



Global Partnership Solidarity Partners



| KAIROS | 2024 Global Partners Report

Global Partners



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HOPE

Hope isn't guesswork or speculation; hope is an active, nonviolent struggle for justice and peace. Hope is shared among friends and allies. [...] what we in the Holy Land need most is hope—real, actionable hope, made visible, even tangible in partnership and solidarity. This is no time, then, for mere speculation. It's a crisis of conscience, a moment of decision, a time to be counted. Hope insists, then, on discipline and action, even costly discipleship. And this kind of hope does not, will not disappoint us.

**By Zoughbi Zoughbi, Director and Founder of Wi'am:
Palestinian Centre for Conflict Transformation**

Building and sustaining hope amidst adversity

It is a great privilege to share this **KAIROS 2024 Global Partners Report**.

Global partners have always been a part of who we are as **KAIROS**. They are human rights and environmental organizations and networks, women's groups, grassroots Indigenous women's organizations, ecumenical networks and peace movements in Africa, Latin America, Israel Palestine and the Philippines.

Our partnerships are rooted in mutual solidarity - a solidarity committed to feminism, human rights, ecological justice, decolonization and transformation. They ground and inform **KAIROS'** advocacy work on human rights, ecological and climate justice, corporate accountability, international Indigenous rights, gender justice and peace. They inspire and sustain hope.

2024 was a year of unimaginable human suffering, and destruction of Mother Earth. We watched as humanity and human dignity were ravaged. We witnessed impunity flourish in the face of escalating human rights violations, wars and environmental devastation. When we looked for guidance on ways to respond, how to sustain hope and words to describe it, we often turned to global partners and their work to shelter, build and defend hope, despite extreme adversity.

In 2023-2024, **KAIROS** worked with 14 partners in Guatemala, Mexico, Colombia, Kenya, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Philippines, Israel and Palestine as well as regional networks in Africa and Latin America.



Although these partnerships are about much more than funding, funding was a tangible expression of our solidarity and allowed partners to do vital work. partners' priority projects and advocacy work, including transitional funding. In 2024 we supported partners with a solidarity grant budget of \$140,000, which included transitional funding for Women, Peace and Security partners.

We provided small, flexible grants ranging between \$5,000 and \$10,000 to support partners' priority projects and advocacy work, including transitional funding.

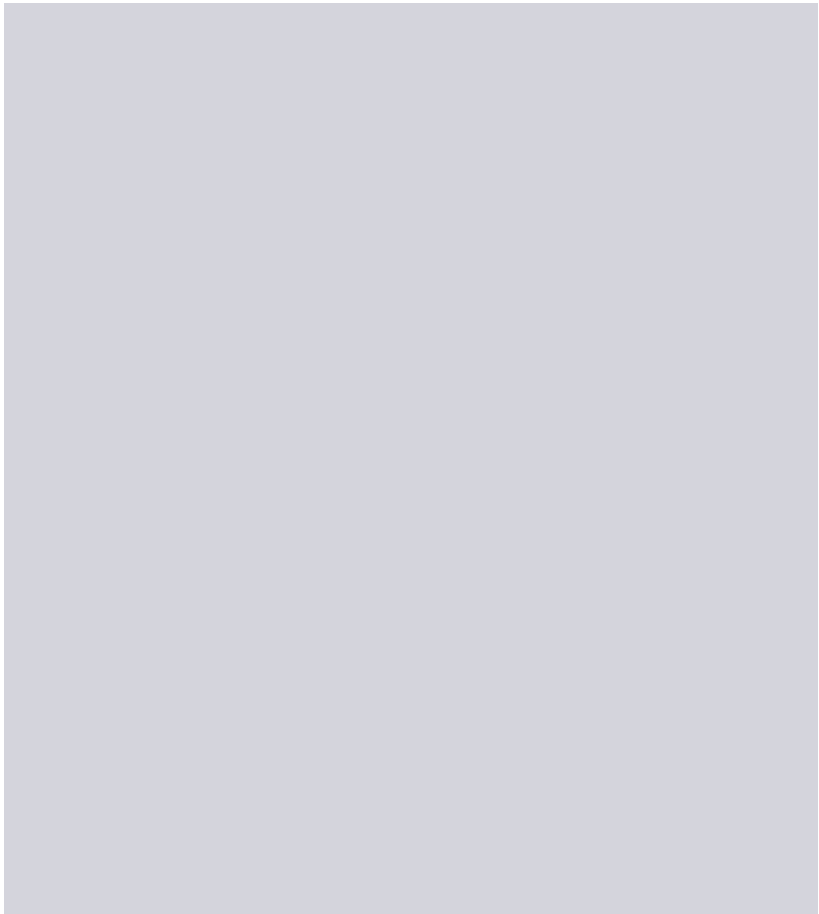
This report provides a summary of these partners and projects, activities, achievements, learnings and next steps. It offers a glimpse of our partners' work and context. These are concrete examples of how partners build, inspire and sustain conditions for justice and human rights in tremendous adversity, with very few resources.

We are deeply grateful for the courage, resilience and creativity of partners and we are privileged to be able to work with them to advocate for a world with human rights, ecological justice and right relations with all peoples and the planet. Investing in their work is investing in sustainable and deep hope.

**Rachel Warden, Partnerships Manager,
KAIROS Canada**



2024 Global Partners Report





National Council of Churches in the Philippines

National Council of Churches in the Philippines, NCCP.

Project: Comprehensive Human Rights Program

Founded in 1963, the **National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP)** is an ecumenical fellowship of Protestant denominations in the Philippines working for unity in faith and order and providing churches with opportunities for common prophetic witness and service in responding to justice and peace, human dignity and rights, and the integrity of creation. It also compels the church to bring about Christian hope into the realm of the possible in a society weighed down by systemic violence and degradation.

The ministry of the **NCCP** is organized into three distinct programs—Ecumenical Education and Nurture, Christian Unity and Ecumenical Relations, and Faith, Witness and Service—which seek to express the NCCP’s mission of promoting fellowship, being a channel of united witness, and being a vibrant and credible institution for Christian solidarity towards the genuine transformation of church and society.

Quote

Despite the unique challenges of this year, the NCCP through the Program Unit on Faith Witness and Service (PUFWS) was able to add its voice to the growing resistance to forces that threaten democracy and human rights in the country. The PUFWS continues to be faithful in the service of God and the people. **Excerpt from 2024 report.**

Project supported by Kairos in 2024

In 2023 KAIROS began supporting the Comprehensive Human Rights Program under the Program Unit on Faith, Witness and Service (FWS) of the NCCP. This is a collaborative effort among churches and marginalized communities to protect and promote human rights and confront the pervasive climate of impunity.

Overall objectives include:

- Enhancing the skills and capacities of NCCP staff, member churches, and ecumenical partners to effectively engage in rights-based initiatives for peace and human rights.
- Amplifying the NCCP's prophetic ministry and elevating the voices of marginalized communities.
- Providing direct support and implementing sustainable initiatives for marginalized and vulnerable individuals, families, and communities, ensuring their needs are addressed and long-term well-being is promoted.



Church and community leaders welcome the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, January 2024

National Council of Churches in the Philippines, NCCP

Project: Comprehensive Human Rights Program

NEXT STEPS



More human rights seminars and capacity-building training for church members and partners with a focus on women and youth.



Advocacy related to resuming peace negotiations between the government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.



National and international lobbying through networks such as (EcuVoice), Philippine UPR Watch, and Churches Witnessing with Migrants (CWWM).



