



LIVING WELL

*Living sustainably,
Strengthening communities,
Building movements*

“The one who needs less is wealthier than the one who has more.... Real wealth doesn't come from consuming more but from living well.”

ALDO GONZALEZ ROJAS,
FROM THE UNION OF ORGANIZATIONS OF THE SIERRA JUAREZ
OF OAXACA, MEXICO, A GRASSROOTS INTERNATIONAL PARTNER



The Grassroots International Difference

Grassroots International works around the world to help small farmers and other producers, indigenous people and women to live well and create abundance for themselves, their families and their communities. Unlike traditional “development” agencies, Grassroots International never imposes our solutions on those we would support. We are guided by these principles:

- The people most affected by problems should choose the solutions.
- Small farmers and producers are better for the land, for the community and for our climate than corporate agriculture.
- People are more important than profit.
- Long-term partnerships make long-term change.
- Informed and committed donors can help support global movements for social change.

LIVING WELL – THE PHILOSOPHY OF “BUEN VIVIR”

What do you need to “live well”? More things? Better things? Or, like the Aymara people of Bolivia, do you judge a life well lived by how you respect the earth and how you treat other people? The Aymara call such a way of life “Sumac Kawsay,” or, in Spanish, “*buen vivir*.”

The concept of *buen vivir* rejects the prevailing idea of “development” as a way for powerful nations or elites—or even funders—to make less powerful people and nations more like them. The *buen vivir* idea has inspired small farmers, indigenous peoples and women throughout the world with an alternative vision: creating lives of dignity, justice and harmony by their own efforts. The people of Bolivia and Ecuador have enshrined *buen vivir* as a guiding ideal in their national constitutions.

Grassroots International and our many program partners also take inspiration from the concept of *buen vivir*. In our 2010 Annual Report, we look at some of the many ways our work and your support helps people around the world live well.



Executive Director's Message



From our beginning, Grassroots International placed partnership at the center of all we do – with our allies, with our donors, and especially with our partners in the Global South. We share a common sense of responsibility and a mutual respect in addressing the root causes of the many challenges we face.

And we learn a lot from our partners.

In this last year, during a time of continued economic crisis and heightened awareness of the dangers of climate change, we were introduced by our partners to the concept of *el buen vivir*, or living well.

All who work for a just and sustainable world know that over-consumption and “living better” in the U.S. and other affluent countries comes at a huge collective cost to the ordinary people of the Global South and, ultimately, to the earth itself.

The problem with the constant pursuit of more – particularly by the economic elite recently bailed out by our tax dollars – is that very often others live worse.

El buen vivir suggests another way of approaching our present and our future. To live well, in harmony with the earth and in community with one another, moves us toward sustainability – of substance and of spirit.

Instead of focusing on getting more or getting ahead, “living well” means dignity, equity, sustainability and solidarity. It embraces a model of development in which land, water and food are the right of all.

This last year, our partners faced challenges as diverse as earthquakes (Haiti), economic siege (Palestine), targeting of human rights activists (Guatemala, Mexico, Brazil and elsewhere) and ongoing financial struggles in the economic downturn. Yet we also witnessed inspiring resilience and power. In the last year, with thanks to friends like you, we were able to support vibrant movements around the world. A few examples of what your support accomplished last year:

- In Gaza, with the help from Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees 45 more women established backyard and rooftop gardens to help feed their families in the midst of bombed-out buildings.
- In Papua New Guinea, indigenous communities along the Rai coast stopped a Chinese mining company from building a pipeline, blasting reefs, and dumping millions of tons of waste into the precious waters on which their lives depend.
- In Cochabamba, more than 35,000 members of popular movements came together to draft and approve the People's Agreement for Climate Justice and the Rights of Mother Earth. Grassroots International supported several of our partners to attend.
- In New Orleans, U.S. food justice groups, farmers and activists announced the launch of the US Food Sovereignty Alliance. Grassroots International is one of its founding members.

We learn much from partners like these – but we learn important lessons from our donors, too, like their passion for social justice and the importance of persistence. Our donors are diverse, loyal, enthusiastic and thoughtful about the difference their gifts to Grassroots International make. Your support honors us – and all those we work with.

