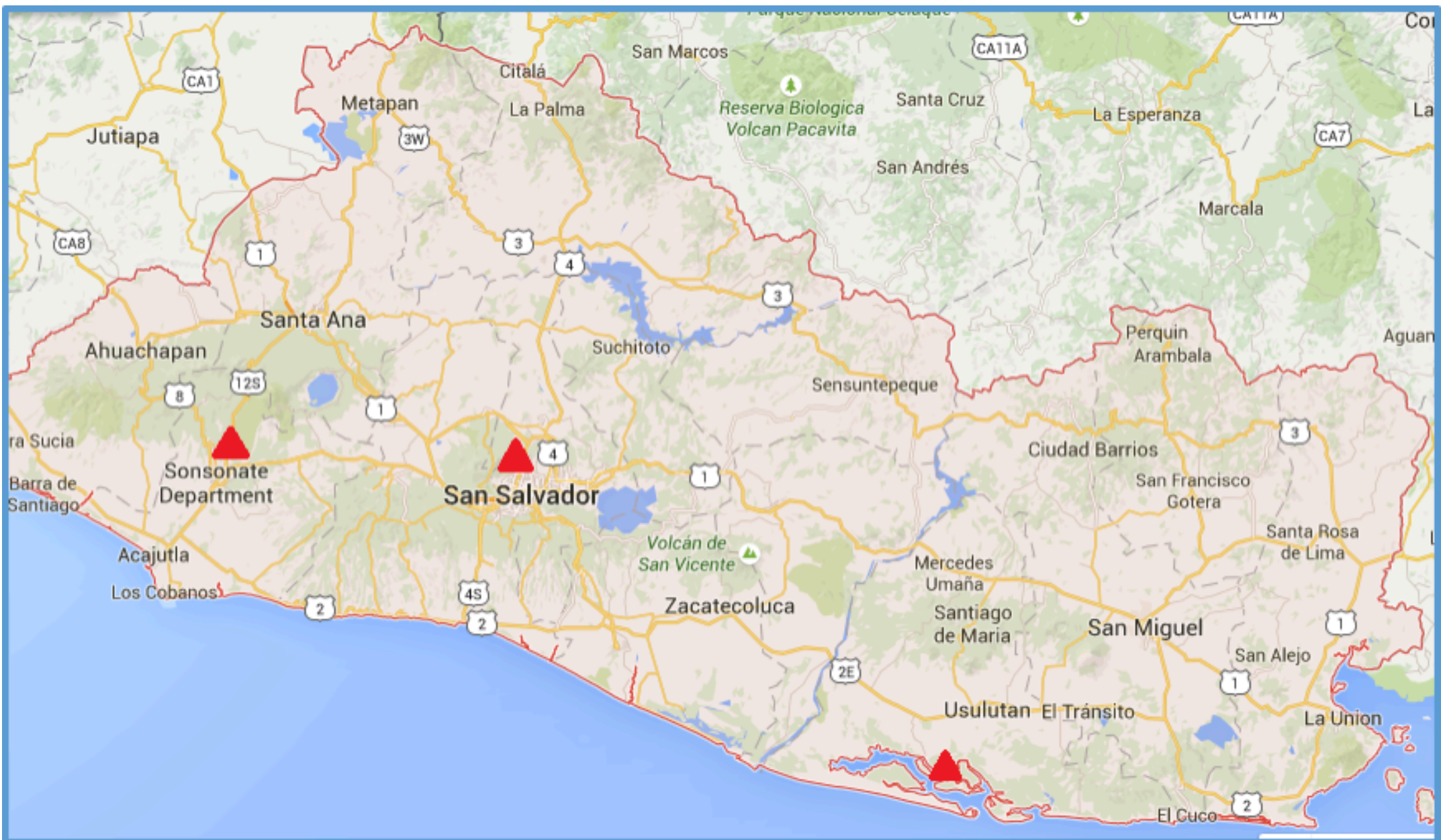
ADCASMUS' Region of Work

ADCASMUS operates in the departments of La Libertad, Sonsonate, and Usulután, situated in the vulnerable Dry Corridor of Central America. These areas grapple with issues like erosion, drought and erratic rainfall, which detrimentally impact the local population's livelihoods. Approximately half of ADCASMUS' programs are concentrated in rural areas where communities rely heavily on subsistence agriculture, often supplemented by small-scale animal husbandry such as raising chickens or pigs. ADCASMUS initiatives encompass offering credit and collective support to smallholder farmers, providing microcredit for launching small businesses, implementing a program for pig farming with upfront payments, and delivering vocational training for youth. Over the past year, ADCASMUS collaborated with 15 families to educate them on agricultural practices, integrated farming methods, and techniques to enhance food security and income generation. The project's key objectives included promoting sustainable production techniques, encouraging the adoption of organic fertilizers over chemical ones, and addressing soil erosion issues. By transitioning to organic fertilizers, these families stand to benefit financially due to lower costs and improved crop yields and soil quality. Educating families on climate-resilient farming practices and composting can foster sustainable agricultural methods with positive environmental impacts, promoting long-term sustainability. Leveraging their expertise in smallholder farming methods, ADCASMUS personnel aim to transfer knowledge to families while fostering strong partnerships with community leaders to facilitate project execution and minimize restrictions.



Projects Location

Eleven communities in the departments of La Libertad, Sonsonate & Usulután
(red triangles below)



ADCASMUS has encountered notable challenges such as illiteracy among some participants, which complicates learning, and the unfavorable perception among young people who view farming as an inferior occupation, preferring to migrate in search of more desirable job opportunities. Despite these challenges, ADCASMUS has made considerable strides with support from World Accord. This year, ADCASMUS hosted two workshops focusing on crop diversification, resulting in enhanced agricultural productivity and improved family diets. Sustainable agricultural practices were taught, emphasizing the use of organic fertilizers. Notably, the target of producing 300 lbs of organic fertilizer was surpassed, with the actual amount reaching 450 lbs. Ten families received access to creole seeds, while eight families obtained credit for agricultural production. These accomplishments are indicative of the program's effectiveness in promoting sustainable farming practices, improving food security, and boosting agricultural productivity. Apart from benefiting the participating families now and in the long run, over 150 individuals indirectly benefited from the project. These include hourly workers on farmers' plots and buyers who acquired surplus farm products at better prices.