Continue providing emergency assistance through small community-based projects, material, financial, and technical support and solidarity.

Achievements

Six young people from **NCCP** participated in a two-day workshop (Development Education) focused on updating the NCCP Peace Module, which was used for a Youth Training Programme on Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation at the Council for World Mission (CWM) in September 2023. The NCCP collaborated with the Council for Health and Development (CHD) for the orientation and consultation on Mental Health in September 2023.

Under **Development Advocacy**, a Human Rights Mission was conducted to visit political prisoners in the Province of Camarines Sur (March 2024). Amidst growing concern for the safety of human rights defenders and environmental activists, a Quick Reaction Team (QRT) swiftly mobilized to search for two human rights and environment defenders, who were eventually located. Two NCCP staff attended the 9th Congress of Migrant International from November 30 to December 2, 2024. Within **Ecumenical Direct Services**, NCCP continued to provide legal, medical, and family assistance to disaster-stricken families communities and families of human rights victims

Lessons learned

The **Comprehensive Human Rights Program** builds on the outcomes of the previous Human Rights and Gender Program and integrates these outcomes into the comprehensive human rights program to allow for greater sustainability.

A comprehensive human rights program addresses violations of social, economic, and cultural rights, which exacerbate people's vulnerability to climate change, forced migration and conflict.

The approach requires a collaborative effort among churches and marginalized communities to protect and promote human rights and confront the pervasive climate of impunity.



EcuVoice- Ecumenical Voice for Human Rights and Peace in the Philippines.

Project: Advocacy at UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) - Philippines UPR Watch

The Ecumenical Voice for Peace and Human Rights in the Philippines (Ecumenical Voice) is a network of faith-based and human rights organizations that are working together to promote peace and people's rights for the defense of life, land and God's creation. EcuVoice has been a partner of KAIROS since the early 2000s.

KAIROS has supported EcuVoice to bring the true picture of the human rights situation in the Philippines – including the situation of women, Indigenous people and other victims of rights violations – to various government bodies, including the Canadian Parliament, the US Congress and inter-governmental bodies like the UN Human Rights Council since 2007.

Quote

By coordinating the efforts of its member organizations to engage in the UNHRC, EcuVoice and the Philippines UPR Watch were able to counter the government's narrative by bringing the voices of victims and their families, health and human rights defenders and faith-based groups to the attention of the international community. **Excerpt from 2024 report.**

Project supported by Kairos in 2024

In 2007, **EcuVoice** started to lobby the then newly established UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

In 2008, the NCCP and **EcuVoice** engaged in the first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process by forming the much larger network called **Philippine UPR Watch (PH UPR Watch or PUPRW for brevity).**

Since then, NCCP and its **EcuVoice** co-conveners, Karapatan and the National Union of People's Lawyers, along with other organizations under the PUPRW have engaged in subsequent UPR cycles. In 2023 KAIROS supported the Philippine UPR Watch in submitting a total of 19 alternative reports to the UPR process, highlighting ongoing human rights issues, as well as sending delegations to sessions in 2023 and 2024.



EcuVoice and Philippine UPR Watch delegation of Human Rights Defenders to the UNHRC 54th session, Sept 2023

EcuVoice- Ecumenical Voice for Human Rights and Peace in the Philippines

Project: Advocacy at UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) - Philippines UPR Watch.

NEXT STEPS



Maintain international attention through strategic media engagement and public outreach on the Philippines' human rights situation.



Advocate and lobby at the UN to bring the voices and stories of victims and their families. Actively participate in the UNHRC sessions.



End extrajudicial killings and other human rights violations, while advocating for the resumption of peace negotiations.



Advocate for a resolution to establish an International Commission of Inquiry on the human rights situation in the Philippines.



Enhance **networking and collaboration** with various international partners to bolster support for human rights initiatives on the ground.

Achievements

EcuVoice and Philippines UPR Watch advocated at the UN Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) on the 4th Universal Periodic Review report on the Philippines' Human Rights record. While there were opportunities for monitoring and advocacy on the government's acceptance of many of the recommendations, there was a more pressing need for advocacy in relation to critical recommendations - aimed at improving the human rights situation and civic space in the Philippines - that were not accepted.

In 2024, the Philippine UPR Watch sent two sets of delegations to the UN Human Rights Council in March (56th UNHRC) and June (57th UNHRC), respectively. These delegations were crucial in advancing the calls from the ground to the United Nations and updating the Council on the critical human rights situation in the Philippines. During the 57th UNHRC Regular Session, the Philippine UPR Watch representatives lauded the report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Climate Change on the mandate's country visit to the Philippines.

Lessons learned

Given the lack of significant policy changes to prevent human rights abuses, and the ongoing inadequacy of domestic mechanisms to provide effective redress, the **PUPRW** will persist in its advocacy at the UNHRC and with UN Member States.

Civil society needs to be vigilant and actively push the Philippine Government to not only implement its accepted UPR recommendations but to fully adhere to its international commitment to human rights.



Africa Centre for Sustainable and Inclusive Development (ACSID), Kenya.

Project: Support for participation in COP29 and Dialogue on Just Transition Program

The **Africa Centre for Sustainable and Inclusive Development (Africa CSID)** is an African NGO, registered in Kenya, working with marginalized communities in African countries. Marginalization is defined by two interrelated parameters, namely geographical and population.

The organization works on three areas: Peace and Conflict Transformation, Economic Empowerment, and Climate Change. In addressing these areas, it focuses on governance and gender-responsive solutions. ACSID's work is underpinned by three interlinked approaches, namely voice, capacity and influence with all interventions focusing on amplifying the voices of the marginalized communities, strengthening local capacities and affecting change through policy influence at local, national and continental levels.

KAIROS has collaborated with ACSID on workshops and panels on women, peace and security and climate and has supported ACSID participation during the UN climate change week in Africa (September 2023) and COP29 (Nov 2024). KAIROS is exploring a formal partnership with ACSID.

Quote

“None of this would have been possible without the generous support from KAIROS Canada. On behalf of myself and the Africa CSID team, I extend our heartfelt thanks. We are now focused on translating these discussions into meaningful action.” **Salome Owuonda, Director.**

Project supported by Kairos in 2024

Support for participation in COP29 and Dialogue on Just Transition Program

In 2024, KAIROS supported the participation of ACSID in the two key meeting, **COP29** and **Dialogue on Just Transition Program**, providing a valuable opportunity to amplify the voices of marginalized communities they accompany.

Executive Director, Salome Owuonda, represented ACSID at both events. She is part of the Kenya climate negotiators team, the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN), and the G77 + China.



Salome Owuonda, Executive Director of ACSID speaking at the climate mobility pavilion on just transition during COP 29, Baku, Azerbaijan, Nov. 2024.

Africa Centre for Sustainable and Inclusive Development (ACSID), Kenya.

Project: Support for participation in COP29 and Dialogue on Just Transition Program.

NEXT STEPS



Emphasize on the need to consider Human Rights (including the right to health, rights of Indigenous Peoples, migrants, children, and persons with disabilities), gender equality, women’s empowerment, and intergenerational equity



A call to enhance gender equality and ensure a just transition for the workforce, with an emphasis on creating decent work and quality jobs



We are now focused on translating these discussions into meaningful action.

Achievements

In relation to the **Just Transition program**, ACSID’s focus is on people-centred and equitable transition pathways that ensure a whole-of-society approach to climate action.

