



ANNUAL REPORT

moel xojolal 2014



melel xOjobal





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A NEW PERSPECTIVE

*Friar Gonzalo Bernabé Ituarte O.P.
Chair of the board*



The experience of the last 18 years has enabled Melel Xojobal to have a real impact on the world of childhood and adolescence, from the original platform of San Cristobal de Las Casas. In this report we outline our latest actions and how they follow on from, and add to, the work of the last 18 years.

I want to note the transformation that the institution has experienced, having reached a clearer perspective on the human rights of children and adolescents. This evolution of outlook is not only a requirement of an increasingly professional outfit, is also the response to the fact that a greater understanding of the experiences, difficulties and expectations of the children and adolescents is central to any approach that seeks to improve their lives with their full participation and consent.

While we perceive the increasingly complex and extensive problems of the population we serve, we will also adapt continuously to it, to respond more appropriately and target their concerns more precisely, making it possible for children and adolescents of both sexes to manage their own lives. What is also becoming clearer is the need to clarify the areas where a more focused interaction with other parts of the civil society is needed in order to transform the system that currently forces

certain portions of each new generation to face adverse conditions for the exercise of their rights. In this we hope to aid this young, marginalized group to achieve their true human development.

It is in this document the reader will find quotations from children and adolescents, but I venture to say that the report as a whole is the voice of the population that we serve.

I therefore invite you to read the Social Report from the perspective of the children and adolescents who have required us to change our place to see reality from their eyes.

While we thank the many individuals and partner institutions of the project Melel Xojobal, so too must we thank the many generations of children and adolescents, who are the reason for our work and commitment. They have given us the privilege of being close to them and have taught us to measure our work by its relevance to their lives.

This report is our recognition.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Jennifer Haza Gutiérrez



Dear Friends,
Melel Xojobal will soon have achieved 18 years of uninterrupted social work. In 2014, we made a concerted effort to obtain birth certificates for 99 children who would otherwise not have been registered. This document is essential in gaining access to healthcare and education. With our work in the field, we influenced several aspects of the lives of young people; we contributed to social inclusion through enrolling children in school, and provided broader support to complement their schooling and to reduce drop-out rates; we promoted healthy lifestyles and assisted young people in the construction of their life project to expand their educational, work and personal options in the mid and long term.

Also, through research we have updated our knowledge of the living situations of working children in San Cristobal de Las Casas, and have expanded our knowledge of the living situations of small children in San Juan Cancuc and Chenalho.

Furthermore, our advocacy work with other organizations stimulated the generation of new institutional and regulatory frameworks in favor of children rights such as the new General Law for Children's and Adolescent's Rights which came into force on December 5, 2014 and will result in

actions and public policy to improve children's lives in our country.

We believe that there's still a lot that needs to be done so that every child and adolescent in Chiapas can exercise their human rights. We also believe that they are stakeholders and agents of change who need to be listened to and involved in the social transformation that is needed to achieve a more dignified life for everyone.

Thank you very much to all the people, organizations and institutions that have walked along with us these past 18 years, helping build a better world for the children of Chiapas



Paulo

Ernestina

Sandra B.

Sandra R.

Benito

Paulina

Tawia

José

Susana

Joselito

Rosy

Magaly

Jenny

Lizzet

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Lizzet López Guillén





NATIS

MISSION

Melel Xojobal is a social organization that works with the children and young people of Chiapas, promoting, defending and exercising their rights through participatory processes to improve their life quality. The rights to healthcare, education, protection against violence, identity and participation are those that are most often denied to children and adolescents in Chiapas, and are the focus of our work.



VALUES

A commitment to socially-excluded indigenous children and youth in high risk situations, and the full exercise of their human rights.

Cultural Diversity. We at Melel Xojobal acknowledge and respect the different cultural identities of indigenous people and the different values of the people and groups that we work with.

Social and gender equality. The organization defends the principle that all people have access to the same opportunities and guarantees regardless of their religion, sex, ethnicity or any other personal or social circumstances.

Dignity. Melel Xojobal defends the principle that a dignified way of life is essential to the integrity and wellbeing of all people.

Self-determination. We believe that every person has the ability and potential to empower and build a more just and equal society, and must not be denied the chance to do so.

Participation. We believe children and young people can become stakeholders in society by expressing their opinions and making their own decisions about their social inclusion process.