Story of Transformation from El Salvador

Francisca García (in the picture below) lives in the Mayo community of Jayaque. She is a single mother who is part of our microcredit program. Francisca sells different types of vegetables and fruits from house to house. Francisca tells us that thanks to this program, she now has enough economical means to purchase food. As a participant in our women's group, one has a credit of \$50, which she can invest in buying lemons, avocados, mangoes, cucumbers and others from local producers.

Francisca very shyly tells us that her low education has made it difficult for her to improve her livelihood. Before, she collected plastic bottles and sold them for recycling. It was arduous work since the collection was at night. She walked long distances to be able to find the bottles lying on the side of the road. On the weekend, Francisca collected around 50 pounds of bottles, which she sold for \$0.15 per pound. It was a lot of work for so little money. Now, she no longer has to take risks at night and has a better source of income.



ASUVI Quiché - Guatemala

(Asociación Unidos por la Vida)

Developping a new Partnership in Guatemala

For more than 35 years, World Accord partnered with Mujeres en Acción (MeA) in Guatemala. This local, Indigenous women-led organization was created when Terry Fielder, visited Chimaltenango and helped a small group of Maya widows, during the Civil War of the 1990s, start micro businesses with their handicrafts. These women began with very little but through donations provided by WA and continuous support for their community-led projects, MeA improved the livelihoods of more than 40,000 households. The projects implemented varied from agroforestry to medicinal plants research as well as granting microcredits, the construction of their two training centres and emergency restoration after natural disasters (including volcano eruptions or hurricanes etc.). Today, MeA's main focus is on providing microcredits to families. In this context, WA has decided to collaborate with Asociación Unidos por la Vida (ASUVI) Quiché who are not only empowering Indigenous women but also have strong expertise in agroforestry, food sovereignty as well as irrigation. We expect that their holistic view combined with those of ASOCIALAYO (Honduras) and ADCASMUS (El Salvador) will contribute to more robust lessons learnt and best practices which will translate into implementing even more efficient projects.

Organizational Overview

ASUVI was created in 1997 and works mostly with rural indigenous women living in the North-West of Guatemala, a region particularly torn by the internal armed conflict (1960-1996). ASUVI members are primarily small-holder farmers. Incomes from farming vary depending on access to land (almost all women rent), and markets. The impacts of the climate crisis with environmental degradation and loss of ecosystems make farming even more challenging, which explains the focus on water and soil regeneration. The majority of ASUVI members live below the Guatemalan poverty line. ASUVI adopts an integrated, holistic development approach to its programming.

