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PHOTOGRAPHS:
Mujeres Aliadas AC, Archivo Semillas

WHAT DID SEMILLAS DO IN 2013?

70 leaders and women’s organizations supported

39 groups and leaders trained in gender, human rights, gender violence, and digital security

Amount invested: USD $1,214,184

Contributed to improving the lives of 48,225 women and indirectly, those of 229,933 children, women, and men

16 institutional donors and 283 individual donors trusted in Semillas
**OUR GRANTEE PARTNERS**

WHERE ARE THEY?

- **States in the country where Semillas supported organizations and/or leaders**: 70 groups and leaders
- **States in the country**: 19

WHO ARE THEY?

- **Labor Rights**: Centro de Apoyo a Trabajadoras de la Maquila de La Laguna, AC * Centro de Apoyo al Trabajador, AC * Centro de Apoyo y Capacitación para Empleadas del Hogar, AC * Centro de Estudios y Taller Laboral, AC * Colectivo de Empleadas Domésticas de Los Altos de Chiapas, AC * Colectivo de Obreras Insueltas, AC * Colectivo Ollín Calli * Colectivo Raíz de Aguascalientes, AC * Red de Mujeres Empleadas del Hogar, AC * Red de Mujeres Sindicalistas * Rosas y Espinas Derechos de las Mujeres, AC * Servicio, Desarrollo y Bic, AC * Tzome Ixuk, Mujeres Organizadas, AC

- **Cooperatives of women artisans in Chiapas**
- **Groups that work for the rights of lesbian women**
- **Organizations providing sexuality education to indigenous women and young women**
- **Indigenous and rural women working for the right to access land**
- **Indigenous leaders and organizations that promote women’s political participation, access to natural resources, and girl’s rights, among others**
2013 marked the year when Semillas consolidated its position as the only women’s fund in Mexico. We dream of a better country; we invest in women; and with them, we change the conditions of inequality in which they live. How did we achieve this? By implementing four social investment strategies.

1. We award grants to organizations of women and leaders working for women’s rights in their communities.
2. We offer training in gender, leadership, human rights, communications, and resource development, among others, to build their capacities.
3. We provide women with strategic opportunities to leverage their work.
4. We help them to partner with one another so that they could meet, share their experiences, and forge alliances.

Aware of the various problems and challenges facing Mexican women from diverse backgrounds—urban or rural, indigenous or mixed-race, engaged in different trades or activities—, Semillas uses an intercultural approach and capitalizes on the lessons it provides. We are proud to report that thanks to this comprehensive approach, more than 60% of our grantee partners—organizations and leaders—are indigenous.

It is with great joy that we share our main achievements in 2013. In doing so, we would like to recognize our donors, allies, and the organizations and leaders with whom we collaborate for dreaming, investing, and changing the lives of Mexican women alongside Semillas. We know that a country that is better for women and girls is a better country for everyone.

EDITH CALDERÓN AYALA
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LAURA GARCÍA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Under its Safe Motherhood program and with the support of its individual donors, Semillas collaborated with Mujeres Aliadas, an organization that provides sexual and reproductive health care to women in more than 40 communities near the Pátzcuaro Lake watershed. This organization promotes the humanization of childbirth—to enable women to become the protagonists of their own story—and incorporation of professional midwifery into the public health system.

Currently, Mujeres Aliadas has two maternity centers. With professional midwives and experts in sexual and reproductive health, these centers have attended to more than

In Mexico, indigenous regulatory systems—manners and customs—deny women the possibility of owning land and voting at communal landowners’ assemblies. Nonetheless, due to migration, women are now the main participants in agricultural work.

In this context, we support the Network of Indigenous Women Weaving Rights for Mother Earth and Land (in Spanish, RENAMITT), which consists of nine indigenous leaders from Oaxaca, Jalisco, Guerrero, Chiapas, Morelos, Chihuahua, and Veracruz, all of them former Semillas individual grantees. This network represents an unparalleled, concerted effort to advance women’s rights to land in Mexico. During 2013, RENAMITT was able to put such rights on the public agenda through a press conference covered by more than 20 media outlets.

Nobody had dared to address this topic before. I was able to do so as a Semillas individual grantee. I had the opportunity to give my other indigenous sisters tools to claim a right we’re entitled to—the right of indigenous women to access land—and demand inclusion in the list of communal landowners as land right holders.”