For peace with justice,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "nikhilagir". The signature is written in a cursive, lowercase style.



G **rassroots International supports indigenous people, women and family farmers in their struggle against a global food system designed to transform independent local food producers into dependent — and vulnerable — consumers of global commodities. Your support for the worldwide food sovereignty movement through Grassroots International helps make communities strong from the roots up.**

The choice to stay

A Yankee food invasion of cheap corn exported from the United States has wiped out self-reliance and cash incomes for small farmers in Mexico, including the Zapotec indigenous people of Oaxaca. Like young people across Mexico, Ponciano Perez, age 19, was thinking of leaving the Zapotec village of San Felix and emigrating to the United States to survive and make a better life for himself and his family.

Instead, Ponciano and 14 other youths learned how to grow a good life from local soil thanks to agro-ecological training from the Union of Organizations of the Sierra Juarez of Oaxaca (UNOSJO), a Grassroots International partner. Their first harvest yielded a rich variety of fresh local vegetables.

Since then, their class has grown into a movement to create an alternative, sustainable community food system. First, they began working with farmers to help them adopt sustainable agriculture and produce food for local communities. Then, they created a farmer's market where local producers could sell fresh healthy food to local consumers. Now even non-farmers throughout the area have begun planting sustainable kitchen gardens.

Food in the “desert”

Landless sugar cane cutters in northeastern Brazil live in a “green desert,” where the cane fields are endless, but food crops are scarce. Dependent on meager wages for food and other needs, rural workers suffer poisoning from agrochemicals, slavery-like exploitation by plantation owners and repression from local authorities.

Rubem dos Santos and other former plantation workers have broken those bonds and earned new freedom and independence

thanks to Grassroots International's partner organization in this region, the Landless Workers Movement (MST). When a local agribusiness went bankrupt, the MST helped workers like Rubem obtain title to the land in exchange for unpaid wages.

The MST helped the new farmers diversify their crops using sustainable farming techniques, such as the “mandala,” a method of planting food crops in a circle around a water source according to their water needs, and intercropping of complementary plants, like basil and tomatoes. Today, Rubem earns \$450 per month from his vegetable gardens, more than twice what he could make at minimum wage.



Grassroots International partners in Haiti fight against imported seeds and foods to create space for food grown and marketed by Haitian farmers.

Gardens against war

Families in the besieged and densely populated Gaza Strip live at one of the bitter ends of the global food system. Nearly 80 percent of the population depends on United Nations food aid, which Israel can restrict or stop – and often has. In this environment, urban gardening is an act of peaceful resistance as well as a critical source of fresh fruits and vegetables, dietary oils and fats and protein for a severely malnourished population.

Grassroots International's partner the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC) works with women heads of households in Gaza to transform bare rooftops, backyards and small strips of land into blossoming gardens. With PARC's support, women growers have made the most of their hostile environment, with rainwater capture, gray water reuse, organic composting and crop rotation.

In the bleak al-Maghazzi district, Um Abdullah grows corn, spinach, cabbage and eggplants in her urban garden and harvests lemons, peaches and pears from her trees. She also raises ducks, rabbits and pigeons. Many urban gardens were destroyed during the Israeli attacks of 2008 and 2009. In response, PARC and the women of Gaza have strengthened their organizing network and tenaciously replanted the seeds of food sovereignty.

Farmers like Ponciano Perez, Rubem dos Santos and Um Abdullah live well today because they joined the global movement for food sovereignty. We're proud to support thousands of small farmers working for big changes in the global food system.



Newly independent farm families in Brazil live better, healthier lives than they ever could when they depended on meager wages from agribusiness.

“This is how I teach them not to lose hope.”

PALESTINIAN ELDER, REPLANTING PARC'S MODEL GARDEN IN GAZA WITH HIS SONS THE DAY AFTER IT WAS DESTROYED BY ISRAELI SOLDIERS.