At COP29, ACSID advocated for climate justice and effective climate action through sustainable food systems, conflict-sensitive climate strategies, climate mobility and displacement considerations, gender-responsive initiatives, and equitable access to climate finance.

They engaged through various channels, such as negotiations, and worked with partners, including KAIROS, to secure speaking engagements at events. Salome participated as a speaker in five side events, including a youth and children’s side event organized by YOUNGO, the World Food Forum, and various youth-led climate initiatives, focusing on transforming food systems in the face of climate change.

Lessons learned

The discussions on a just transition were a mix of progress and unresolved challenges. While there was broad agreement on integrating just transition priorities into climate policies, such as Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans, key disagreements hindered finalizing a comprehensive Just Transition Work Programme.

Formal adoption of the Loss and Damage Fund's structure was a major achievement at COP28, but limited substantive progress on implementation and the pledges (USD \$730 million) fell far short of the USD \$400 billion of loss and damages that low-income countries are experiencing as a result of climate change.

Gender and climate negotiations at COP29 focused on advancing gender-responsive climate action and ensuring the integration of gender considerations across all aspects of the global climate agenda.



South Sudan Council of Churches

Project: Empowering Women and Youth in Climate Smart Agriculture to Enhance Climate Justice

Founded in 2013, the **South Sudan Council of Churches** is an ecumenical body comprised of seven member churches and associate churches in South Sudan with a strong legacy of peacebuilding, reconciliation, and advocacy. SSCC provides a platform to enhance the spirit of ecumenical cooperation toward collective action for peace; by its very nature, the church is a peacemaker. For SSCC, "Peace is more than just the absence of war and silence of guns; neither is peace attained overnight and as the Church, we commit ourselves to this long-term process."

KAIROS supports SSCC's **National Women's Program (SSCC-NWP)**, which is deeply respected across the country and well-positioned to build bridges between the warring sides as it works to diffuse violence and lay the groundwork for lasting peace and, at the same time, empower women and girls and address gender injustice. SSCC-NWP works with men and boys to help them understand the importance of gender justice and equity and the need to help make it a reality. SSCC-NWP has been called to work on and speak out on the nexus of climate, conflict and gender. The security, rights and well-being of the communities and program participants they serve are increasingly affected by the impacts of climate, including flooding and droughts.

Quote

SSCC and its partner, KAIROS Canada, in the quest for sustainable social inclusion of women in decision making in the country, believe that promoting economic empowerment of vulnerable women and youth, to bring down the barriers to gender equality, and promote social inclusion of women and youth, is key to enhancing climate justice. **Excerpt from 2024 report.**

Project supported by Kairos in 2024

Empowering Women and Youth in Climate Smart Agriculture to Enhance Climate Justice

The project focused on increasing women's participation in peace-building processes, decision-making related to human rights defense, post-conflict development processes, and building capacity of women victims and GBV survivors. The project aims to promote the economic empowerment of vulnerable women and youth, intending to remove gender equality barriers and promote economic and social inclusion of these demographics.

A total of 20 participants (women and youth returnees) were targeted in this project, with family members who will indirectly benefit from it, by having access to nutrition, food security, medical care, and good shelter.



Women and girls holding packs of mushrooms, ready to market them in supermarkets in Juba, South Sudan, 2024.

South Sudan Council of Churches

Project: Empowering Women and Youth in Climate Smart Agriculture to Enhance Climate Justice.

NEXT STEPS



Project beneficiaries are expected to soon start their family businesses and manage a mushroom farm.



Strengthen the capacity of project beneficiaries to resolve conflicts within their groups without any third-party involvement.



The financial capacity of participants will be boosted during the next steps of the project.

Achievements

The project activities helped establish an enabling environment at the community level and identify potential business needs to effectively engage and support women and youth.

This entailed providing a comprehensive package of social and livelihood support services, including skills training in climate-smart urban farming of oyster mushrooms, farm management, packaging, and sales.

Participants walked through the process of farm management and by the end of the training, they were able to harvest, supplying two supermarkets in Juba as well as the open local market.

Lessons learned

As well as economic empowerment, women and youth who participated in this program have had their capacity enhanced in various areas such as leadership, trauma healing and group counselling, conflict resolution, group dynamics, life skills training, general entrepreneurial development, business, and market assessment amongst others.

The project strengthened economic empowerment of vulnerable women and youth, dismantling gender-equality barriers and promoting economic and social inclusion of women and youth



OilWatch Africa (OWA), Ghana.

Project: Energy Transition in Africa and Emerging Challenges

A KAIROS partner since 2020, Oilwatch Africa (OWA) is a network that coordinates work across 15 countries to resist the negative impacts of the oil and gas industry on people and their environments. It has built a strong, active network to monitor and respond to the impacts of fossil fuel activities on peoples in African countries and their environments. OWA is located in Nairobi, Kenya.

OWA is the African unit of Oilwatch International, a network dedicated to developing global strategies for communities affected by oil operations and to supporting their efforts to ensure ecological sustainability. Oilwatch's creation in 1994 was inspired by the need to create global strategies for the communities affected by oil activities, support their resistance processes, and work for sustainability and collective rights. They facilitate the exchange of information on oil activities in each country, the different resistance movements, and the international campaigns against specific companies.

Quote

“Certainly, the cost of oil-inspired conflict makes it untenable to remain in the hydrocarbon world. Oil extraction must give way to renewables; however, investments in renewables must be citizen and environmentally friendly.” **Noble Wadzah, OWA**

Project supported by Kairos in 2024

Energy Transition in Africa and Emerging Challenges

The Energy Transition in Africa and Emerging Challenges project aligns with OWA's energy transition activities, which finds expression in the decades-old "Leave the Oil in the Ground" campaign. The campaign has gained increased local and international traction, particularly after COP28. The global trend toward renewables creates conditions for a demand for critical minerals, required to power the transition, resulting in an investment rush in resource-rich centers and African regions.

The negative history of natural resource extraction in the African continent is well-known in the global socio-political arena. The continent's resource extraction and export history and poverty remain unimaginable and a painful reality, characterized by grievous environmental and social costs and externalities, borne by "resource-rich" communities and peoples.



Noble Wadzah, coordinator of OWA in Ghana giving remarks for civil society groups at annual Sector Review Forum on Natural Resources, during 16 days of activism against GBV, Accra, Ghana, Nov 2024.

OilWatch Africa (OWA), Ghana

Project: Energy Transition in Africa and Emerging Challenges.

Achievements

To publish the Policy Briefing on the profile of the challenges Information Education, Oilwatch participating members were tasked to compile information on their respective country’s Energy Transition policy legislations for subsequent review. A review was done providing a clue to some similarities and gaps. Information from this activity is being used in Energy Transition discussion spaces.

OWA AGM benefited from the information provided in the review and report. These subsequently fed into the communique issued by the AGM and circulated along with media interviews of OWA members. Oilwatch Ghana provided leadership for the project, playing a leading role in the drafting of the OWA 2024 communique. A further activity under this objective was to identify and isolate the historical factors that propelled the Energy Transition Debate. The activity called “**From Anguish to Voices and Proposals,**” was focused on providing a context to guide OWA’s campaign approach to Energy Transition works. This report serves as a tool for mobilizing network support.

NEXT STEPS



Energy Transition Policy Legislation requires African Union (AU) more uniform approach for continuing with OWA research



Guarantee fieldwork safety conditions and security to protect the participants who provide vital information



Continue working towards a less restrictive and bureaucratic AU.