SILVIA PÉREZ YESCAS
A MEMBER OF RENAMITT
Guadalupe García, a young enthusiastic Mazahua woman, seeks to change the conditions that lead to discrimination against women and violations of their rights in San Felipe del Progreso, Jocotitlán, Atacomulco, and Temascalcingo, in the State of Mexico. After being an individual grantee of the Semillas Sexuality Education program for three years, she decided to continue and strengthen her work by founding the organization Mujeres, Lucha y Derechos para Todas (in Spanish, MULYD).

MULYD is the only organization working for gender equality and women’s human rights in the Mazahua region, in the State of Mexico. This organization, whose interdisciplinary team was made up of six people in 2013, trains community leaders to disseminate information effectively and on a timely manner—mainly regarding sexual and reproductive rights—to other women through such innovative empowering strategies as learning to play soccer.

It’s essential to work with women to enable them to assert their cultural identity, make their contributions visible, improve their self-esteem, and promote constructive self-criticism to position themselves as protagonists of their own struggle against inequity, inequality, and discrimination, all of them practices that have historically limited their capacities.”

Cultural change is slow and political opportunities are unpredictable. Nonetheless, the six organizations that we support in Guerrero, Nayarit, Morelos, Campeche, Puebla, and Durango have achieved significant results toward advancing women’s right to decide, at the local level.

Specifically, the achievements of our six grantees—Comunidad Raíz Zubía, Equidad y Fuerza Social, Mariposas Tlahuicas, Red de Mujeres y Hombres por una Opinión Pública con Perspectiva de Género en Campeche, Observatorio Ciudadano de Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos, and Sí Hay Mujeres en Durango—included the following:

- They became the benchmark in women’s right to choose for health authorities, legislators, media outlets, and attorney offices specialized in sex crimes.
- They disseminated messages about the emergency contraceptive pill (ECP) thanks to their presence in local and social media.
- They helped the general population to have more information and knowledge about what agencies to contact for matters related to Official Mexican Norm No. 046, which states the obligation of health personnel to provide ECP or legal termination of pregnancy services to women victims of rape.
- They gained access to middle schools and high schools to give talks about teen pregnancy and LTP.
- They helped the general population become more aware of women’s right to choose, whether or not the political scenery favors legislative reform.

A FREELY CHOSEN MOTHERHOOD BENEFITS WOMEN, PEOPLE, AND COUNTRIES.
Few women’s funds have launched a program as broad and flexible as the Semillas program known as Other Human Rights. This initiative is very useful for organizations and leaders because it allows them to submit projects on a wide variety of topics related to women’s rights, including the environment and access to natural resources, education, political participation, and food sovereignty.

82 PROPOSALS RECEIVED
NINE PROJECTS SUPPORTED

The program is financed with institutional funds as well as individual donations to the Semillas Network of Women and Men Investing in Women (in Spanish, Red MIM).

With your donation we can support more projects!

Lesbians face discrimination every day and live in fear of social violence because of their identity and sexual orientation. Four out of ten individuals in Mexico would not be willing to allow lesbians to live in their households. Further, 60% of lesbian women have pretended to be heterosexual to be accepted by society.*

To address this problem, Semillas created a fund to support 14 organizations working to achieve recognition and visibility for the rights of lesbian women in nine states of the country.

Learn about the work that one of these organizations, La Cabaretiza, has undertaken to create awareness of the contributions made by lesbian women to society. An example of such work is the campaign #CámbiateElChip, vuelo.

Video: CÁMBIATE EL CHIP, VUELA

* Data from: ENADIS 2010; Health Department, UAM-Xochimilco.
In late 2012, a group of women workers—counseled by Colectivo Obreras Insumisas, an organization Semillas has worked with for several years—won a labor lawsuit that it had filed against Exportadora de Pantalones for unjustified dismissal. The verdict ordered that the owner of the maquiladora reinstate the 64 women workers and pay unpaid wages.

At the time of the court’s decision the factory had closed and the owner had disappeared without having fulfilled his legal obligations. Hence, Colectivo Obreras Insumisas made it possible for the women workers to be legally awarded the factory’s machinery, which had been under their care for months.

With this machinery and after having received training in labor rights, gender equity, and empowerment, 10 of these women founded Las Hormigas Trabajadoras in 2013. This cooperative manufactures and commercializes its own fair trade textile products. This same year, Semillas supported a proposal submitted by the cooperative to speed up its consolidation.

Seeds that are sown and bear fruit!