Work team. Interpersonal relations are based on mutual respect and assertive communication.



RESULTS IN 2014



PARTICIPANTS

566 girls, boys and young people from 0 to 21 years old participated directly in our programs.

226 fathers, mothers and primary caregivers participated in the different workshops offered such as the right to identity, education, healthcare and a life free of violence.



RIGHT TO IDENTITY

CAMPAIGN "THE RIGHT TO IDENTITY"

Our annual campaign "The Right to Identity" took place in the public markets of the city. We also broadcast radio announcements in Spanish and Tzotzil on different radio stations that reach a big audience of the population we work with.

We assisted in obtaining 99 birth certificates for children who would otherwise have remained unregistered. These valuable documents were delivered directly to the organization's offices, thanks to an agreement with the Office of Civil Registration.

"I am very happy that I got my birth certificate and thank you for giving it to me, I am going to enroll in school".

José Manuel, 11 años



RIGHT TO EDUCATION

"We have the right to study and finish a degree so that we can work in any job, and also we wish to have support for us as women".

*Ana Cristina Gómez Gómez,
13 años.*



SOCIAL CIRCUS

With Machincuepa Circo Social A.C., children and adolescents learn circus skills and social abilities such as assertive communication, cooperation, paying attention, kindness, nonviolent conflict resolution, trust, gender equality, frustration tolerance and overcoming shyness. This program has proven to be very successful; we have observed progressive changes in the children and young people who take part.



EARLY STIMULATION

At the early stimulation center "Arrumacos", we contributed to cognitive, social, physical and psychological development of 34 children aged 0 to 4. Through assessment we can detect deficiencies in early development and do educational activities designed to stimulate the four areas mentioned above.



SCHOOL PLACEMENTS AND ATTENDANCE

Through educational activities called "learning circles" and other educational resources, we helped working children to gain places at school and raise their level of school attendance. Using different methodologies, children learned about their rights to identity and education. We also helped them to improve their reading, mathematical skills and technological abilities.

The activities took place in the spaces where children work (such as public markets) and in the organization's offices.

33 children and adolescents were given a scholarship that helped them to continue their studies and will help generate virtuous circles of school enrollment and attendance within their families. Also, we assisted in the transition to college of 6 young people. We provided the opportunity for these students to discuss their vocational options with a guidance counselor in order to direct their studies towards the best possible future in a career of their own choosing.



PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION AT SCHOOL

Educational project implemented with the Children Rights Network in Mexico and UNICEF. The overall objective was to highlight the barriers to school enrollment that children and youth in different contexts faced.

Fb. #LaEducaciónEsMiDerecho

Watch the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdi8q7Qz3B8>

As part of that process the children and adolescents who participated in the project gave a press conference to expose the discrimination and violence conditions in Chiapas's school that cause many children to drop out.

INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGE MEXICO-HOLLAND

With the Dutch organization Songo Komuna we participated in an artistic exchange project between children of both countries. They created drawings portraying the environment of both countries in order that children could appreciate a different reality. At the end of the project, we put on an exhibition at in the center of San Cristobal. Songo Komuna designed and printed a booklet showing the workshop experience.





RIGHT TO DECENT WORK

"Work is everyone's right, and children too is not force and it satisfied us".

Griselda, 17 años.



LIFE AND WORK SKILLS

With the job placement program, we trained 28 young people in silk-screen printing and candle making workshops. We also trained them in areas such as writing a job application, job interview skills and job searching skills.

LABOR RIGHTS

An educational space was opened for young itinerant workers to build a strategy of self-care and mutual support against the harassment by the authorities that often prevents them from working. After the arrest of one of them for selling on public roads, we urged the Municipal Committee to attend to the rights of children and to open a dialogue between City Hall and the young workers where they could express their needs and formulate alternative solutions. The result was an agreement of selling hours and spaces, as well as training workshop opportunities.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DIGNITY OF WORKING CHILDREN

December 9 is designated the day of dignity of working children, to remember and reaffirm the fight of millions of working children and adolescents around the world.

On December 13 the working children and adolescents of San Cristobal de Las Casas took to the streets to demand that their rights are respected.