ASUVI Region of Work

This is the first year World Accord will be working with ASUVI on their project “Strengthening economic productive initiatives” with a gender perspective in Indigenous communities. They will carry out various activities such as training workshops for families involved in agricultural or livestock production, and economic and social productive issues so that the participating families improve their overall quality of life. This project will also provide technical advice and personalized support as well as needed infrastructure, tools, materials and inputs necessary to increase their overall production. All the resources available in the community and families will be used in a rational, sustainable and ecological way. Moreover, the agricultural production team’s capacity will be strengthened, as well as the focus on empowering women so they participate in decision-making spaces. This project will intervene in three communities: Cerritos I of the municipality of Chiché, Santabal II of the municipality of San Pedro Jocopilas and Tzanimacabaj of the municipality of Chichicastenango, municipalities of the department of Quiché, Guatemala. In conclusion, the main objectives are to empower and train women to create their productive, economic, and social development, as well as improve their quality of life and capacity for advocacy.

Projects Location

ASUVI works throughout the region of Quiché, a large region or department on the North Western part of the country



Stories of Transformation from Guatemala

Tomasa Lares (picture below) is 51 years old and lives in the community of Cerritos II, municipality of Chiché, department of Quiché. She lives with her husband, three daughters, one son, and her mother. Her husband works as a bricklayer in the community. Tomasa was unable to finish her primary education and has mostly dedicated herself to being a housewife and occasionally planting medicinal and aromatic plants. Before joining the women's group, she did not know how to grow various vegetables in her garden. She did not know the usefulness of a macro tunnel for agricultural production, as well as the control of expenses and the reinvestment of the income obtained in a productive activity.

After joining the women's group formed under the ASUVI project, Tomasa Lares participated in training workshops on economic issues, training in carrying out agroecological practices and the production of bio-inputs, management of tomato crops in macro tunnels, and awareness about the climate crisis and measures to mitigate it. All of these capacity-building activities helped her increase her knowledge and confidence to expand her vegetable production on her plot. With the knowledge and inputs, she managed to increase her vegetable production area from 10m² to 60m² and save up to Q400.00 per month (CAD 70.00) on the purchase of vegetables to feed her family, sometimes selling a small part in the municipal market, earning between Q200.00 and 300.00 per month.

Tomasa Lares proudly shares that she now contributes to the development of her household's economy. Moreover, she manages household expenses. She ends with: "Thanks to the support of the project, I have already learned to grow different vegetables and how to take care of them, and that way I save money and sometimes I sell a little too."



Asociación de Comités De Transferencia De Tecnología Agropecuaria Local Del Lago De Yojoa (ASOCIALAYO) – Honduras

Association of Local Agricultural Technology Transfer Committees of Lake Yojoa

Overview

ASOCIALAYO is a community-based organization that empowers farming families to drive comprehensive development in rural areas by implementing appropriate technologies and utilizing shared resources for agriculture and community-based organizational structures. The organization, comprising farming family groups, aims to advance ecological agriculture, participatory agricultural research, and family health to foster the holistic growth of their communities. Through the Local Agricultural Research Committee (CIAL - Comité de Investigación Agrícola Local), they are undertaking projects focused on local seed varieties and their management, ensuring resilience to pests and diseases and superiority to conventional seeds. The smallholder farmers in the Local Agricultural Research Committees (CIALes) conduct participatory agricultural evaluations to identify the most productive and pest-resistant seeds, enabling them to grow healthy, sustainable crops and contribute to food security. ASOCIALAYO also provides support for the development of seed varieties adapted to local conditions, training in sustainable agriculture techniques, establishment of seed banks and exchanges, and provision of storage silos to mitigate crop losses. Currently, 260 farmers, with a 35% representation of women and 25% of youth, from four municipalities are engaged in CIALes which are implementing a gender equality strategy to ensure inclusive participation. Nevertheless, the organization is striving to address the low involvement of youth due to migration by focusing on training young people in various agricultural topics and new ideas related to sustainability.



ASOCIALAYO's Region of Work

ASOCIALAYO operates in the ecologically sensitive Lake Yojoa region of Honduras, which is situated in the vicinity of the Blue Mountain National Park. The NGO focuses on the Santa Barbara and Comayagua departments, supporting indigenous peasant families in those areas. By promoting agroecology, the organization aims to ensure food sovereignty and security, while also improving family healthcare, thereby facilitating the overall development of the communities.

