

Program Grants During FY10

In FY10 IDEX made the following grants to our partners:

Africa

Girl Child Network (GCN), Zimbabwe - \$32,000

GCN was founded in 1998 as a club for girls facing problems such as forced early marriage, genital mutilation, virginity testing, rape, and limited economic options that force girls into prostitution. With over 156 clubs and more than 20,000 members, current GCN projects include efforts to eliminate child abuse through education, intervention, and advocacy, as well as rehabilitate and reintegrate survivors of abuse.

Positive Women's Network (PWN), South Africa - \$20,000

In 1996, 60 black South African women formed the PWN to address three forms of oppression they identified, being a woman, being black, and being HIV positive. PWN combats the effects of HIV and AIDS and increases life productivity by creating an enabling social environment for treatment, care, support, and prevention. Equipping women with the skills and information, PWN hopes to empower peer educators and community health leaders.

Asia

ASHA-Nepal - \$23,218

ASHA-Nepal aims to help eradicate poverty and develop a self-reliant society in the country through the development and promotion of health, sanitation and sustainable development principles and practices. They are currently working on sustainable agriculture projects that also empower women through increased decision-making roles, participation in social events, and improving economic, health and educational status.

Gramin Vigyan Vikas Samiti (GRAVIS), Rajasthan, India - \$47,000

GRAVIS promotes self-reliance to improve the social, economic and political opportunities of poor desert communities in Rajasthan, India. GRAVIS programs include education, health, women's empowerment and income generation, micro-credit, water resource development, agriculture, forestry and land development. Due to the drastic landscape and evident climate change, an increasing emphasis has been placed on water and food security this year.

Sahyog Sansthan, Rajasthan, India - \$20,000

Sahyog Sansthan works in over 85 villages to achieve long-term and sustainable improvement in the lives of the rural poor. Sahyog Sansthan is working to achieve these goals through creating affective self-help groups, facilitating natural resource development and management, and overseeing the advancement of micro-enterprises.

Women Awareness Center (WACN), Nepal - \$20,000

WACN works towards improving the socio-economic status and self-development capacity of disadvantaged people, particularly women, throughout 4 districts in Nepal. WACN believes that, if given the opportunity, women can become confident and competent leaders overcoming the myriad of obstacles they face in their daily lives. WACN's programs include integrated community-based development, informal savings, sustainable agriculture, and burgeoning credit groups and cooperatives for women.

Latin America

Association for the Promotion of Health and Socio-Economic Development (APROSADSE), Guatemala - \$46,550

APROSADSE works in the remote rural villages of San Martín Jilotepeque, Chimaltenango focusing on economic development. APROSADSE's programs focus on agroecology, education, and health. Through community training, site visits, and health improvement workshops, APROSADSE is strengthening the capacity and skills of the 135 communities within the San Martin Jilotepeque municipality.

Educación por la Paz (Education for Peace) EduPaz, Mexico - \$20,000

EduPaz was founded in 1998 in Comitán, Chiapas, to provide health services and initiate economic development to help Guatemalan refugees. Now working throughout many communities in Mexico, EduPaz is implementing micro-credit strategies to support groups that are committed to environmentally conscious and organic agriculture, working towards food security, while maintaining gender equity amongst the community members.

Institute for Overcoming Urban Poverty (ISMU), Guatemala - \$31,605

ISMU is a network of 17 grassroots organizations working to improve impoverished urban settlements, which lack necessities such as decent housing, sewage systems and potable water. ISMU works to better these communities by focusing on enriching the lives of women and children through educational scholarships, micro-lending practices, and the strengthening of organizational capacity and self-management within the communities.

Ñepi Behña, Mexico - \$15,000

Based in the state of Hidalgo, Ñepi Behña works with over 650 women to strengthen alternative economic and micro-enterprise opportunities. Through the creation of a Fair Trade Artisanship Program, the indigenous women have been empowered to raise themselves and their families out of poverty through sustainable channels. Other programs run by Ñepi Behña include installing rainwater capturing tanks and wood saving stoves, supporting a 400 person community credit association, and maintaining a sexual and reproductive rights program. All project elements are designed to focus on the needs of indigenous women and engage them to address chronic poverty in their communities in a sustainable way.

Women's Association for the Development of Sacatepéquez (AFEDES), Guatemala - \$20,000

AFEDES is comprised of 31 women's groups with nearly 700 members. It promotes political participation and social empowerment of indigenous women. AFEDES provides groups of women with small loans and training for agriculture, livestock and weaving projects, and supports the leaders of the future by offering credit to families for school fees and uniforms for girl children.

In FY10 the following Catalyst Grants were made:**Angus Gillis Foundation (AGF), South Africa- \$5,000**

Founded in 2002, AGF targets impoverished communities and seeks to build self-sufficiency by working with the community members to create subsistence food gardens, income generating activities, and leadership development projects. Serving well over 500 people, mostly women, AGF has also embarked on a sustainable tourism initiative, a local health care program, and has established over 45 self-help groups, resulting in a powerful support system and enduring trust among its members.

Biowatch, South Africa- \$5,000

For more than a decade, Biowatch has encouraged local food sovereignty in rural South Africa through community training programs that encourage sustainable, organic food production methods. To counter South Africa's food crisis, and modern industrial methods that are threatening local seed varieties, Biowatch has helped to create seed banks, preserve indigenous seeds, and move the communities towards social justice and food security.