CHILDREN ORGANIZATION

With the United Group of Working Children and Adolescents of San Cristobal de Las Casas, we continued to support the involvement of working children in advocating for their own rights. We facilitated their participation in advocacy actions, like the protest on International Women's Day, actions against violence and femicide and to demand new legislation supporting the rights of children and adolescents. Also, we worked to build strategies for asserting the rights of working children together with the Latin-American and Caribbean Working Children and Adolescents Movement (MOLACNATS)





RIGHT TO HEALTH

NUTRITION

We helped 34 girls and boys aged 0 to 4 improve their nutritional condition, giving them proper nutrition at the early stimulation center "Arrumacos".

15 children were referred to the clinic "Esquipulas A.C." for medical assessment, treatment and monitoring in order to improve their nutritional health.



HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

To promote healthy lifestyles we planned a strategy, directed at young women in particular, to learn break dance and reflect about positive conflict resolution as a means of preventing violence.

We gave educational activities at the Telesecundaria Pablo Neruda (students from 13-16), to promote the knowledge, exercise and defense of sexual and reproductive rights among the juvenile population. We also work with the theme "life project", to analyze their future plans with the view to creating the possibility of personal change.

The campaign "Amigos con Derechos" (a play on words in Spanish. Literally 'friends with rights' but also equivalent to the English 'friends with benefits') aims to sensitize students to sexual and reproductive rights. 142 young people took part in the campaign at the Telesecundaria.

At Melel, we provided workshops ("Learning Circles") for teenage girls about sexual and reproductive health and loving relationships.





RIGHT TO PARTICIPATION

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

We promoted the active participation of young people in the decision making process. We made the short film "You Are What You Are" with a young people's group of San Felipe Ecatepec together with the collective "El Hormiguero". The purpose was to promote the knowledge, exercise and defense of young people rights by creating a platform for their opinions and interests.

To watch the online video:
<http://www.melexojobal.org.mx/videos/>





CHILDREN'S AND ADOLESCENTS WORLD CONGRESS

From November 12th to 14th the 6th Children's and adolescents world congress was celebrated in the state of Puebla. One boy and one girl were chosen to travel to Puebla and take part in the congress.

MEETINGS

The 6th annual meeting of Working Children and Adolescents of San Cristobal took place with 37 representatives from the different San Cristobal markets where Melel has been working for a long time. All the children who participated study at school as well as work. The themes of the meeting were the right to education and the right to work.

We held the second annual girls and adolescents meeting, with 68 participants between 6 and 17 years old. The purpose was to highlight the prevalence of gender violence and to promote and exercise their rights. The meeting was co-hosted with the organizations Sueniños and Save The Children.





RIGHT TO PROTECTION FROM ALL FORMS OF ABUSE

LITERARY CREATION: "THE CHILI'S PUNISHMENT"

This creative project was created from the stories of children about the punishment that parents use at home. One form of punishment consists of burning chilies on a firewood grill and forcing the child to inhale the fumes for several minutes. Given that the effects include extreme irritation to the eyes, nose and throat that can last hours, this could be considered a form of torture. In response to that, the working children in Santo Domingo Craft Market developed and illustrated the story "The Chili's Punishment" with the goal of denouncing physical punishment and sensitizing their families to violence against childhood.



ADVOCACY AND INTERVENTION IN CASES OF ABUSE

We intervened in four cases of domestic violence and neglect that required police action and made sure the victims were accompanied to school and at all stages of the legal process

Also, we gave advice and support to victims of sexual assault by teachers at schools in Chiapas. Due to the gravity of these cases, we held the Campaign against Violence to Women and Femicide in Chiapas press conference, where civic leaders, parents and professors participated in denouncing the wave of sexual assaults by teachers against students in the state.



EVENTS AND COMMEMORATIVE DATES

Press conference held by girls and adolescents to highlight gender violence in schools, families, the media and within relationships.

March and participation in the action of the Campaign against Violence and Femicide in Chiapas on the International Day against Violence to Women.

March on International Women's Day.