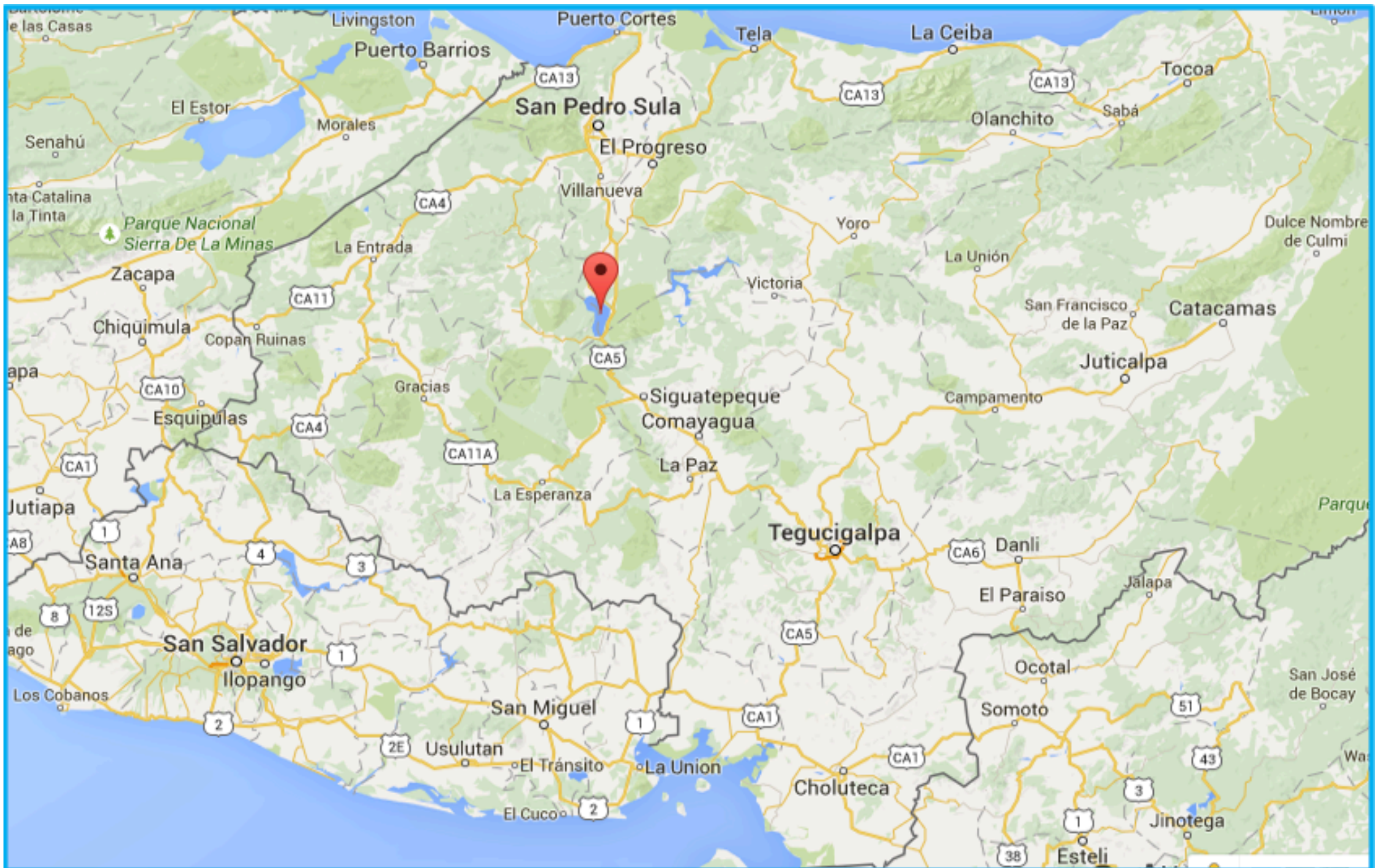
ASOCIALAYO aids smallholder farmer groups in marketing their products through individual sales, seed fairs, and a local association turned micro-enterprise. In parallel, the organization provides literacy and financial classes to farmers to enhance their managerial and budgeting skills for their farms. The main goals of ASOCIALAYO are to foster diversified and sustainable agriculture while contributing to eradicate poverty and increase living standards in their participants. The organization seeks to empower small-scale farmers by offering them access to and control over their food supply, leading to a surplus for the market. By organizing farmers into production and research groups, providing technical assistance, and offering farm inputs, ASOCIALAYO is working towards sustainable agricultural practices.

