



# Sombrilla

International Development Society



Isabel Ramírez - Honduras:  
"The production of vegetables in my yard helps me feed my family and generate income, grateful for the support and technical assistance provided during the project, we will continue to produce and make this a sustainable environment", we will continue to put into practice everything learned during the project

## Annual Report 2019-20



## A Message from the Board

It goes without saying that COVID-19 has impacted us all and it was the same for Sombrilla. In 2020, we had to adjust to virtual board meetings and public engagement events, and had to make the difficult decision to cancel the international dinner in March 2020—our largest annual fundraising event.

Our partners in Latin America had to adjust too as multiple harsh lockdowns were put in place to limit spread of COVID-19. We heard from our partners that they required support to assist families' basic needs as their lives and livelihoods were disrupted. Recognizing our key value of partnership and walking with our partners, a huge emphasis for us in 2020 was to provide humanitarian relief so our partners could support families in need to their community.

Despite the impact of COVID-19, there were other positives. Our partner OCDIH in Honduras continued work on our youth project, which supports vocational training and entrepreneurs to improve economic opportunities. We also continued to provide funding for the operation of the Tierra Colorada school in Guatemala and provided scholarships to youth community leaders with our partner CEBES in El Salvador. We are also delighted that Tania Maria Rodriguez Argueta, a scholarship recipient and community activist, was selected as a Top 30 Under 30 by the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation.

As always, we are reliant upon a small group of volunteers and donors that make Sombrilla's work and partnerships possible. Thank you for your support and commitment to our organization.

## 2019/2020 Board of Directors

The following Board Members supported the organization:

Peter Schalk, Chair

Delmy Garcia Hoyt, Member

Patsy Ho, Member

Charles Pearson, Vice-Chair

Katrin Hoffmann, Member

Vincent Huynh, Member

Beth Muller, Secretary

Lenora Yarkie, Member

William Howe, Member

Natasha Mahzabin, Treasurer

Muntasir Hasan, Member

### COVID Relief

The past year has been very different for all of us and even more so for the communities that Sombrilla partners with. Throughout Central and South America people were under quarantine for long periods and those who need to work daily in order to meet their basic needs were really hit hard. Hunger soon became a greater worry for many that the possibility of becoming sick. Early in the pandemic our partners in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala requested emergency funds to help them to provide basic foods and cleaning supplied in their communities. This became our focus for much of the year and we were able to provide some funds to each community.

### Tierra Colorado Secondary School Project - Guatemala

Sombrilla supports a program to provide secondary school education in the rural community of Tierra Colorada Guatemala. Sombrilla partnered with the teachers in the local primary school to initiate this program and to allow 100 students per year to stay in school for an extra 3 years after completing primary school. The Government of Guatemala has slowly been taking on the expenses of the program making it more sustainable in the long run. At present Sombrilla provides about 1/3 of the funds for the school.

This year the school has been closed due to COVID 19 and the community has been under quarantine. The teachers have continued to teach remotely and the majority of students have continued to study



Food distribution in El Salvador

## Food Security for Indigenous Families – Honduras

Sombrilla completed a one-year project improving food and nutritional security for Indigenous Maya Chortí Families. The project supported close to 500 community members, representing 80 families, in the municipality of Copan Ruinas. Through small-scale family farming, the project improved the availability and access to nutritious, diverse and healthy food. Families were able to generate additional income to improve their livelihoods.



Capacity building on indigenous knowledge of medicinal plants and agricultural production techniques ensured that the project is sustainable and will continue to benefit the communities in the future.

## Preventing Youth Migration – Honduras



Sombrilla continues to provide entrepreneurship and skills training to 73 young people. The project started in spring 2019 and is expected to be completed summer 2021. Some of the activities were delayed due to the virus pandemic. The aim is to deter young people from migrating to the US by increasing their employment and business opportunities in their home country. The skills training ranged from motorcycle mechanics to making pastries and cakes and will enable participants to start their own business. A second group of 20 young people received support in finding employment in their field of interest.