Teaching a new generation to grow food is one of the most fundamental building blocks of peace and justice. Abu Abdallah and his sons tend to their farm in Rafah.

Grassroots International supports the human rights to land, water and food for all. But powerful and sometimes violent forces work to prevent people from realizing these fundamental human rights. Women, rural workers and indigenous people need strong organizations to win and defend their rights. Grassroots International creates international solidarity among donors, food producers and activists to protect legal and economic rights.

Women of courage

The Mayan people of Guatemala face the loss of their land to transnational mining companies. International agribusiness works to monopolize access to seeds and food production. And their government offers few services but will unleash violence against them. Mayan women suffer the added burden of sexism, even within organizations fighting for farmers' and indigenous peoples' rights.

Grassroots International supports thousands of brave indigenous women in Guatemala fighting every day for justice for their people

through our partner organizations there: The National Women's Commission of Via Campesina – Guatemala and CONIC (the National Coordination of Indigenous Peoples and Campesinos).

In a nation just beginning to make peace after decades of brutal civil war, this work is dangerous. In May of 2010 our colleague Evelinda Miranda, a 25-year-old community organizer in Guatemala, was ambushed and killed. At the time, Evelinda was leading negotiations to peacefully resolve a conflict between rural people and the government over electricity rates.

Defense against dams

Brazil's economic boom, together with the global climate and energy crises have increased incentives to build big dams for electricity in rural areas. Some push hydropower as a benign green energy source. Yet massive hydropower projects inundate rural valleys, destroy forests and force small farmers and indigenous communities off their land. By wiping out forests that take carbon out of the earth's atmosphere



The Palestinian Center for Human Rights defends the rights of fishermen in Gaza who are denied access to their fishing waters by the Israel Defense Forces.

and creating huge reservoirs that emit methane, hydro projects both destroy natural systems and increase global warming.

Last year in Brazil, the Movement of People Affected by Dams, a Grassroots International partner, educated and organized people in threatened communities to defend their land and water rights.

Law from the people

The Mixe Peoples Services (SER Mixe) defends the collective land and water rights of about 130,000 Mixe people in northwestern Oaxaca, Mexico. Ser Mixe helps the Mixe and the nearby Zapotec and Mixtec people to create community statutes as tools to assert and defend traditional communal property rights. By documenting the legal status of customary land and water rights, Ser Mixe helps block land and resource grabs by outsiders.

Ser Mixe also encourages the use of homegrown conflict resolution techniques to settle land disputes. The lack of documented legal process in the past has created entrenched land conflicts across Oaxaca. Now the Zapotec and Mixtec people have asked Ser Mixe to help them resolve tough land issues using methods rooted in their indigenous cultures.



Mayan women in Guatemala learning to grow more food for their families at a workshop held by CONIC.



Small farmers in the Brazilian state of Goiás rely on the Popular Peasant Movement to defend them against global forces that threaten to take away their land, their water and even their native seeds.

“In our culture, this is not just about working with land. It is about working with life.”

ORGANIZER WITH THE AHALI CENTER
FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, ISRAEL

G

Grassroots International joins millions of people around the world in the movement to preserve the resource rights of local food producers to the land and water they need. We support the growth of this global movement in three ways. We support peasant farmers, women and indigenous people as they build and grow local and national organizations to defend their rights and livelihoods. We support international learning and solidarity among communities through cross-border exchanges, international conferences and organizations and regional training centers. And we work to create a powerful food sovereignty movement in the United States through direct advocacy, participation in coalitions and support to allied organizations.

Seeds of sovereignty

Haiti's earthquake last January brutally drove home the need for Haiti to revive domestic food production. So why were 10,000 Haitian farmers protesting and burning Monsanto's "gift" of 475 tons of hybrid seeds at the height of the planting season last July?

Because, after decades of this kind of international "aid," Haiti found itself on the edge of starvation as soon as the earthquake closed the docks to food imports. Grassroots International partners in Haiti have worked for more than 20 years to re-establish a rural food-growing economy based on locally adapted native crops and livestock, reforestation and careful management of community water resources.