In April 2024, ASOCIALAYO in partnership with World Accord started a new scholarship program to provide access to education for vulnerable families. Following a holistic approach and with a focus on girls and disadvantaged families, ASOCIALAYO put together a selection committee along with a set of rules and regulations to structure the program before it was launched in April. This will provide long term positive impact for local communities with regards to literacy, academic skills but also for the quality of information sharing in various areas including agroecology. We are eager to share more next year on the initial results of this exciting new initiative!



Projects Location

Central and Southwest Honduras (Departments of Santa Barbara, Comayagua and Lempira)



This year, ASOCIALAYO's main objective was to contribute to the well-being of rural families in harmony with nature in the face of climate vulnerability through agro-ecological production, farmers' rights and exchange of experiences with other organizations. This was achieved by improving the economic income of participating families and encouraging agro-ecological production of participating families with a gender focus. Climate crisis is a permanent problem in the communities since it causes a lot of rain and drought, which affects production in the countryside. This crisis, coupled with poor soil quality, has generated low production in all crops, such as, coffee or basic grains (corn and beans). Also, the appearance of new diseases in beans and corn reduce their yields. Additionally, the region experiences natural disasters, such as landslides. Despite these challenges, with the support of World Accord, ASOCIALAYO surpassed its goal of distributing one drought-tolerant corn variety to 320 participants (instead of the targeted 100). Moreover, they reported that participating families were able to keep food for eight months, which provided them relief during the drought periods. In the future, ASOCIALAYO seeks to address landslide issues in the area through nature-based solutions like bamboo-vetiver barriers.

Story of transformation from Honduras

The family of María Acosta and Alfonso Hernández (picture below) live in El Encinal, Las Vegas, Santa Barbara. They participated in their local CIAL (local agricultural research committee) in 2014, beginning with planting corn, bean trials, and small vegetables to improve their diet and food. Previously, in Alfonso's community, farmers burned the land for their crops, and their plots were damaged, causing low crop yields and poor soil quality.

The community of El Encinal is located at the foot of the Santa Barbara Mountain in the national park, with many natural resources and small water sources. ASOCIALAYO selected the Acosta-Hernández family to implement a plot that would serve as a model because of their geographical location close to the community. This trial also has the goal of promoting the wise use of local resources and preventing all burning. Thanks to the support of the World Accord, the family now has a diversified plot, with 17 timber trees, 32 fruit trees, 2 trees for firewood, and 5 medicinal trees. Moreover, they have a plot of taro, cassava, chayotes, yam, sweet potatoes, corn and even beans.

Additionally, they have been provided with high-yield bean and corn seeds for their nutrition all year round. This family also carries out participatory research in agriculture in coordination with EAP Zamorano (The Pan America Agricultural School in Honduras) and ASOCIALAYO. They are providing excellent results through their improved quality of seeds, thus contributing to solving agricultural problems in the face of the climate crisis. All their basic food needs are covered by their diversified plot. Their surpluses are sold to the community, and they can purchase other necessary products. Their son Daniel Hernández, 14 years old, is studying in the third year of school and is very interested in learning more about agriculture and helping his family.

Thanks to these small projects, today, the farm has a variety of species. That has contributed to improving the family's diet and their lives while protecting natural resources.



Women for Peace and Democracy (WPD) – Nepal

Organizational Overview

The Women for Peace and Democracy (WPD) - Nepal is a women-led non-profit organization dedicated to empowering women and marginalized groups in Nepal. WPD Nepal aims to enhance their well-being by improving access to resources and livelihood skills. This is achieved by strengthening the capacities of women and marginalized individuals, enabling them to take advantage of economic opportunities and participate in peace-building and democracy.

WPD Nepal facilitates the creation of women's groups in rural areas, providing them with structure, training, education, awareness, and support. They have over 10 years of experience and work with Dalit and other vulnerable women in the districts of Chitwan, Makwanpur, Sarlahi, and Dhanusa. These districts are significantly affected by domestic violence and a lack of economic opportunities.

