



# ANNUAL REPORT

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# A message from the board

## Sombrilla's 2021/22 Board of Directors

**Co-chair:** Paulina Lazarini

**Co-chair:** Sarah Cashmore

**Vice-president:** Bill Howe

**Treasurer:** Lenora Yarkie

**Secretary:** Patsy Ho

**Board Member:**

Delmy Garcia-Hoyt

**Board Member:**

Natasha Mahzabin

**Board Member:**

Katherina Ortega

**Board Member:**

Malena Alvarado

It has been a good year for Sombrilla as we move back into normal activities. We were very happy to see so many of our friends and supporters in person at our International Dinner, The Just One World Market and the Chocolatada. We look forward to getting together much more over the next year.

Life has also been returning to normal for our partner organizations and the communities they support in Peru, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. Students are back in class and projects are underway. We know the pandemic has left many people with on-going challenges and we seek to do what we can to provide support.

We were excited to see Karla Marquez, the lawyer from our Equal Access to Justice for Women in Honduras Project, received an Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC) 30 under 30 award this year. We have invited Karla to come to Alberta this spring to take part in an ACGC Global Connect youth program and to do some public speaking events with Sombrilla. Look for her visit in late May and early June.

We are all so grateful to our members and supporters for their ongoing contributions that allow us to continue our work in Latin America.



## EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR WOMEN IN HONDURAS

In August 2022, our 15-month project Equal Access for Justice for Women in Honduras funded by Global Affairs Canada through the Fund for Innovation and Transformation came to an end. To monitor and evaluate the success of the project, our Co-Chair, Paulina Lazarini Sanchez, and Project Coordinator, Maria Montenegro travelled to Honduras to meet our partner OCDIH and visit the women and girls in the communities of Las Flores and Lepaera.

The project accomplished its goal to raise awareness and knowledge of gender-based violence and increased access to the judicial system to protect their rights, in particular, the right to a life free of violence. The creation of self-help groups established in the communities empowered women to defend



*Karla Marquez, Mobile Clinic Lawyer*





# EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR WOMEN IN HONDURAS



themselves and others and provided them with reassurance that they were not alone.

In total, 362 women, 40 men, 99 girls and 25 boys participated in capacity training to learn about topics of women's rights, gender-based violence, gender stereotypes and new masculinities. In addition, 54 project participants (52 women and 2 men) benefited from mobile legal clinic services and 95 project participants received psychological services. Overall, 25 legal cases were brought to court by the mobile clinic's lawyer.



Sombrilla is currently working on raising funds to support women, girls and men affected by gender based violence in these communities. In particular, to provide workshops that will allow them to gain skills that will enable them to generate income to become economically self-sufficient. Multiple cases continue to come forward and we are looking to raise funds to support women and help them have access to safety and justice.

## TIERRA COLORADA

### GUATEMALA

Sombrilla has been supporting the elementary and junior high school at Tierra Colorada since 2006. Since 2011 we have funded only the Grade 9 program.

That is what we supported again this past fiscal year with total donations of \$3400 total, half being donated in February and then August of 2022.

The most recent communication indicated they have 26 students in primary grades, 32 in secondary school and 22 in junior high for a total of 79 students. Classes have resumed in person and proceed daily.



*Students at the Tierra Colorada School*

There has been a commitment from the government to increase payment for teachers in Grade 9 but not the full amount as enrollment did not reach the level required for full funding.

Sombrilla will continue to support the school as they move toward self sufficiency.



# JOSE GARCIA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

EL SALVADOR



Sombrilla continued in partnership with CEBES Perquin in El Salvador to provide educational scholarships for university students. The scholarships cover costs associated with attending school such as lodging in the city and transportation.

The students receiving the scholarships all work with CEBES Perquin to strengthen their communities through leading groups of younger youth. They provide support for the youth and lead them in discussions about social issues. A recent theme for a training day was, "The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the lives of young people and adolescents at a personal, family, educational and community level". This support in the lives of the youth promotes a positive impact on the community and builds resistance to the temptation to become involved with drugs, alcohol and gangs.

*Students receiving the Scholarship Fund*

## YURAC YACU COMMUNITY CENTRE

PERU

The Yurac Yacu community in Peru has been slowly returning to normal after the pandemic. The goal of our partner organization, Andean Alliance is for the Yurac Yacu Community Center become financially self-sustaining with income from the small businesses covering the Center's operating costs, mainly the early education program and computer room. At that point the centre will be formally transferred to the management of the Yurac Yacu Cooperative Association . Over the past 2 years, the loss of tourism revenues due to the pandemic, has been a major setback in achieving that goal. However, the small business initiatives are slowly reopening. The Andean Alliance continues to assess and test new initiatives to achieve that goal.