Haitian farmers saw Monsanto's gift as a Trojan horse, designed to create dependency on one-time use seeds, toxic insecticides and chemical fertilizers purchased from abroad and undermine true food security. Our partner, the Peasant Movement of Papaye (MPP) organized resistance to Monsanto's seed distribution.

"Fighting hybrid and GMO seeds is critical to save our diversity and our agriculture," said Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, who heads the MPP. He called Monsanto's gift "a new earthquake."

"We have the potential to make our lands produce enough to feed the whole population and even to export certain products. The policy we need for this to happen is food sovereignty," Chavannes said.

The struggle for food sovereignty in Haiti is also a struggle against international and national policies that created the conditions for starvation and ecological degradation.



Haitian farmers say "No!" to one-use imported hybrid seeds. For Grassroots partners in Haiti technical support to small farmers must go hand in hand with political organizing and advocacy to defend and grow the seeds of food sovereignty.

Climate justice

The world's elites met, spoke and did little at the United Nations climate negotiations in Cancun, Mexico, last December. But outside the official meeting, people from around the world gathered in their growing thousands to testify, to protest and to build the movement that must, and finally will, force equitable and just climate action upon our world's leaders.

That global popular movement gained momentum in 2010. In April, 30,000 participants from social movements around the world, including participants from Grassroots International and several partners whose attendance we supported, gathered in Bolivia to democratically adopt the Cochabamba People's Agreement (see sidebar). That declaration has become the basis for the social movement's demands for climate justice.

Inspired by Cochabamba, food sovereignty and climate justice advocates gathered outside the Cancun negotiations in December. While deeply disappointed with the official Cancun agreement, those calling for climate justice were excited by the alternative marches and rallies organized by Via Campesina and particularly by Via Campesina's final Statement on Cancun, which issues this challenge: *'Today, right now, we call on humanity to act immediately to rebuild the life of all of nature, applying the concept of "life in balance."*

“Food sovereignty is about fair trade, international security, energy independence, all that, but it really starts with you – where you buy your food, how you take care of your neighbor.”

JOEL GREENO, A DAIRY FARMER AND
MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL FARM FAMILY COALITION,
A GRASSROOTS INTERNATIONAL ALLY AND VIA CAMPESINA MEMBER.



Excerpts from the Cochabamba People's Agreement

To face climate change, we must recognize Mother Earth as the source of life and forge a new system based on the principles of:

- harmony and balance among all and with all things;
- complementarity, solidarity, and equality;
- collective well-being and the satisfaction of the basic necessities of all;
- people in harmony with nature;
- recognition of human beings for what they are, not what they own;
- elimination of all forms of colonialism, imperialism and interventionism;
- peace among the peoples and with Mother Earth...

The movements for climate justice and food sovereignty converged in 2010, forging a powerful challenge to the status quo based on the principles of buen vivir.

U.S. voices

The United States government and agribusiness corporations based here are the most powerful international actors supporting the global systems that work against small-scale food producers. Responding to the requests of our partners in the Global South, Grassroots International expanded our direct advocacy in 2010 as well as our work to build a movement of friends and allies supporting the human rights to land, water and food here in the United States.

Those efforts led to a victory on World Food Day, October 16, with the launch of the US Food Sovereignty Alliance, which brings U.S. activists, farmers, farm workers and consumers together as a strong, united voice for shared values and goals.

CONNECTING “LOCAL” WITH GLOBAL

“What’s exciting about Grassroots International and food sovereignty is that it’s uniting people all over the planet. What we’re doing in Vermont connects to what people are doing in Oaxaca and other places,” says Angela Berkfield. Angela and her husband Richard became donors to Grassroots International in 2009.

Angela and Richard are farmers and organizers in Brattleboro, Vermont. They live, together with their two-year-old son, Birch, in a community of young farmers who grow much of what they eat. Their organizing work is all about building sustainable community, which includes supporting the local food movement. They support farm-to-school initiatives and have set up community gardens and cooking classes while advocating for community-based food systems and state-level Farm to Plate legislation.