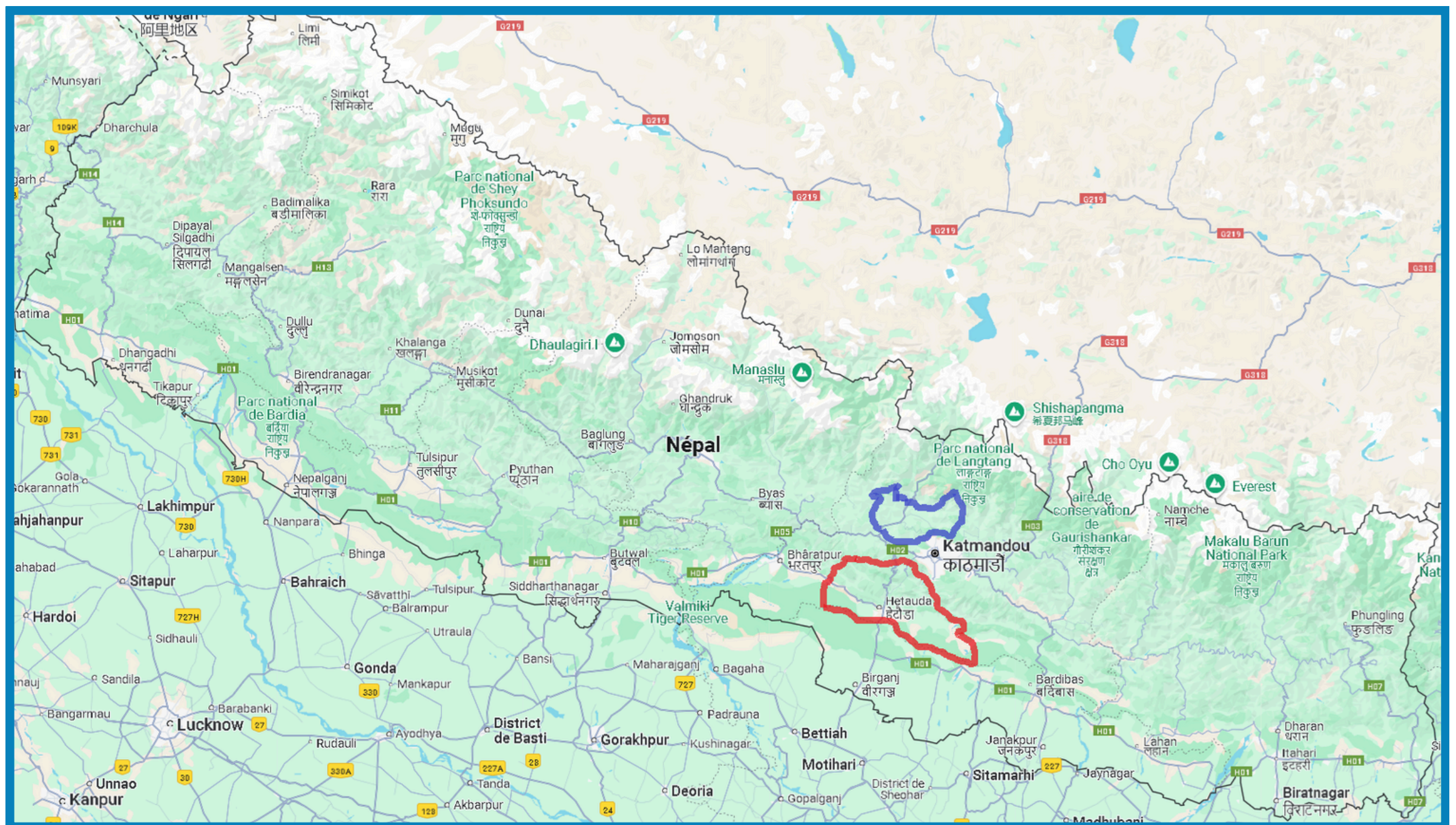
With support from World Accord, WPD runs two programs: Socioeconomic Transformation Program for Women and Marginalized (SEWAM) and Rights and Economic Development for Nepal's Empowered Women (RENEW).

The SEWAM program addresses gender inequality in rural communities by empowering women socially and economically. It promotes women's participation in income generation and local decision-making, provides training in domestic violence prevention, and raises awareness about women's issues and rights.