On November 20th, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of Children. We held a cultural event together with the Network for the Rights of Childhood and Adolescents in Chiapas (REDIAS)



SUMMER WORKSHOP

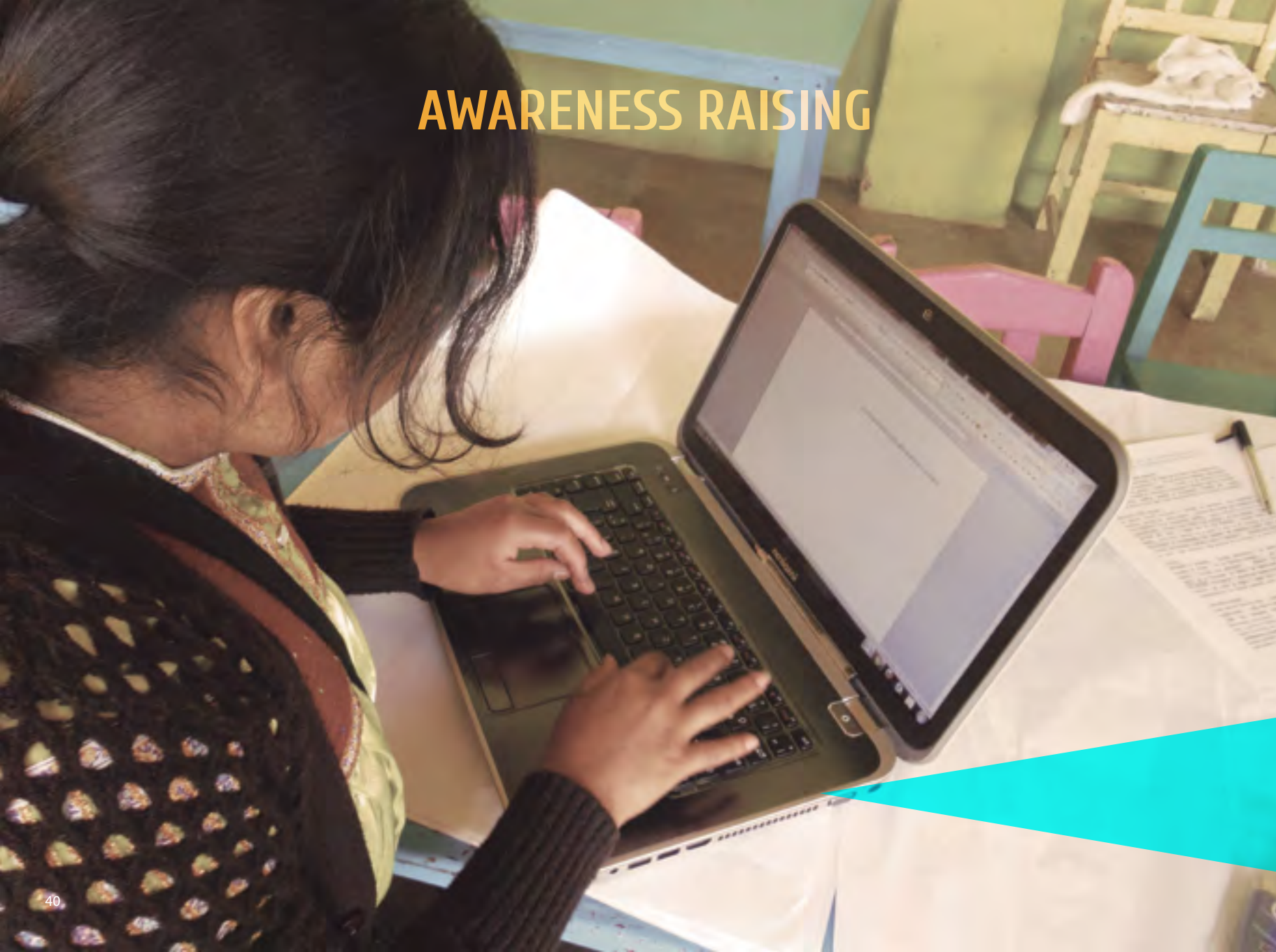
A theater workshop was held with the theme "A Life Without Violence". 56 children and adolescents participated. The purpose of the workshop was to develop the ability to identify and analyze different violent situations in a creative and expressive way, and propose appropriate ways to react in these situations