Recently, the Berkfields visited Oaxaca, Mexico and met fellow food organizers from the Union of Organizations of the Sierra Juarez of Oaxaca, a Grassroots International partner (see our story on page 2).

“We were inspired by the work done by the Union,” says Richard, “It made us feel more connected to the global movement, more a part of the food sovereignty movement.” In many ways they found that food sovereignty organizers in Vermont and Oaxaca face similar challenges: keeping young farmers on the land, re-connecting people to traditional foodways, facilitating knowledge sharing among farmers, and fighting mainstream media messages supportive of corporate agribusiness.

And in both places, food sovereignty yields similar rewards. “Autonomy is the main incentive,” Richard explains. “It’s a value that people have throughout Oaxaca: taking control over their lives, over their work and over their food. In Vermont, we call it ‘self-sufficiency.’ ”

“And then there’s the good that local food does for your body – and your community,” adds Angela. Local food is part of living well.

How can Americans who love their local foods be a part of the global food sovereignty movement?

“One of the best ways is to support Grassroots International,” says Angela. “Instead of funding people from the US to go work in Oaxaca, we can directly support the work of people who live there.”



“Americans have a lot to learn from social movements in other countries.”

ANGELA AND RICHARD BERKFIELD



A LEGACY FOR THE LONG TERM

“I like knowing I’m part of something that lots of like-minded people are committed to.”

ALLEN HOWARD

Allen Howard’s decision to join our newly established Legacy Circle by naming Grassroots International in his will flows naturally from his family’s farming roots in southern Wisconsin, his lifelong commitment to progressive causes, and his life work.



Al Howard (second from left in the back row) with a group of U.S. educators at the Songhai Center for Sustainable Agriculture in Porto Novo, Benin, West Africa.

Al teaches African and global history at Rutgers University.

“I’m a historian, so I take the long-term view,” Al reflects. “And Grassroots International takes a long-term view. They focus on land and water rights with an emphasis on empowerment and leadership from the bottom up that I believe is 100 percent necessary for any long term change.”

Al has made annual gifts to Grassroots International for 20 years because he believes deeply in our commitment to a model of partnership. “It’s not a northern organization telling others what to do. Grassroots supports deeply grounded organizations and helps them make South-to-South as well as South-to-North connections.”

“I give to quite a range of progressive organizations. With Grassroots International, I can see direct results and a trajectory of long term growth that’s sustainable.”

This year, he decided the time was right to make a gift that would outlive him.

“I’m not rich, but I’ve had a good career. Making this kind of a commitment is attractive at a certain stage in a person’s life.”

“What makes me feel good are the descriptions of the people and the partners that Grassroots International provides. I know that the individual organizations are accomplishing things on the ground in Haiti, in Central America, Brazil, and the Middle East, and that people have more control over their own lives for the long term because I support Grassroots International. I have confidence that my gift will continue to empower people globally.”

To discuss joining the Legacy Circle at Grassroots International please contact Carol Schachet at Grassroots by phone at 617.524.1400 or email her at carol@GrassrootsOnline.org.



Live well: Join Our Global Community!

KNOWING THE TRUTH IS ONE THING. DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT IS ANOTHER. We invite you to do something by joining the Grassroots International global justice community in the way that's best for you.

Sustain

www.GrassrootsOnline.org/donate

There are many reasons and many ways to give. Here are a few:

- Join our sustainer program
- Donate stock
- Give a gift in someone's honor or memory
- Include Grassroots International in your will
- Host a house party or other fundraiser

Donations are tax deductible and secure. Grassroots International earned the Better Business Bureau's coveted Seal of Approval, and the seal of excellence from Independent Charities of America.



Advocate

www.GrassrootsOnline.org/subscribe

Become an activist for food sovereignty and the human rights to land, water and food. Join the Grassroots International on-line activist network. Sign up on our web site to receive updates and alerts, as well as e-newsletters.

Volunteer

We need volunteers to help us with mailings, events, translations, social networking. To find out more, contact info@GrassrootsOnline.org, or call 617.524.1400.