Some good news is that the preschool has fully opened with the children attending classes in person. Three children graduated this year and will be entering primary school.



*Children graduating this year entering primary school*



# YURAC YACU COMMUNITY CENTRE

PERU

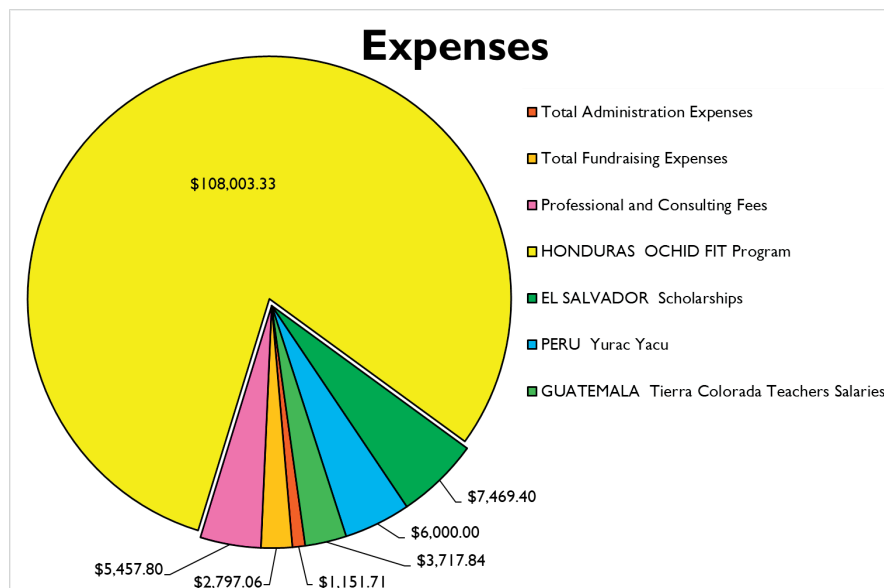
The Café and Women’s knitting co-op provide extra income for women in the community. Both have been impacted by a loss of tourism revenue in the area. This year during the tourist season, the café was open on weekends only largely serving a local clientele rather than the international tourists of the past. The women’s co-op is meeting again and the women have started to sell some of their products again, both at the café when open and at a store in a nearby community.

The food security project added two more family greenhouses bringing the number of families in the community with greenhouses from the project to 56. Two workshop were held to build horticultural capacity for the families that have greenhouses.



Food security project

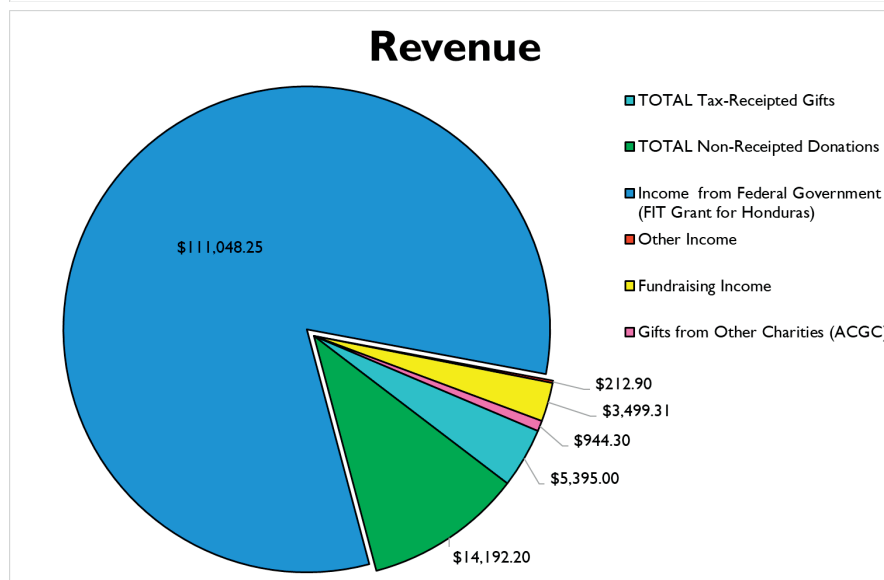
## FINANCIAL REPORT 2021-22



**EXPENSES:** \$134,597.14

**REVENUES:** \$135,291.96

**Net income:** \$694.82



# ABOUT US

## SOMBRILLA INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

### 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 in Latin America.

### 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.



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