ADVOCACY



- Participation in interviews with local and national media, highlighting violations to children's rights.
- Promotion of the initiative "10xchildhood:10 strategic measures to advance the defense of children's and adolescent's rights" together with The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Network for the Rights of Children in Mexico (REDIM).
- Participation in an inter-institutional forum to create a protocol of care for victims of trafficking.
- Participation in the Municipal Surveillance and Monitoring Committee on the Rights of Children and Adolescent. This committee was able to influence the municipal authorities to establish a legal framework for the protection and promotion of children's rights, and to prevent new cases, and address existing cases, of arrest and harassment towards children and adolescents working in public spaces.
- Through participation in the various networks -REDIAS (Network for the Rights of Childhood and Adolescents in Chiapas), REDIM (Network for the Rights of Children in Mexico), Alliance of Indigent People, Campaign against Violence and Femicide in Chiapas – many actions were taken to promote, monitor and defend the rights of children and adolescents.
- Dialogues with international actors for advocacy, such as interviews with government representatives of Germany and Canada during their visits to Chiapas, where we discussed the situation of the social exclusion of indigenous children and denounced the 'social cleansing' actions of government.
- Dialogues with various actors in state government and multilateral agencies to promote compliance with the rights of children.

AWARENESS RAISING



COMMUNICATION

We disseminated information with the aim of educating Mexican society as a whole about the situation of the rights of children and adolescents nationwide.

INFORMATION OVERVIEW

We compiled a newsletter of local, state and national stories on the topics of childhood and youth which was sent to more than 980 people, three times a week.

SOCIAL NETWORKS

Through Facebook, Twitter and Blogspot, we posted information that highlights the situation of child rights in Mexico, reaching more than 10,000 followers monthly.

MEDIA

RADIO

35 interviews to discuss childhood and youth topics.

TELEVISION

Director's interview about the Law for children and youth.

PRESS

More than 20 mentions. Interviews of the Director, press conferences, data and information generated by the organization.

INTERNET

More than 108 mentions. News sites, Human Rights Centers, fellow organizations, and coverage of the award ceremony of Compartir Fundación Social I.A.P.

GENERATING KNOWLEDGE

ANALYSIS OF MIGRATION

An account that documents aspects of youth migration in Chiapas from the perspective of internal migration. It covers the challenges and cultural changes they face, and the culture shock when they return to their hometowns.

PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT OF THE CONDITIONS OF ABUSE AT SCHOOL

We conducted two surveys of incidences of abuse at schools in Chiapas; one with the participation of parents and one with the children, to analyze the conditions in schools that promote exclusion. With the data collected in the diagnosis, the press conference on the Right to Education was convened by working children, who were able to publicly denounce the bad practices and discrimination of teachers and school authorities against the indigenous population. The lack of bilingual teachers, lack of water services and infrastructure were also highlighted.

COUNTING CHILD LABORERS

Fourteen years ago, Melel Xojobal A.C began to compile a census of child workers and dependents in San Cristobal de Las Casas to generate information on the characteristics and conditions of the working children and thus contribute to improving public policies and programs for this section of the population. In 2014 2,594 child workers and dependents were counted in the offseason and 3,298 in the high season. From this information, a comparison of the 2012 and 2014 data was generated, to be published in 2015.

RESEARCH

Outlining the living conditions and the fulfillment of the rights of young children in highly marginalized indigenous municipalities in Chiapas.

A basis for analyzing the conditions of life and degree of exercise of the rights of indigenous children in highly vulnerable conditions was developed. The research was conducted in three municipalities in Chiapas: Chenalho, San Juan Cancuc and San Cristobal de Las Casas. The publication will be available in 2015.



INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2018

Earlier this year, we developed a five-year strategic plan for Melel Xojobal. The plan is focused on ensuring that children and young people of Chiapas exercise their rights through capacity building, research and influencing public policy.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In 2014, the first phase of monitoring and evaluation, that will measure the annual scope of the strategic plan and serve as input for the impact assessment, was implemented.

INSTITUTIONAL IMAGE

As part of communication activities and advocacy, we have acquired the services of asocial marketing consultancy that helps us create a strategic communications plan to generate visibility, awareness and publicize the issues that matter to the community of San Cristobal, Chiapas. As part of this process, the website of the organization was renewed and is in the process of developing a new institutional video

Visit our new website: www.melelxojobal.org.mx



TRAINING

During 2014 different team members attended various training courses and workshops to ensure the quality and efficiency of our business processes and professionalism in our work.