Lessons learned

The project implementation revealed a weak understanding of the key driving factor behind the energy transition.

Countries in Africa are largely locked up in business-as-usual in relation to the energy transition. This requires enhanced action to forestall any potential negative outcomes for Africa going into the transition.

There is a need to sharpen the understanding of state ownership and the transition agenda among states



Quote

Héritiers de la Justice welcomes the ever-increasing level of resilience demonstrated by most Congolese women and girls who have been experiencing multiple situations of gender-based violence for the past decades, exacerbated by repeated and devastating armed violence, forcing them to live in constant fear of displacement and destitution.

Excerpt from 2024 report.

Heritiers de la Justice - HJ, DRC

Project: Livelihood support for women and girls affected by gender-based violence in South Kivu province, DRC.

Héritiers de la Justice (HJ) is an ecumenical human rights organization that works to diffuse violence and lay the groundwork for lasting peace in the Sud-Kivu province in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Through legal clinics, it provides legal training, information, and mediation to promote peace and justice.

HJ's team of women's rights advocates, lawyers, and paralegals endeavours to bring justice for women survivors of war. They document cases of sexual violence, accompany women through the judicial process, and provide education on Congolese and international laws that protect their rights.

More recently, HJ has provided collective economic empowerment opportunities to women victims and survivors of gender-based violence. HJ works with a grassroots network with local hubs (SALVIS-PDFs). HJ has been a funded KAIROS partner since 2005.

Project supported by Kairos in 2024

Livelihood support for women and girls affected by gender-based violence in South Kivu province, DRC.

Since 2020, KAIROS has funded **HJ's women's economic empowerment program** through agricultural income-generating activities that support local collectives or survivors of gender-based violence through collective income empowerment projects. This income-generating project has assisted women, many estranged from their communities, to re-establish themselves with livelihoods to support themselves and their children economically in a collective with the solidarity of other women. The project is carried out through a grassroots network with local hubs (SALVIS-PDFs).



Knowledge sharing session between local networks (Salvis-PDF, SARCAF), and HJ team at Bushumba, eastern DRC, 2024.

Heritiers de la Justice, DRC

Project: Livelihood support for women and girls affected by gender-based violence in South Kivu province, DRC.

Achievements

This year, nine SALVIS-PDFs have been successfully integrated into the programme. This is a huge step forward; indeed, members are pleased that HJ answered their requests, despite challenges and numerous constraints, including the impacts of escalating climate change and growing need for technical assistance.

In this project's 5th consecutive year, there has been a consolidation of capacity building for marginalized women affected by gender-based violence in rural communities. The implementation of collective Income Generation Activities (IGAs) has allowed women victims and survivors of GBV to regain self-confidence and improve their livelihoods. At the beginning of this project in 2020, only one of the 12 women-led network structures was involved in the implementation of income-generating activities. But today, nine accessible network structures (SALVIS-PDFs) have been successfully integrated into the programme.

NEXT STEPS



Production and broadcasting of the radio program "Tuitetee Haki" on themes related to fighting against GBV, violence and climate change.



Supporting and guiding GBV victims and many others in demanding their rights.



Facilitating access to appropriate medical gynecological care for women victims of GBV.



Organization of monitoring missions on the collective income-generating projects developed by the local network structures (SALVIS-PDFs).

Lessons learned

HJ learned from the impacts of climatic disturbances, marked by the low and irregular rainfall, which affected the yields in Kamanyola, Nyatende, Ibanda Ngweshe and Kalehe. In addition, a swine flu outbreak occurred in South Kivu and affected some SALVI-PDFs members.

To overcome these limitations, the teams adapted to the climatic context, seeking to cultivate in the wetland with alternate crops; and adopted the services of a dedicated veterinarian who has responded with preventive and reactive treatment against livestock diseases.



בצלם - מרכז המידע הישראלי לזכויות האדם בשטחים (ע.ר.)

بتسيلم - مركز المعلومات الإسرائيلي لحقوق الإنسان في الأراضي المحتلة

B'Tselem - The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories

Project: Video Camera Project

Since 1989, **B'Tselem** has been documenting, researching and publishing statistics, testimonies, video footage, position papers and reports on human rights violations committed by Israel in the Occupied Territories. The organization strives for a future in which human rights, liberty and equality are guaranteed for all Palestinian and Jewish people living between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, a future that will only be possible when the Israeli occupation ends. **B'Tselem** literally means in Hebrew: *in the image of*. The name is an allusion to Genesis 1:27: "And God created humankind in His image. In the image of God did He create them." The name expresses the universal and Jewish moral edict to respect and uphold the human rights of all people.

B'Tselem stores and protects a vast amount of information, media, and documentation collected over its 34-year history on its website, as well as data, document, and video servers from disasters and accidents. This includes attacks on B'Tselem that aim to silence criticism of Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories.

Quote

"Through its ongoing work with journalists and its distribution list of three thousand journalists from Israel, the oPt (the occupied Palestinian territories), and around the world, B'Tselem's public outreach department has cultivated media coverage of the violations exposed by video documentation." **Excerpt from 2024 report.**

Project supported by Kairos 2024

Video Camera Project

KAIROS supported the Video Camera Project which has been a pivotal part of B'Tselem's work since 2007. The project empowers Palestinian volunteers to become video activists and journalists through comprehensive training and the provision of equipment such as cameras and memory cards, enabling the documentation of daily life under Israel's occupation and apartheid regime, creating a vital visual record and evidence of ongoing human rights abuses in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

With rigorous impact measurement strategies and a robust framework for verification, this project, supported by KAIROS Canada in 2024, is a crucial tool to advocate for human rights, justice, and equality for everyone living between the River and the Sea.





בצלם - מרכז המידע הישראלי לזכויות האדם בשטחים (ע.ר.)

بتسيلم - مركز المعلومات الإسرائيلي لحقوق الإنسان في الأراضي المحتلة

B'Tselem - The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories

Project: Video Camera Project

NEXT STEPS



Supplying cameras to communities facing expulsion, coupled with training for effective utilization.



Providing ongoing training for Palestinian video volunteers, individually and in groups.



Educating volunteers about their rights to film in the West Bank and providing legal counsel and public advocacy support.



Enhancing B'Tselem's YouTube and website video channels and continuing to fortify its video archive.

Achievements

B'Tselem has 165 active volunteers, including 35 women; however, the organization was limited in offering workshops and mentoring sessions due to the increasing volatile situation since October 7, 2023.

During the reporting period, B'Tselem published over 20 pieces of video documentation on state-sponsored settler violence, security force violence, and demolitions in communities facing expulsion across the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

In March 2024, B'Tselem took a significant step towards enhancing surveillance and documentation efforts by installing solar-powered CCTV cameras in the Qawawis community in the South Hebron Hills. At the same time, B'Tselem issued an official [press release](#) that included video footage concerning the intensified efforts by Israel since October 7 to displace Palestinian shepherding communities in the Jordan Valley.

BBC and The New York Times emphasized B'Tselem's documentation of settler attacks and intimidation tactics in their reporting on the surge in settler violence after the Hamas attack.

Lessons learned

Volunteers from herding communities in the South Hebron Hills face distinct needs and challenges, daily navigating expansive territories surrounded by settlements and Israeli outposts.

The efficacy of the Camera Project depends upon its capacity to adapt to the evolving field dynamics, especially concerning the increasing violence and harassment that Palestinians face at the hands of Israeli settlers and security forces.