Ana Gómez, a young Tzeltal woman, promotes indigenous women’s rights to a life free of violence and to sexuality education, among the youth of Chilón, Chiapas. Semillas has supported several of her projects and just as with all our grantees, we have provided her with assistance and training to strengthen and leverage her work.

With strong community roots and a consolidated leadership, Ana founded Sociedad Cooperativa Sbejel Antsetik, a cooperative that seeks to develop a social and solidaire economy strategy to generate employment for its members and offer their families basic food items with a higher quality, as well as organic and local products. In addition, she will carry out workshops on self-esteem, gender equity, and women’s right to economic freedom for the 52 women partners.

In 2013, the Giving Circle of 11 Empowered decided to support Sbejel Antsetik. Thus, it gave Semillas more than $15,000 dollars to specifically back the cooperative’s work.

It is a privilege to be part of Semillas; the privilege of giving and receiving, of weaving together anxieties, abilities, energies and resources with audacious, productive, and creative women who are committed to building a better country and a better world. Semillas provides a fertile ground and the required transparency for efforts and contributions to add up, multiply, become more powerful and bear fruit.”
52 Women, Four Days, Building Together

All the organizations and indigenous leaders we work with came together for four days to receive training, share experiences, and work together at our 2013 Grantee Meeting. Click here to learn more about the event.

Video: Reunión de vinculación 2013

Thanks to the support we have received from Semillas, we’ve been able to continue training the domestic workers we work with and make their work more visible. We have been able to continue mentoring the promoters, who have been trained through a certification program. Nobody offers the accompaniment that Semillas offers.

Marcelina Bautista
Centro de Apoyo y Capacitación para Empleadas del Hogar, AC

Secure with Semillas

2013 marked the consolidation of the Semillas Security program. This includes, firstly, security accompaniment for all the human rights defenders with whom we collaborate because all of them are at risk to some extent due to their activism. Secondly, the program comprises security protocols for our grantee partners and the Semillas team that visits them in their communities.

Also in 2013, Semillas started operating an Emergency Fund to provide a prompt response for defenders at imminent risk. This includes flexible support for relocation, psychological care, legal services, and support for their families.

Blanca Velázquez
Centro de Apoyo al Trabajador, AC

“Semillas has been a solid basis for the continuity of our work because when you go through these situations, the donors often withdraw rather than support you. [...] I’ve found support in this situation of crisis, threats, and harassment.”

“Thanks to the support we have received from Semillas, we’ve been able to continue training the domestic workers we work with and make their work more visible. We have been able to continue mentoring the promoters, who have been trained through a certification program. Nobody offers the accompaniment that Semillas offers.”
THANK YOU!

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

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Fundación Tichi Muñoz
General Service Foundation
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Mama Cash
Oak Foundation
Women’s Earth Alliance

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Expoknews
Proyecto 50/50
Groupon México

INDIVIDUAL DONORS’ NETWORK (RED MIM)

MÉXICO


**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

### Income 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Institutional Donors</td>
<td>$1,795,832</td>
<td>85.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment Fund Interest</td>
<td>$130,240</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>National and International Individual Donors</td>
<td>$94,550</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Institutional Donors</td>
<td>$79,611</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td>$2,100,233</td>
<td>100%</td>
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### Expenditure 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subgrants</td>
<td>$986,390</td>
<td>58%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grantee Partner Strengthening</td>
<td>$209,714</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
<td>$18,080</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>$1,214,184</td>
<td>71%</td>
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<td>Semillas Sustainability Projects</td>
<td>$226,449</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>$185,276</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Costs</td>
<td>$67,778</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>$506,129</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAN TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$1,720,313</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE A:** The difference between income and expenditure corresponds to projects being carried out in 2014.

**NOTE B:** Mexican peso to US dollar exchange rate: 12.7703.

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**PRO BONO DONORS**

Gerardo de la Vega, Susan Crowley

**IN-KIND DONORS**

Alfonso Peñaloza - Betty Van Cauwelaert - Hilda Tejeda - Idalicia Silva - José Aguilar - Laura Coudurier - Lorena Figueroa - Paulina Morel - Raúl Mercado

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**MARÍA PAZ RAMIS**

VOLUNTEER

“I’m returning to Argentina with a new commitment, which is to continue to support them wherever I am, since the fight for women’s rights exceeds office work and includes a personal commitment. This was demonstrated by all of the participants in Semillas I was lucky enough to work with.”

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**UNIVERSAL STATES, UNITED KINGDOM, NEW ZEALAND, CANADA AND SWEDISH**