Nyangazizwe Community Information and Training Centre (NCITC), South Africa- \$5,000

Founded by a group of concerned indigenous women in 1988, NCITC strives to empower women to be community leaders and act informatively and decisively on critical social issues concerning health, poverty, and gender inequality. Through skills training and educational classes, women and youth have been

able to upgrade the standard healing methods, agricultural production, and sustainable income generating activities.

Rural Education, Awareness, and Community Health (REACH), South Africa- \$10,000

Sexual violence and harassment are persistent human rights violations that impact the lives of women living and working in rural South Africa. Increasingly vulnerable due to low wage and insecure jobs, poor housing conditions, and lack of education, REACH helps women and youth gain access to vital social services such as counseling, legal support, and rights-based training, as well as raises awareness and participates in advocacy work.

South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA), South Africa- \$5,000

Founded in 1995 as a coalition of 16 communities working for environmental justice, SDCEA seeks to end industrial pollution in South Durban and elsewhere. To combat pollution, SDCEA provides valuable training on air quality monitoring and environmental awareness, encouraging community members to advocate for greater protections. They also have, and continue to approach large corporate polluters and government authorities to question current conditions and offer methods to improve the city's environment and quality of life.

Surplus People's Project, South Africa- \$5,000

Created as a result of the current economic and ecological crises in South Africa, SPP fights for agrarian reform and food sovereignty. The Campaign actively promotes agro-ecology, which it sees as a way of doing agriculture that does away with unequal land access, environmental damage, and the racism and sexism of the current chemical industrial model of agriculture. Conducting popular education and information sessions, as well as public protests, SPP hopes to raise awareness and create momentum in the struggle for food sovereignty.

Whole World Women Association (WWWA), South Africa- \$5,000

In a country filled with people who have fled persecution, war, political conflict, and gender and cultural violence, WWWA works to empower refugee women to make positive contributions among themselves and their host communities by fostering hope, social justice and improved self-esteem. Through a series of programs, WWWA hopes to end xenophobia and raise the profile of the refugee community.

Women's Net, South Africa- \$5,000

Working to advance gender equality in South Africa for over ten years, Women's Net focuses in the intersection between gender and information and communication technologies (ICTs). By providing training and support for women, girls, women's organizations and networks, they are strategically creating a society where women and girls are equal participants and agents of

social change. Creating a safe environment, both in-person and online, for girls and women to reflect and share their experience and views is an essential component of Women's Net's work.

Community Self-Development Grants for FY10

Mexico

Acompañamiento a Migrantes y Refugiados Ignacio de Loyola (AMYRILAC), - \$5,000

Working with internally displaced and migrant communities in the state of Chiapas, AMYRILAC supports education, health promotion, and human rights through direct service and advocacy in rural areas. AMYRILAC coordinates educational programs for Mayan women and youth, supports a savings collective and community store, with the long-term goal of decreasing youth and women migration to urban centers and strengthening cultural identity.

Centro de Educacion Integral de las Bases (CEIBA), - \$8,000

A collective of popular educators, CEIBA was designed to provide educational, networking, and organizational support throughout the Chiapas region. Utilizing the benefits of strategic partnerships, CEIBA offers workshops, meetings, and planning tools, for specific self-improvement and community development programs.

Luna Maya, - \$4,000

Luna Maya Birth Center was formed in 2005, to improve the wellbeing of women and families through safe pregnancy and birth. Working with traditional midwives in urban and rural settings, Luna Maya trains them to identify risks and collaborate with local health promoters to lower maternal morbidity and mortality in target regions.

Otros Mundos, - \$5,000

Otros Mundos is an institution doing cutting-edge work to protect natural resources in the state of Chiapas. Their work includes a combination of advocacy work and training for communities seeking practical solutions to the challenges of protecting their natural resource base. Program topics include water basin management, water collection systems, water treatment and filtration, biodigestors, and solar energy.

Guatemala

Asociación Comunitaria para el Desarrollo de Fray Bartolome de las Casas (ACODEF), - \$16,000

ACODEF, established in 2003, has launched gender equity, adult education, and community health programs, in an effort to improve the quality of life for 24

Mayan Q'eqchi communities in Guatemala. With help from an affiliate group, it is also promoting women's literacy and self-sufficiency through trainings and micro-finance models.

Asociación Integral Comunitaria de Comadronas y Promotores de Salud (ASICOPROS), - \$5,000

A community-based organization of midwives and health and dental promoters, ASICOPROS attends to the health needs of 25 communities by providing direct services, maintaining a community pharmacy and dental clinic, and offering training to community health workers and advocates.

Asociación de Mujeres Ixqik, - \$4,000

Ixqik is an organization in the northernmost Petén region of Guatemala that has worked tirelessly on behalf of women since its inception in 1999. In Guatemala discussion of domestic violence is taboo and few resources exist to help women and girls prosecute their perpetrators. Ixqik has served as an information hub, provided a safe place for victims to turn to in times of crisis, and strengthened the base for building a stronger feminist movement in the region.

Community of Women of Santa Maria (COMCASMA), - \$2,000

A women's organization, in partnership with ACODEF, has secured micro-credit to purchase basic grains, conducted trainings on participation in local community development councils, secured materials for improved housing, and worked with local midwives. Also, through a partnership with a government program, the Institute for Radio Education (IGER), a women's literacy program, conducted in their native language, has successfully been implemented in 10 communities.