Connect

Follow us on:



2010 Volunteers and Interns

Thank you to

Christopher Ahern
Chris Ahern
Amal Allozi
Buck Allen
Laurence Carrier-Desjardins
Mike Chen
Amy Clendenin
Stephanie K. Dalquist
Lezlie Dias
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Tabitha Godlewski
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Emily Kirkland
Kathy Lique
Kathleen O'Connell
Andrew Rance
Alisha Reaves
Samilys Rodriguez
Tyson Shelley
Kerry Shihan
Sun Wei
Jeanne Teng
Margaret Tiedemann
Agnes Wanjalla
Deonca Williams
Julie Yelle

FINANCIAL REPORT 2010

NOVEMBER 1, 2009 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2010

In the midst of continued impacts of the economic downturn, support from Grassroots International became a vital lifeline to our partners around the world. Steady support from donors made it possible for Grassroots to supply more than \$1.7 million in cash grants and material aid, while devoting more than three-quarters of our spending toward program services.

Grassroots International does not seek or receive U.S. government funding, so we can remain an independent and outspoken advocate for the human rights to land, water and food. The active support of our donors makes all our work possible.

Statement of Support, Revenues and Expenses

For the year ended October 31, 2010

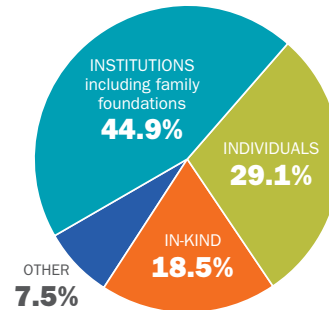
	Unrestricted		Temporarily Restricted		FY 2010 Total
	Undesignated	Board-designated	General	Donor-advised	
Support and Revenues					
Institutional grants & contributions, including from donor advised funds	749,901	1,000	533,197	–	\$1,284,098
Individual contributions	571,567	8,092	253,731	–	833,390
In-kind (donated goods & services)	–	–	529,336	–	529,336
Investment and other income	195,661	–	–	17,286	212,947
Sub-Total	1,517,129	9,092	1,316,264	17,286	2,859,771
Less donor designations to agencies	–	–	(149,940)	–	(149,940)
Net assets released from program restrictions	1,569,121	(64,965)	(1,126,305)	(377,851)	–
Total Support and Revenues	3,086,250	(55,873)	40,019	(360,565)	\$2,709,831
Expenses					
PROGRAM SERVICES					
Grants:					
Cash grants	1,329,469	–	–	–	1,329,469
Shipping grants	15,587	–	–	–	15,587
In-kind material aid grants	529,336	–	–	–	529,336
Sub-Total	1,874,392	–	–	–	1,874,392
Less donor designations to agencies	(149,940)	–	–	–	(149,940)
Total grants	1,724,452	–	–	–	1,724,452
Humanitarian/social justice program	356,347	–	–	–	356,347
Education	108,744	–	–	–	108,744
Total program services	2,189,543	–	–	–	2,189,543
SUPPORT SERVICES					
Management and general	258,071	–	–	–	258,071
Fundraising	420,570	–	–	–	420,570
Total support services	678,641	–	–	–	678,641
Total Expenses	2,868,184	(55,873)	40,019	(360,565)	\$2,868,184
Change in Net Assets	218,066	(55,873)	40,019	(360,565)	(158,353)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	1,277,931	557,737	119,880	415,244	2,370,792
Net Assets, End of Year	1,495,997	501,864	159,899	54,679	\$2,212,439

Balance Sheet

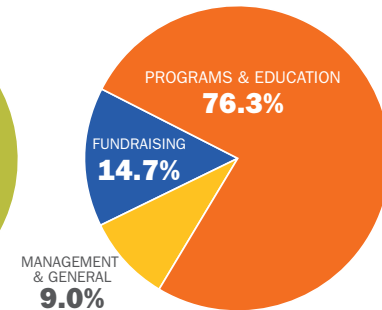
As of October 31, 2010

Assets	
Cash and equivalents	251,505
Grants and pledges receivable	27,500
Investments	1,964,346
Fixed and other assets, net	38,753
Prepaid expenses and other	31,835
Total Assets	\$2,313,939
Liabilities and Net Assets	
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	101,500
Total Liabilities	\$101,500
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	
General (undesignated)	1,495,997
Board-designated	501,864
Temporarily Restricted	
General	159,899
Donor-advised	54,679
Total Net Assets	\$2,212,439
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,313,939