Confronted with the challenge of state-sponsored settler violence during field visits, the staff has acquired valuable skills in risk assessment, enabling them to make informed decisions regarding the necessity of fieldwork.

This experience highlighted the importance of seamlessly integrating online work with on-site presence, demonstrating heightened responsiveness to the ever-evolving circumstances that impact the Video Camera Project.





HaMoked: Center for the Defense of the Individual.

Occupied Palestinian Territories

HaMoked was founded in 1988 following the outbreak of the first intifada. The organization then called the “Hotline for Victims of Violence,” was focused on helping Palestinians injured as a result of the “broken-bones policy.” Increasingly, Palestinians from the occupied territories – East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip – turned to HaMoked with additional complaints, leading the organization to expand its activities to handle human rights violations in other spheres. HaMoked currently operates in the following main areas:

- **Residency status in East Jerusalem**
- **Punitive demolition of homes in Jerusalem**
- **Return of bodies withheld by Israel to their families.**
- **Freedom of movement**
- **Detainee rights**

Quote

“There is no official address Palestinians can contact to receive this information, so HaMoked is the only address for worried families looking for information on their loved ones.” **Excerpt from 2024 report.**

Project supported by Kairos in 2024

Detainee Tracing in the Shadow of War

The project is the only hotline for families to locate loved ones in Israeli detention. It is part of **HaMoked’s** emergency response to the heightened human rights crisis that has unfolded over the past year in the West Bank and Gaza. The project is therefore an important source of information and reassurance to families, and the first step in ensuring that detainees are protected from other violations of their rights.

The target beneficiaries of the project include all Palestinians in the occupied territories who are negatively impacted by the laws and mechanisms that deny their rights during detention. The action has been designed to directly protect the most vulnerable in this community, including minors, women, and those at the highest risk of torture and ill-treatment.



HaMoked: Center for the Defense of the Individual

Project: Detainee Tracing in the Shadow of War

NEXT STEPS



Serve as the primary resource for Palestinians trying to locate their detained loved ones.



Press the Israeli authorities to provide the whereabouts and conditions of Gazan detainees.



Pursue litigation and advocacy to uphold prisoner and detainee rights, including but not limited to issues such as family visits, ICRC access, and access to adequate food, medical care, and hygiene.

Achievements

From September 1 to November 1, 2024, the first two months of the project period, **HaMoked** completed 4,190 detainee requests. Out of these requests, 4,155 were for male detainees and 35 were for females. Before October 7, 2023, **HaMoked** received about 20 tracing requests every day. Now they receive between 150-200 such daily calls.

Furthermore, 281 of the tracing requests were for minors, while 583 of them were for Gazans.

HaMoked was able to successfully locate detainees and notify their families in response to 3,960 of the 4,190 tracing requests. The remaining 200-plus were Gazans about whom the Israeli authorities are unable and/or unwilling to provide information.

Lessons learned

HaMoked attorneys visit prisoners and detainees to monitor the conditions and are submitting a series of petitions to Israeli courts demanding respect for the basic rights of Palestinian prisoners. The Detainee Tracing Project is therefore an important source of information and reassurance to families, and the first step in ensuring that detainees are protected from other violations of their rights.

Since October 7, 2023, calls to **HaMoked's** hotline have skyrocketed. This is the result of large-scale arrest operations, the large number of displaced and missing in the Gaza Strip, and the fact that Israel refuses to provide detention information to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which provided information to families before this war.



Wi'am: The Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center

Wi'am: The Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center, West Bank, Palestine.

Project: Local Victory Gardens

Wi'am: The Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center is a grassroots civil society organization based in Bethlehem. In Arabic, "*wi'am*" means "cordial relationships," and developing relationships is the essence of their mission. The organization helps to resolve disputes within the Palestinian communities at the grassroots level by implementing the traditional Arab form of mediation, known as **Sulha**, along with Western models of conflict transformation. Wi'am has programs that empower children, youth, women and men, addressing the psychological and physiological consequences of long-term conflict.

Wi'am's programming for women includes income-generating projects, employment training, legal training, and workshops on international and national laws that protect their rights. Women are also taught peace and political negotiation skills and offered treatment for psychological and physical wounds caused by the conflict. Wi'am is helping empower victims to become voices for community justice and peace.

Quote

"As we continued working, we spoke to each other, joked, and told stories, and what was simple, now became something we were proud of and excited to see. This was our work, and it filled me with energy. When watching what is happening in Gaza, we think how can this be?" **Project participant.**

Project supported by Kairos in 2024

Local Victory Gardens

Through this project, Wi'am has been involved in building intergenerational awareness and action to mitigate climate change, promote climate justice, increase resilience and food security, and sustain connection with the land.

The training included discussions on climate change globally and in the Palestinian Territories, and the impact it has on rainfall, agriculture, and livelihood. The training also covered Palestinian agricultural heritage and culture, speaking through poetry, religious and cultural stories, and traditional practices. The training ended with a focus on actionable steps and changes to mitigate climate change, and protect the environment, including water collection, irrigation, composting, reducing waste and pollution, and upcycling and repurposing waste.



Young participants of the Victory Garden Project at Wi'am Center. Bethlehem, 2024

Wi'am: The Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center

Project: Local Victory Gardens.

NEXT STEPS



In the coming months, Wi'am will continue to support the established victory gardens, and support the initiation of others.



Wi'am will support initiatives outside of the Bethlehem area, when settler and military violence lessen, and activities can occur without placing program participants and staff in harm's way (as much as possible).



Wi'am will continue to build community awareness, advocating for climate justice, which includes interlinking climate justice with the general Palestinian struggle against settler colonialism.

Achievements

The project activities took place in five areas within **Bethlehem** and **Hebron** governorates. As military and settler violence escalated across the West Bank, travel and movement became exceedingly dangerous, Wi'am was forced to limit its interaction with communities that are adjacent to settlements and bypass roads.

Wi'am conducted four awareness trainings, which brought together 85 participants, including 40 women and 45 youth and children. Two women's groups, one urban and another rural, were trained. Wi'am children and youth engaged in the program by planting tomatoes and herbs in their planting pots and taking them home to grow as part of their victory garden. Twelve spaces were identified across the Bethlehem and Hebron areas as potential gardens. These areas include community centers and Women's meeting places within communities engaged in **Wi'am's** WPS programming, as well as community neighbourhoods affected by the current closures. Three training sessions were conducted on irrigation techniques and traditional farming, including 40 participants, 15 of whom were children.



Participants of the Victory Garden Project at the backyard of Wi'am Center. Bethlehem, 2024

Lessons learned

Participants expressed an increased feeling of mental and emotional wellbeing after connecting to the earth, as well as a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Participants also experienced enhanced connections with each other, as they planted and prepared the earth for victory gardening.

The interlinking of climate justice with the general Palestinian struggle against settler colonialism increased feelings of ownership of land and community and strengthened feelings of empowerment and community connection.



CEFIPI

Dioceses of San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico.

Centro de Formación Integral para Promotores Indígenas A.C. Misión de Bachajón CEFIPI

Through its **Comprehensive Training Center for Indigenous Promoters** (CEFIPI) in Chiapas, Mexico, the **Diocese of San Cristobal de las Casas** trains human rights promoters to work across the diocese to defend human rights, especially those at the intersection of Indigenous rights and ecological justice. The program has been pivotal to the region's continued mobilization and political consciousness. It's rooted in the historic work of the Diocese of San Cristobal in human rights and social justice and is associated with the legacy of Bishop Samuel Ruiz.