## Education Scholarships - El Salvador

Sombrilla, in collaboration with CEBES PERQUIN, a local NGO in El Salvador, continues to offer an educational scholarship program. The project provides scholarships for young adults from rural communities to complete their post-secondary education. The partner organization in El Salvador currently supports 9 students obtaining degrees ranging from business

administration and accounting to registered nurse and laboratory technician. The scholarship allows students to fulfill their professional and personal goals.

Upon completion of their degree, students often stay involved with the program and share their time and skills with their hometowns.



Student Nelson Amaya was chosen as one of the 2019 recipients for the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation's (ACGC) "30 under 30" award.

## Yurac Yacu Food Security Project, Peru

This year the Yurac Yacu Food Security Project in partnership with Andean Alliance was completed. A total of 54 greenhouses have been built in this rural community allowing community members to grow a variety of fruits and vegetables to diversify their diets.



The COVID-19 pandemic brought into sharp focus the need for a sustainable source of these foods in the community. Many people lost their jobs, reducing household incomes, there was no public transit during the quarantine so a trip to town would involve 16 km of walking on a very steep road, and of course exposing themselves to the virus.

## Yurac Yacu Preschool Project

Because of COVID all schools in Peru including Los Girasoles, the preschool program run by our partner organization Andean Alliance, were closed in March of 2019. Because the majority of families of the preschoolers do not have televisions, computers or smart phones to access remote learning for their children, Andean Alliance set up weekly, socially distanced meetings with one parent from each family. They provided the families with basic supplies such as paint, paper, glue and crayons and each week provided a package of school materials including books, puzzles, science and art projects as well as coaching to be able to support their children in their education.



# Financial Summary 2019-20

## About Us

Sombrilla is an Alberta-based, independent, non-governmental organization, founded in 1985 as a registered charity to facilitate projects supporting sustainable development, social justice, gender equity and human rights.

## Our Mission

Sombrilla partners with communities in Latin America to empower them to assert their democratic, economic, cultural, and social rights.

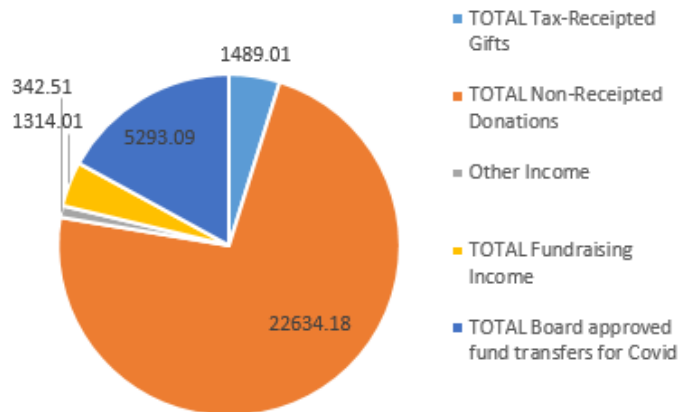
## Our Mandate

Sombrilla's mandate is to walk in solidarity with our partners in the global south towards effective social change for all.

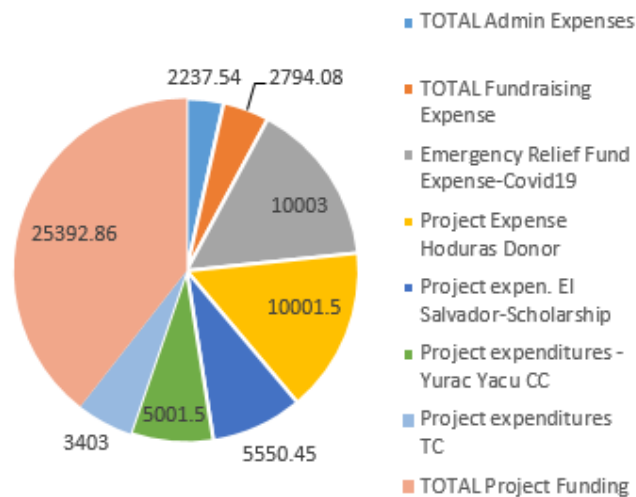
## Our Partners

Sombrilla develops partnerships with Latin American community-based organizations that share our mission in order to assist them in reaching their goals.

## Revenues



## Expenses



## Thank you to Our Funders and Donors

Government of Alberta, Community Initiatives Program  
And each of our many Individual Donors and Supporters



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