SUPPORT AND REVENUES



EXPENSES



PARTNERS AND SELECTED GRANTEES 2010

Movement Building

Brazil

Jubilee South – Brazil - National Referendums on land holding and climate change

Landless Workers Movement – Maranhão (MST-MA) – Leadership training for rural women and youth

Movement of People Affected by Dams (MAB) - South American delegation to 3rd International Conference of People Affected by Dams

Popular Peasant Movement (MCP) – Participation in People’s World Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth Rights in Cochabamba, Bolivia

Democratic Republic of Congo

World March of Women – Travel to and interpretation at the 3rd International Conference of the World March of Women

Ecuador

Coordination of Latin American Campesino Organizations (CLOC) – Women’s Assembly

National Confederation of Peasant, Indigenous and Afro-descendent Organizations – Support for CLOC’s 5th Congress preparatory meeting

Guatemala

Committee for Peasant Unity (CUC) – Via Campesina – Guatemalan delegation to CLOC Assembly for Women & Youth

Guatemalan Front of People Affected by Dams and in Defense of Water – National Conference of People Affected by Dams and in Defense of Water and Land

Haiti

Haitian Platform to Advocate Alternative Development (PAPDA) – Food Sovereignty Advocacy campaign; travel to the US Social Forum

Haitian Peasants’ Heads Together (Tet Kole) – Dessalines Brigade learning exchange with Brazil

Honduras

Council for the Integral Development of Peasant Women (CODIMCA) – Women’s Regional Commission

National Front of Popular Resistance – Education and communication work

Via Campesina – Central America – Global Campaign to End Violence Against Women

Via Campesina – Honduras/ Honduran Coordinating Council of Campesino Organizations (COCOCH) – Global Campaign for Agrarian Reform

India

Indian Social Action Forum – Alternatives to privatization of water and energy

Samata/Mines, Minerals & People – Mining Information Clearinghouse of India

Indonesia

Via Campesina – International – Operational Secretariat

Kenya

Daughters of Mumbi/Center for New Creation – South-South Summit on Climate

Mexico

Association of Indigenous Communities in the Northern Zone of the Isthmus (UCIZONI) – Participation in People’s World Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth Rights, Cochabamba, Bolivia

Mexican Alliance for People’s Self-determination (AMAP) – Movement building and leadership development

Mexican Movement of People Affected by Dams and in Defense of the Rivers – 3rd International Conference of People affected by Dams

Union of Organizations of the Sierra Juarez of Oaxaca (UNOSJO) – Zapotec autonomy

Via Campesina – International – Global Campaign to End Violence Against Women

Via Campesina – North America – Peasant & indigenous organizing for COP 16 Climate Forum

Nicaragua

Via Campesina – Central America/Association of Rural Workers (ATC) – Training and leadership development

Palestine

Gaza Community Mental Health Program – Campaign to end the siege on Gaza

Stop the Wall Campaign – Organizing local land defense committees

Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) – Travel to the U.S. Social Forum

Philippines

Cordillera Women’s Education and Action Research Center/International Women and Mining Network – Strategic planning

Spain

Via Campesina/ LURBIDE – The Way of the Earth – Nyéléni Newsletter

Thailand

Focus on the Global South – Local climate justice action; travel to COP16 Climate Forum in Mexico

West Africa

Fahamu Trust – “We Are the Solution” – Rural women farmer’s campaign for agroecology and against AGRA in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Mali and Senegal

United States

Family Farm Defenders – Food sovereignty and climate justice

Grassroots Global Justice Alliance (GGJ) – Travel for international delegates to attend the U.S. Social Forum

Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy – Research and testimony against corporate concentration in agriculture; strengthen the role of women in global food sovereignty and climate debates