The RENEW project is a gender-targeted, four-year initiative in Makwanpur and Nuwakot (ending at the end of this year). It aims to enhance the social and economic empowerment of women and girls, particularly from Dalit and other vulnerable groups, through proven poverty reduction measures based on a human rights approach. Supported by Global Affairs Canada, The Shaw Family Foundation, and the Egg Farmers of Ontario, as well as a dedicated network of allies, this project has already significantly improved the lives of many participants and their families.

Projects Location

WPD works for communities in two districts of Central Nepal, Makwanpur (in red) and Nuwakot (in blue)



Overview of Socioeconomic Empowerment Program for Women & Marginalized (SEWAM)

In 2012, Women for Peace and Democracy-Nepal (WPD-Nepal) initiated the Socioeconomic Empowerment for Women and Marginalized (SEWAM) program. The project was born out of the need to empower rural women and the marginalized in Nepal to realize their potential, participate in nation-building, and contribute to sustainable development. The program facilitates the development and strengthening of women's leadership capacity, improves personal and financial security, and equips them to identify and take advantage of economic

The SEWAM project targets women in Kamron, Hariyon, Haripur, Bindhi of Chitwan, Sarahi, and Dhanusa districts of Central Nepal, and had 196 women beneficiaries in the last year. The program features cooperative education and cornerstone training to help women initiate small-scale income-generating activities, self-help community development training, and setting up trust funds to encourage more target women to start small businesses, along with awareness and education on the climate crisis. The program has trained women in organic vegetable farming, cooperative education, goat raising, gender equality and social inclusion awareness.

78 participants have ventured into successful businesses such as organic vegetable farming, goat raising, tailoring, poultry farming, running snack shops, rearing buffalo, pigs, ducks, and cows, as well as transportation businesses and wheat plantations. The program has improved living standards for women in the area, empowered women in taking decisions as entrepreneurs and as members of a household, increased access to business loans, and enhanced the initiation of small-scale income-generating activities. It has also built trust, harmony, unity, accountability, and mutual respect among participants, boosting their self-confidence and sense of purpose, curbing domestic and gender-based violence, and improving agricultural knowledge and skills.

Story of transformation from Nepal (SEWAM)

“The knowledge and skill which I had gained from the program have helped me to become the person I am today,” says, Lal Kumari.

Lal Kumari Thami (in the picture below) is 36 years old and lives in Hiryon, Sarlahi. She lives with her husband, son, daughter, and father-in-law. Her husband works as a labourer in India. Lal Kumari got married when she was very young and couldn't complete her studies. Before joining the women's group, she used to be shy and lacked the confidence to speak. She was unaware of the importance of earning money and being independent.

After joining the women's group formed under the SEWAM program, Lal Kumari participated in the training, awareness programs and meetings such as cornerstone, economic literacy, goat raising, cooperative education training, and awareness on gender equality and climate crisis. She also got the opportunity to have an exposure visit to Makwanpur. All these capacity-building programs helped her become more confident and understand how important it is to be financially independent. With the knowledge she gained from the goat-raising training, she took a loan of Rs. 20,000 from the trust fund and started a goat-raising business with two goats. Today she has 14 goats and according to Lal Kumari, she earns almost Rs. 80,000 every year from her goat-raising business.

Lal Kumari proudly shares that she no longer has to rely on her husband for money. She can independently manage their household expenses, and she's also able to take care of her children's education. Lal Kumari says, “The knowledge and skill which I had gained from the program has helped me to become the person I am today.” She expresses her gratitude for all the support.



Overview of Rights and Economic Development for Nepal's Empowered Women (RENEW)

The Rights and Economic Development for Nepal's Empowered Women (RENEW) aims to enhance the social and economic empowerment of nine hundred women and girls, especially from Dalit and most vulnerable groups, with one ultimate outcome which is social and economic empowerment of women, girls and disadvantaged communities in the target area, in addition to several intermediate and immediate outcomes. The program has benefited 857 female VWG members, 190 staff members of local organizations, 181 men and boys from the households of VWG members and approximately, 4393 indirect beneficiaries consisting of household members of VWG members.

The outcomes are being realized through the combined impact of investment in women's economic participation, social empowerment fostered through the VWGs, strengthened capacity for improved climate-resilient agricultural livelihoods, diversified income streams, increased participation in community leadership and decision-making, and enhanced understanding and advocacy for human rights.