CEFIPI links this human rights training program with a proposal for a national dialogue for peace through topics such as "Faith and Social Commitment" and others related to the analysis of reality lived by communities, the legacy of Bishop Samuel Ruiz and the congress of Mother Earth and peace. CEFIPI has also held assemblies for peace and followed-up with candidates for municipal presidents, particularly those who are signatories of this national peace



Quote

"There is no complication when we work together in one heart to solve the problem and believe and obey what is agreed upon in the resolution of the problem. And in one heart they each return home when it is resolved in a fair way." **Project participant.**

Project supported by Kairos in 2024

Community Reconcilers

This 15 years-old-plus program aims to strengthen the reconciliation and harmony of Tzeltal communities through training processes that promote the work of community reconcilers in the ecclesiastical and civil spheres.

Specifically, this project will support the design, development, and implementation of a program that seeks to increase the capacity of community members to mediate conflict using culturally specific knowledge, practices, and judicial systems.





Indigenous women participants of the Mediators Program, San Cristobal de las Casas during a PEACE gathering. Mission of Bachajón, Chiapas, 2024

Dioceses of San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico.

Centro de Formación Integral para Promotores Indígenas A.C. Misión de Bachajón

Project: Community Reconcilers

Achievements

In March 2024, courses were held at 25 meetings in communities of j'Ula'taywanej and jTiconeles where zone Reconcilers were trained on Canon Law and internal regulations of the Bachajón Mission. Subsequently, a course was carried out in May for the training of trainers in Agrarian Law. This was replicated by the trainers in five large simultaneous courses held in June.

The third training module was held in October to complete the annual training cycle with an emphasis on peace. The topic was agrarian law and the rights of Mother Earth, including the right of Indigenous peoples to consultation and consent regarding megaprojects in their territories. Peace assemblies will follow-up with the candidates for municipal presidents who signed intentional peace letters with the Indigenous communities.

NEXT STEPS



A meeting between civil and ecclesial reconcilers in mid-January 2025.



Addressing the modifications of the Indigenous peoples' law to strengthen their rights.



Focus on training in collective rights rather than individual rights to maintain harmony.



It is important to work with the local municipalities to recognize the Tsel'tal normative system.

Lessons learned

Support community reconcilers who maintain and restore community harmony through the Tsel'tal normative system, social fabric and traditional structures.

It was appropriate to link the issue of agrarian law with the right to consultation based on a current challenge such as the Palenque-San Cristóbal superhighway.

The in-person meeting between civil and ecclesiastical reconcilers helped strengthen the harmonization processes in the territory.



Mesa Ecu mica por la Paz (MEP), Bogota, Colombia

Project: Popular Communities of Faith – PFC/CPF-

Based in Bogota, **Mesa Ecu mica por la Paz (MEP)** is a socio-religious actor that, through its Christian identity brings together processes and people who are committed to the defence of life, peacebuilding and enduring democracy in Colombia.

MEP has been a funded **KAIROS** partner since its creation in 2012 when ecumenical groups, church leaders and representatives from across Colombia came together to create a unified message for peace in Colombia and to increase the participation and prophetic voice of the Colombian churches in the peace process. This first ecumenical forum on peace in the country was convened by a group of church leaders and representatives, including those from the Mennonite, Methodist, Evangelical Lutheran, Anglican, Presbyterian and Catholic churches.

MEP works to increase awareness and participation in the liberating religious project that they represent and to strengthen ecumenical advocacy for peace through a lens that centers on social and ecological justice and structural change.

Quote

“What it has made clear to me is the importance of identifying the rhythm of each territory, the possibilities, the capabilities of the people. This has taught me that the goals must be determined in accordance with each territory” **Sol  ngela Hoyos (MESA team member)**

Project supported by Kairos in 2024

Popular Communities of Faith

The project strengthens the articulation between the **Popular Communities of Faith (PFC/CPF)** and social movements by strengthening and/or recovering the collective and community, as a fundamental basis for a political projection of peace and social justice.

This has been demonstrated through the participation of faith communities in popular marches and social movement activities, that **MEP** has been part of.

Popular Faith Communities –PFC/CPF- are spaces for reflection and training of MEP with the design and preparation of educational material, based on lessons learned in the area of food sovereignty such as gardens and soup kitchens.





MESA delivering seedlings for the community garden of PFC-Colectivo Tierra. Bogotá, 2024.

Mesa EcuMénica por la Paz (MEP), Bogota, Colombia

Project: Popular Faith Communities –PFC/CPF-

NEXT STEPS



The progress of the pedagogical material will be presented at the 12th National Meeting planned for February 2025.



One of the points not considered in this preliminary report is the electoral process for the presidency in 2026.



The internal strengthening process continues while waiting for the pedagogical material.



A better understanding of the importance of social media networks to amplify the MEP and CPF work will be reviewed.

Achievements

MEP brought together a methodological team of three women from the cities of Medellín, Cali and Sincelejo to design and prepare the educational material.

MEP held regular meetings in each of its regional offices, such as Cali (Southwest), Medellín (Antioquia), Bogotá (Bogotá DC) and Sincelejo (North Coast) with analysis of the national and regional contexts, and contextual reading of the Bible, to strengthen the organization and impact of the CPFs.

After the social protests in 2019, the Cali region was highlighted for its notable impact on the movement. For their part, the teams in Medellín and Bogotá have worked at a good pace according to their organizational dynamics and demands, and those of the social movement. The Sincelejo team has established its own mechanisms to support the **CPF**s, considering their own dynamics and networks with the regional social and political movement.

Lessons learned

The **MEP** regionals have experienced a difficult transition. The sense of community built over many years has been eroded. There are concerns that individualistic rather than collective perspectives have guided decisions.

The collective identity aspects must be analyzed more to understand this phenomenon and correct it. Hence, the pedagogical material, its design and projection are important for the strengthening of the collective and community. It is not that the collective has been lost, but it must be strengthened with the utmost urgency.

As such, **MEP** can make an important contribution to the social movement to support this alternative government and, if possible, help ensure that the next governments respond to the concerns of social movements and communities.



Organización Femenina Popular, OFP. Barrancabermeja, Colombia.

Project: Women's Popular Assemblies

The [Organización Femenina Popular \(OFP\)](#) is a grassroots non-profit social organization of women that began in 1972 in the municipality of Barrancabermeja.

A staunch defender of women's human rights, the **OFP** is present in eight municipalities in three departments of Colombia in the Magdalena Medio Region. The **OFP** sees itself as an organizational process and movement whose work materializes in programs and actions to dignify the lives of women and their families and contribute directly to positive transformation. It is committed to the fair and inclusive development of the region, including the inclusion of women as political subjects and the end of discrimination and violence.

Within the last few years, the **OFP** has become more involved in programs related to local environmental defense and ecological peacebuilding and more vocal on climate change. The **OFP** has joined environmental and human rights networks in raising concerns about these issues.

Quote

“Before I was here, I believed that things happened to women because they were stupid enough to stay with their husbands; today I know that this is not true and that this is violence. I like to participate in the Assemblies because I learn, I meet women from other places, and I know what is happening to us.” **Project participant.**

Project supported in 2024

Women's Popular Assemblies

The Women's Popular Assemblies are collective spaces to create, believe and dream of a region without violence, with dignity, economic and environmental justice for women, with guarantees of access to rights and strategies for life, and not for war.