National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC) – Food sovereignty campaign; mobilization for anti-trust hearings and travel to the U.S. Social Forum

Via Campesina – North America – Regional Secretariat; and participation in Blue Mountain Climate Justice Strategy meeting

WhyHunger – Messaging and materials development for *Translating the Food Crisis*

Human Rights Defense

Brazil

Landless Workers Movement – Pernambuco (MST-PE) – Defending civil and political rights of land rights activists

Landless Workers Movement – National (MST) – Legal support

Social Network for Justice and Human Rights (Rede Social) – Human rights defense and advocacy on agrofuels

Guatemala

Association COMUNDICH – Defending Ch’orti’ territorial rights

Haiti

Platform of Haitian Human Rights Organizations (POHDH) – Human rights advocacy

Honduras

Rural Workers National Center (CNTC) – Legal assistance for members of the peasant movement of Aguan

Mexico

Servicios del Pueblo Mixe (SerMixe) – Land and water rights defense

Palestine

Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) – Protection of land and property rights

Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) – Securing farmers’ rights

Papua New Guinea

Bismarck Ramu Group - Legal support for activists working to stop Ramu Nickel Mine from dumping in the ocean

South Africa

Mupo Foundation – Securing cultural rights of local communities to their sacred sites

Sustainable Livelihoods

Brazil

Association in the Settlement Areas of the State of Maranhão (ASSEMA) – Economic development and Babaçu nut preservation

Landless Workers Movement – Maranhão (MST-MA) – Agroecological farming by formerly landless workers

Landless Workers Movement – National (MST) – Agroecology training program

Popular Peasant Movement (MCP) – Creole Seeds Project

Guatemala

National Coordination of Indigenous Peoples and Campesinos (CONIC) – Women-led initiatives for sustainable agriculture

Haiti

National Congress of Papaye Peasant Movement (MPNKP) – Creole pig repopulation

Peasant Movement of Papaye (MPP) – Agroecology training; Marmont drinking water system project

Haitian Platform to Advocate Alternative Development (PAPDA) – Rural development and food sovereignty

India

Thanal – Empowering women, biodiversity-based ecological agriculture

Israel

Ahali Center for Community Development – Batouf Valley community empowerment

Mexico

Center to Support the Popular Movement in Oaxaca (CAMPO) – Micro-regional planning

Oaxaca State Coffee Producers Network (CEPCO) – Women’s livelihoods and leadership development

Palestine

Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC) – Urban agriculture in Gaza

Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) – Women’s empowerment project

Sri Lanka

Via Campesina, South Asia/Movement for Land and Agricultural Reform (MONLAR) – Agroecology training, Asian regional organizations

Tanzania

Via Campesina, Southern/East Africa/National Union of Peasant Farmers (UNAC) – Agroecology training, African regional organizations

Rethinking Aid

Haiti

Platform of Haitian Human Rights Organizations (POHDH) – Earthquake response

Peasant Movement of Papaye (MPP) – Earthquake response; Emergency seeds; Via Campesina Caribe

Haitian Platform to Advocate Alternative Development (PAPDA) – Earthquake response – Emergency seeds

Haitian Peasants’ Heads Together (Tet Kole) – Earthquake response – Emergency seeds

Palestine

Gaza Community Mental Health Program – Gaza rebuilding

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OUR MISSION

Grassroots International works to create a just and sustainable world by building alliances with progressive movements. We provide grants to our Global South partners and join them in advocating for social change. Our primary focus is on land, water and food as human rights and nourishing the political struggle necessary to achieve these rights.

Since 1983 we have worked in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and the Americas, concentrating our efforts in areas where U.S. foreign policy has been an obstacle to positive change and where creative movements build solutions to global problems from the grassroots up.

HOW WE WORK

Grassroots International and its supporters pursue justice by supporting rural and indigenous people around the world in their struggle for resource rights—namely, a fair share of the earth's land, water and food and the sustainable stewardship of these precious, life-giving resources. To win, they must overcome determined and powerful interests. That is why political organizing and protection for human rights cannot be separated from the act of sowing seeds in the ground.