RENEW has had encouraging impacts on women's empowerment in their communities. This is reflected in the local governments' respect and support for VWGs, as well as advancements in project success and sustainability. In addition, women are creating jobs, even hiring men and paying for their labour, breaking gender stereotypes and enabling these women to make decisions both within and outside the home. Nutritional and overall health improvements for women and their families have also been recorded, with many reporting regular protein and calcium consumption.

Also, women consistently report increasing agricultural incomes due to the new climate crisis adaptation techniques they have applied since receiving training. There has been widespread utilization of weather forecast data to inform the planting, cultivation, and harvest of crops. Many VWG members are also investing in other forms of enterprises, enabling them to contribute significantly to their household livelihoods.

VWG members have made progress in the exercise of their human rights demonstrated by their demand for rights within homes, their standing up against violations of their rights, including domestic abuse, and their public advocacy for women's human rights at the community level.



Story of transformation from Nepal (RENEW)

“I have come to realize that when a woman is capable of earning money, no one can dominate her,” says Sunita Lopchan.

Sunita Lopchan (in the picture below), aged 44 lives in Newarpani community of Hetauda-19, Makwanpur. Prior to her engagement with RENEW, she and her husband both worked as a daily wage labourer to make a living. Her husband was an alcoholic and would beat her often. Moreover, due to poor financial conditions, she was not able to support her son’s education.

Sunita’s life took a significant turn after she became part of the Newarpani VWG, formed under the RENEW program. She actively participated in various training, awareness programs and meetings. She was encouraged to start a small-scale business to expand her income sources. Consequently, she took a loan of Rs 5,000 from the group fund and started cultivating vegetables like luffa gourd, green leafy vegetables, green beans, okra and radish. By selling these vegetables, she earned Rs 25,000. This success motivated her to continue with seasonal vegetable farming.

In addition, she has been capacitated with the knowledge of social inclusion, gender equality, human rights, women’s rights and violence. Hence, she confidently raises her voice against any sort of violence. Her husband has also stopped drinking alcohol and started supporting her. She no longer reports being the victim of domestic gender-based violence. Together, she and her husband started raising chickens with Rs 2000 they earned from vegetable farming.

Through selling the chickens, they were able to earn Rs 14,000 within 3 months. Likewise, she has also been involved in goat raising. Today, she manages her household expenses and contributes to her children’s education.





Financial Summary



World Accord



PART III – Financial Summary

Income Statement - As of March 31st 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023
REVENUE		
Donations and fundraising - general and designated	309,689	276,794
Grants from charitable organizations	130,397	94,501
Government Grants	278,410	224,257
Other grants	26,356	25,021
Investment and other income	31,414	9,713
	776,266	630,286
EXPENSE		
Administration (note 5)	106,338	114,681
Fundraising (note 5)	81,975	63,687
Amortization of property and equipment	421	656
	188,734	179,024
Administrative funding		
Core funding	(6,363)	(11,500)
Wage Subsidy	(6,232)	(9,372)
	176,139	158,152
Programming		
Project costs	427,248	434,165
Project development (note 5)	31,936	127,107
Development education (note 5)	133,607	33,941
	592,791	595,213
Total expenses	768,930	753,365
NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) FOR THE YEAR	\$ 7,336	\$ (123,079)

Balance Sheet - As of March 31st 2024 and 2023

	Total 2024	Total 2023
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 497,269	\$ 538,500
Accounts receivable	-	11,998
Investments unrestricted (note 2)	69,980	60,595
Investments restricted (notes 1 and 2)	150,000	150,000
HST and travel advances recoverable	4,807	4,092
Prepaid project expenses - RENEW (note 1)	1,603	77,955
	723,659	843,140
CAPITAL ASSETS (note 3)	1,686	2,107
	\$ 725,345	\$ 845,247
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 41,748	\$ 21,744
Deferred revenue (note 4)	83,162	230,404
	124,910	252,148
NET ASSETS		
Contingency Reserve	150,000	150,000
Unrestricted net assets	450,435	443,099
	600,435	593,099
	\$ 725,345	\$ 845,247

Special Thanks to our Funders and Supporting Organizations

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Unifor Social Justice Fund

The Shaw Family Foundation

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Staff

Kristin Douglas, Executive Director (April-Oct 2023)

Florestan Fillon, Interim Executive Director (Oct 2023-March 2024)

Isabelle Hachette, Program Manager

Ann Meinzingher, Administrative Assistant