The project follows the question: how do the women of the social base of the OFP see their social, political and environmental actions in the construction of peace and the defense of life in the territories of Magdalena Medio?

Based on this question the project focuses on women as rights holders (rethinking violence), and as political subjects (revaluing and reconfiguring the role of grassroots women in the region).



A Women's Assembly, Organización Femenina Popular, Barrancabermeja, 2024.

Organización Femenina Popular, OFP. Barrancabermeja, Colombia.

Project: Women's Popular Assemblies.

NEXT STEPS



Two new cycles of Assemblies on issues of environmental justice and energy transition with a gender perspective.



A compilation of all the Assembly cycles will be made to document the process.



The Magdalena Medio region experiences violence and conflict that affect the development of the Assemblies. Under this backdrop of harassment and persecution of women, the OFP is reflecting on additional next steps.

Achievements

The project has made the Women's Popular Assemblies stronger and more dynamic for grassroots, urban and rural women in the Magdalena region, promoting community, social and political participation.

At times of harassment and persecution, these Assemblies are safe spaces for critical collective reflection on what grassroots women accompanied by the OFP experience, think and feel. The project benefits from accessing the OFP community radio station, La Mohana, as a mechanism for sharing this knowledge.

The first cycle of Assemblies focused on strengthening rights, recovering critical reflection on gender violence and women's participation in social transformation to undertake deeper discussions on elements such as economic and environmental justice for women.

At the end of the cycle of Assemblies, three radio programs were made to generate greater social awareness on topics such as environmental justice and energy transition, with both a gender perspective and a female empowerment lens.

Lessons learned

The **Women's Popular Assemblies** maintain the social fabric between the rural and urban participants. They also identify and promptly address cases of violence.

The worsening conflict and the increase in threats, extortion and harassment particularly affect women from marginalized sectors of the region.

The methodology of the Assemblies to oppose war builds a social fabric around the desire for peace and life in the Magdalena Medio region. The **OFP** is convinced that the meeting and critical dialogue of grassroots women through these Assemblies allows for the weaving of integral peace, for a dignified life, with a focus on rights and real and constant participation of women.



Organización Femenina Popular, OFP. Barrancabermeja, Colombia.

Project: Methodological and technical proposal for Women's Popular Assemblies.

Achievements

The OFP also completed a methodological and pedagogical proposal based on three conceptual reflections, which are nourished by the experience of the OFP's more than 52 years of social and political work with grassroots women. For each, a key practice is identified for the development of Women's Popular Assemblies.

- 1) **Communication for development and social change:** Communication must be horizontal, close, based on rights and equality, and cross-cutting.
- 2) **Popular education:** The OFP writes, "We are looking for an education where we expand our capacity to imagine, to listen to what other women think; an education through a path where we do not fill ourselves with content, but rather expand our capacity to be empathetic, tolerant and sensitive to the pain of other beings."
- 3) **Women's wellbeing:** Assembly spaces should not only be designed to learn but also to unlearn, those aspects that as a society have limited our ability to transform.

NEXT STEPS



Generate collective processes to build links and bonds between women through their intertwined histories.



Generate more research on practices related to territorial experiences, situations and vulnerabilities.



Hold space to ensure the sustainability, permanence and enrichment of the OFP's process.



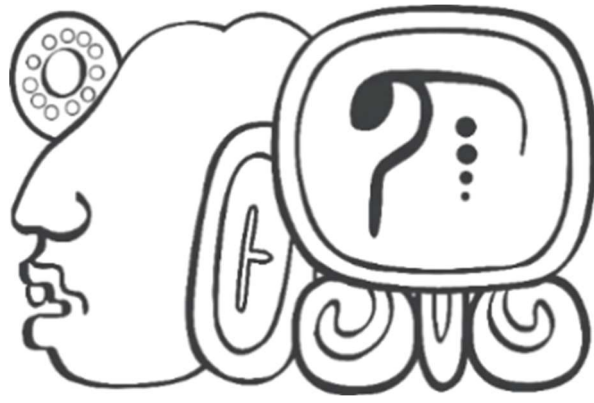
Make women visible in publications, public presentations, media broadcasts and social media platforms.

Lessons learned

Listen attentively to the answers, encourage exchange and dialogue, and reflect on what the women have said; at the same time, clarify any arguments that are far from a rights-based and gender perspective.

Assemblies are spaces to reinforce knowledge about women's rights, gender-based violence and the social and political role of women who are part of **OFP's** social base.

Assemblies are dedicated to promoting the active participation and empowerment of the women in attendance, through an interactive dialogue on key terms such as organization, participation, political subject, and subject of rights. The intention is to strengthen women's leadership.



Kaji' Ajpop, Sololá, Guatemala

Project: Promoting women's economic autonomy with cultural relevant steps towards fullness of life

Kaji' Ajpop (<https://kaji-ajpop.org/en>) is an Indigenous-led association that promotes the creation of conditions that support vulnerable communities in Guatemala, especially Maya communities, in accessing the basic means to live a dignified and whole life in harmony with Mother Nature.

The association's priorities include strengthening autonomous communities, strengthened civic participation in community decision-making spaces, accompaniment of communities and organizations resisting the extractive economic model, with a focus on women and youth within Indigenous communities.

Quote

“It is very important for women to be able to do their own things. With my business, I saved up and managed to buy 3 acres of land and that is what is feeding me now.” **Project participant**

Project supported by Kairos in 2024

Promoting women's economic autonomy with cultural relevance steps towards fullness of life

The project supports five committees of Indigenous **Maya Kaqchikel women** who, during the project's second stage, are moving from focusing on political processes and citizen participation to strengthening the women's financial autonomy and economic ventures.

The main source of livelihood is the traditional loom, one of the most precious parts of each Mayan community's heritage. The project seeks to provide Indigenous women with new business skills as well as strengthen the ancestral knowledge that makes their embroidery unique. The aim is above all to incorporate young people into these learning processes.



Mayan Kaqchikel women during an economic empowerment workshop at Sololá, Guatemala. 2024.

Kaji' Ajpop, Sololá, Guatemala

Project: Promoting women's economic autonomy with cultural relevant steps towards fullness of life.

NEXT STEPS



Two training courses on quality and product development for economic ventures



Training session on the rights to economic autonomy and the practice of economic entrepreneurship with Mayan women



Celebration of International Women's Day on March 8

Achievements

A meeting was held with members of the boards of directors of women's committees to map women's economic activities and plans, including making hand-woven fabrics, **güipil** (traditional Indigenous garment), **mostasilla** (beading), vegetable cultivation, and **jaspeado** (Mayan Solola Region's embroidery style) for sale in the market with 40 women.

A training session was held in July with the participation of 15 women on the quality and development of products for economic enterprises, such as calculating the prices of products so to help ensure fair prices.

In June a meeting was held with women from the Sololá board, on women's organizations and constituent representative to the local municipality, with the participation of 29 women members of women's committees.

Lessons learned

Women expressed fear of learning or trying new things like knitting different garments or promoting themselves on social networks.

A common expectation among these Indigenous women is to gain something tangible from the training sessions. They could later be encouraged to pursue initiatives such as producing shampoo, medicinal creams, or ointments—practical skills they learn during the training and can directly apply.

Community visits and exchanges on the topic of economic entrepreneurship are important.



Red Latinoamericana de
Mujeres Defensoras
de Derechos Sociales y Ambientales

The Latin American Network of Women Defenders of Social and Environmental Rights – La RED, Latin America.