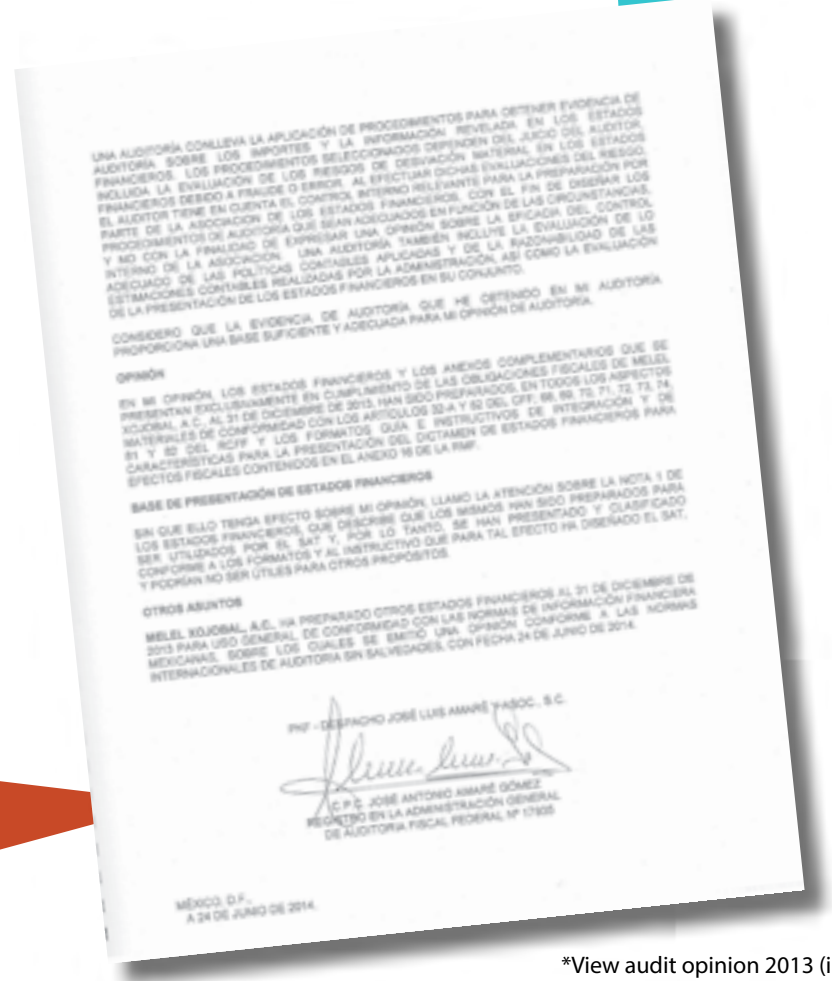
- Fundraising and Institutional Strengthening Diploma. Procura A.C.
- Fundraising and Institutional Strengthening Diploma. Procura A.C.
- Online fundraising. Global Giving
- Impact on Public Policy. Network for the Rights of Children in Mexico
- Taxation of corporations, non-profit (iii title of the Income Tax Law).L.C.F. Agustín Córdoba García
- Amendments to the Telecommunications Act. Carlos Brito, Comunicación Comunitaria A.C.
- Social Communication for Advocacy. Miguel Trancozo (change.org/idealab)
- Systematization: think our practice, transforming reality. Elisabeth Santos Baca and Antonio Zaldívar Moreno.
- Theatre, community dialogue. Exploring the group through the image. Methodological Workshop Transfer of Social Circus
- Cultural Week of Sexual Diversity. National Institute of Anthropology and History
- Workshop on Human Trafficking Migration. International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Training workshop for civil society on access to funds cooperation of the European Union. Delegation of the European Union in Mexico

AWARDS

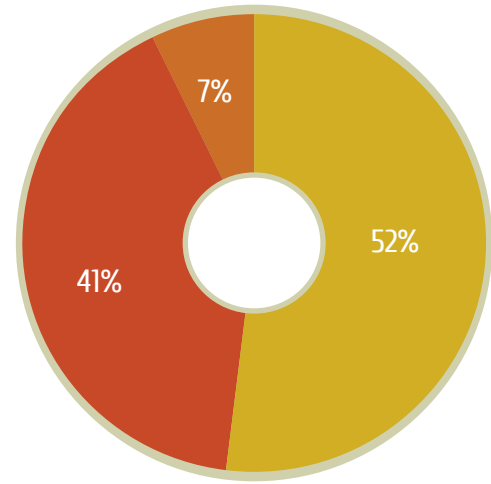


For the second year, Melel Xojobal was presented with national award. In September 2014, the organization received the Prize "Compartir a la Asistencia Social 2014" by Compartir Fundación Social I.A.P