La RED - Latin American Network of Women Defenders of Social and Environmental Rights - is a women's network active in 11 countries of Abya Yala (also known as Latin America). La RED influences policies, projects and practices, which contribute to the defence of the rights of our peoples, of nature and of the social rights that are violated by extractive mining projects and that directly affect women.

Since 2005 La RED has positioned the issue of the differentiated impacts of mining on women's lives and bodies. As a result of this work in 2021, they published a situation report with 23 cases in 11 Latin American countries that characterize environmental violence against women due to extractivism from an ecofeminist methodology that positions the dimensions of Territory-Earth-Organization and Body. At the same time in 2021, they initiated a process of feminist, virtual and popular training with a Feminist Climate Justice School, in which we work on the intersection of the mining issue with the global climate crisis.

Quote

“Environmental and climate justice will be feminist, or it will not be” **Excerpt from 2024 report.**

Projects supported by Kairos in 2024

In-person meeting of the **Escuelita - Little School for Feminist Climate Justice in Guatemala** (November 2024).

Since 2005, **La RED** has focused on the distinct impacts of mining on women's lives and bodies. In 2021, they initiated a process of feminist, virtual and popular training with a Feminist Climate Justice School known as the **Escuelita**.

That same year, they published a report documenting 23 cases in 11 Latin American countries, highlighting environmental violence against women caused by extractivism. The report employs an ecofeminist methodology, emphasizing the interconnected dimensions of Territory-Earth-Organization and Body.

Since 2023 **KAIROS** has supported the **Escuelita**, specifically its work on the intersection of mining and climate change, and its two in-person meetings on this theme in El Salvador (2023) and Guatemala (2024).



Women during the annual in-person gathering of La RED's Escuela Feminista. Guatemala. 2024

Latin American Network of Women Social and Environmental Defenders – La RED, Latin America.

Project: In-person meeting of the Little School for Feminist Climate Justice in Guatemala (November 2024).

NEXT STEPS



Our alliance with KAIROS has been going on for some time, and over the years we have built up understanding and trust. This is an excellent moment of flourishing in our partnership



To leave a legacy for future generations to fight. (?)



La RED draws on their wisdom and requests guidance from the wise women who make up our articulation to make good decisions and advance not only in the execution of a project but in a multi-year work plan that for the first time is a reality. (?)

Achievements

In the lead up to **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**, from November 20 to 25, **la RED** convened their **Feminist Climate Justice School** in Guatemala, bringing together 39 women from nine countries in Central and South America. They shared experiences and strategies of resistance and protecting the rights of the communities.

Some topics were: collective work, nature conservation, the unity of women, knowledge exchange, seeds exchange, volunteering, rescue and protection of endangered native seeds, ancestral knowledge, ecology, political organization, and family involvement. Using the exercise, **Cuerpo-Territorio** (body-territory), they used body mapping and territory-land, territory-body and territory-organization a discussion to collectively reflect on the impacts of extractivism on women's bodies, and links between violence against the land and against women. The exercise centres **Matricentrismo / (Re)Matriation**, strengthening women's leadership.



Body-Territory participatory exercise.

Lessons learned

The participants identified the need for community initiatives that propose an alternative relationship with energy, one that prioritizes care and sustenance of life.

A first workshop on self-knowledge was developed so that the women defenders could identify the links between their personal being (their emotions and subjectivities) and their collective actions. In so doing, they collectively attend to their most basic needs for a good life (*bien vivir*), resist harmful extractivism and strengthen their advocacy for life.



The Latin American Network of Women Defenders of Social and Environmental Rights – La RED, Latin America.

La RED and the Peoples' COP / AntiCOP. With the presence of people from the 5 continents of the planet, representatives of the Waorani, Yaqui, Purepecha, Zapotec, Chatino, Mixteco, Ngiwa, Chontal, Wayuu, Ikoots, Sami, K'Ana, Kanak, Maya Q'echi and Nasalas peoples, USA, New Zealand, Norway, United Kingdom, Portugal, Kenya, Western Sahara, Palestine, Brazil, New Caledonia, Singapore, Euskal Herria, Samoa, Kurdistan, Italy, Bolivia, Antigua and Barbuda and Mexico, we come carrying our dead and our history to meet here, in unity, as peoples, communities and movements of the Global South, to raise our voices in the face of the global water crisis, militarization, megaprojects, forced displacement of our communities, the commodification of life, as well as the inaction of governments and international organizations on the climate crisis, which marks a war against our peoples and nature. AntiCOP emerges as an autonomous and decentralized response, as a space to articulate our struggles and propose concrete alternatives that strengthen our territories, allow us to defend our natural resources and dignify our ways of life.

Quote

“These experiences denote challenges shared by societies, peoples and organized communities on the planet, which lead us to rethink, share and, at the same time, unite beyond borders, flags and cultures, recovering the future in adversity.” **Excerpt from 2024 report.**

Projects supported by Kairos in 2024

The general objective of the meeting was to build networks between global climate movements and grassroots territorial processes through:

- Knowledge exchange for mutual learning and adaptation of successful tactics and strategies to different contexts.
- Strengthening strong support networks that offer support in times of crisis and external pressure.
- Coordinating and pooling efforts so that local actions have a global impact and vice versa, ensuring a more cohesive and powerful response to common challenges.



Latin American delegates to the Anti-COP. Yucatán, 2024.

Latin America Network of Women Social and Environmental Defenders – La RED, Latin America.

Project: AntiCOP participation with interventions from territorial defenders with specific demands for Feminist Climate Justice (November 2024).

NEXT STEPS



5th Congress of the CLACSO Political Ecology Group in Mexico City, December 2024



XIII In-Person Assembly of the Latin American Network of Women Defenders of Social and Environmental Rights in Colombia in 2025



We will continue to weave this fabric from the Global South, positioning the patriarchal violence of the mechanisms of environmental dispossession of the women's body/territory.

Achievements

The Global Meeting for Climate and Life (Anti-COP or Peoples' COP) was held in Oaxaca, Mexico December 4 – 9, 2024. People from diverse ethnicities and countries—from Colombia to Zambia, Samoa to Kurdistan—gathered in Mexico, uniting their histories with communities and movements of the Global South. Together, they raised their voices against the global water crisis, militarization, megaprojects, forced displacement, the commodification of life, and the failure of governments and international organizations to address the climate crisis and the war on peoples and nature.

[Final statement](#)



Celebrating the voice of People's COP or Anti-COP summit in the streets of Yucatán, 2024.

Lessons learned

The clear patriarchal dimension of the climate crisis.

The increased violence of environmental dispossession in the world that challenges women to act in defense of the territory and Mother Earth.

There is a need to challenge false solutions, especially the exacerbation of extractivism in relation to the energy transition.

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives

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Follow



Front Page Photograph: Tselal women and men including deacons, ministers, incense burners, catechists, musicians and others join a community procession, accompanied by Father Pedro Arriaga.

Author: Roberto Ríos Orozco

October 24th, 2023. Jol Tuliha', Chilón, Chiapas.

Be part of the movement for justice. Your donation makes it possible to sustain and grow this essential work for human rights and ecological justice. Donate online today at kairoscanada.org



KAIROS is deeply grateful to its partners for their courage, tenacity and persistent hope, often in the face of extreme risk and adversity.

This program would not be possible without the generous support of member churches, donors and supporters. For this, KAIROS is profoundly grateful.

KAIROS acknowledges that the Toronto office is on the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Seneca and Mississaugas of the Credit Indigenous Peoples.