TRANSPARENCY

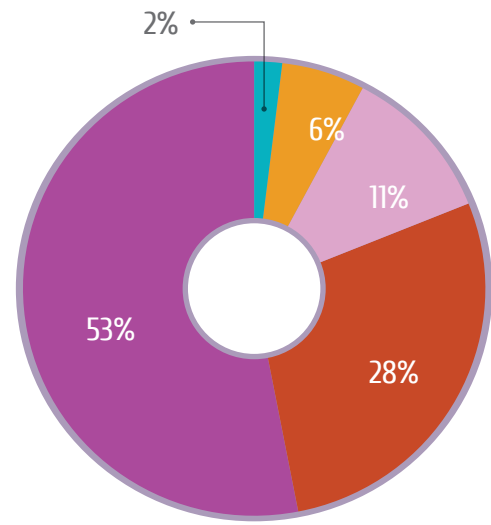


*View audit opinion 2013 (in Spanish)



Revenue 2014

- National Foundations
- International Agencies
- Individual Donors



Expenditures 2014

- Wages
- Operating expenses
- Third party services
- Administrative expenses
- Fixed Assets

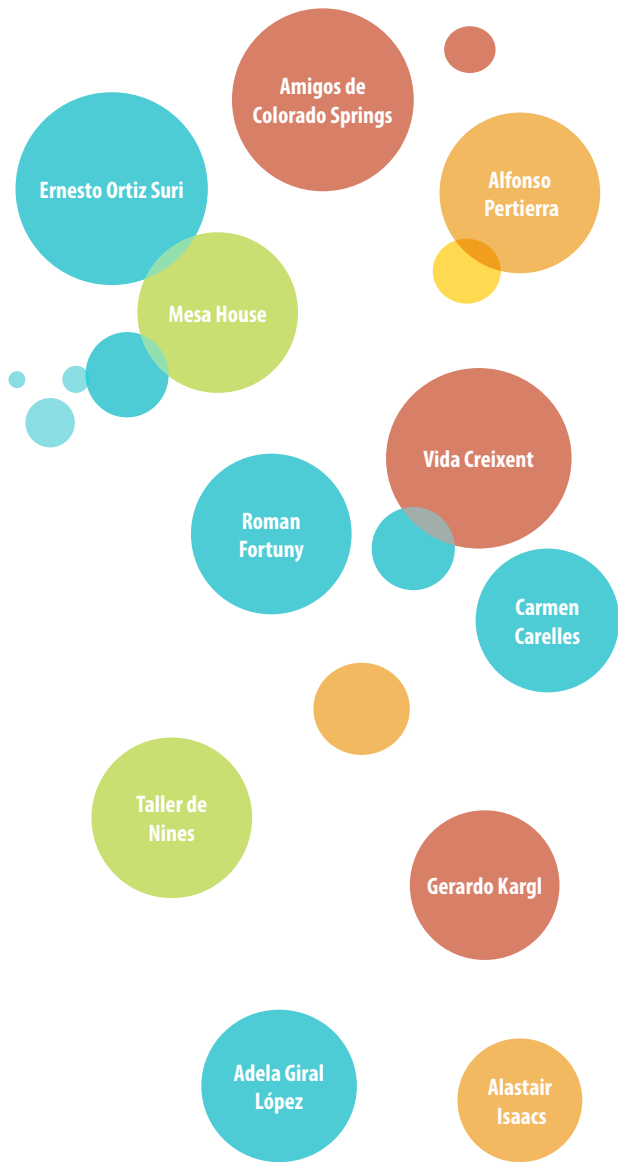
PARTNERS AND STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

We thank the institutions and individuals who share our vision and invest in the future of children and youth in Chiapas.

INSTITUTIONS



INDIVIDUAL
DONORS



ALLIANCES AND NETWORKS



- ▶ Comité Municipal de Seguimiento y Vigilancia de los Derechos de las Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes
- ▶ Registro Civil del Municipio de Chiapas
- ▶ Nuevos Códices Compatía A.C.

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