



Annual Report

2023



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Welcome Message

*Yaqu'el ta na'el
te sbahbeyal c'op*

Friends of the IXIM family

The year 2023 represented for Ixim and the groups we accompany the closing of a very important cycle, which began with a five-year plan based on a new accompaniment model.

A new cycle now opens in which, on the one hand, three new groups in communities of Ahlan Qu'inal (the lowlands of the Chiapanecan rainforest) begin their journey with enthusiasm and hope, replicating this model that has proven relevant and successful, among other factors, because it has continuously adapted and strengthened through experiences and the participation of many people who, with their enthusiasm and professionalism, have contributed to the consolidation of this project.

On the other hand, three ventures are moving forward along the path of the Social and Solidarity Economy through training and capacity building. This enables them to meet the needs of both local and national markets, while at the same time strengthening the group by developing skills and knowledge related to administrative and production processes.

Along another path, five of the six Collective Self-Financing groups demonstrated that they address a deeply felt need of families: saving and lending.

These groups have grown stronger and are opening up to the possibility of integrating new women members and people external to the group who request loans, thus transitioning toward a form of local microfinancing.

Beyond numbers and results, we are joyful to see how the women participating in the project have strengthened their hearts to know how to guide their lives: Yipintesbeyel yo'tanic yu'un yacuc sna'ic sbehlaltesel te scuxlejalic, a Tselal way of naming what in Western terms is called empowerment.

This report is a brief sample of what has been accomplished this year, with countless hours spent in communities, on highways and dirt roads in the jungle, filled with laughter and family, collective, and teamwork efforts. Many fruits have been shared during evaluations around the Mayan altar, showing us that it is possible to walk around Buhts'an Qu'inal, a Tselal term that encapsulates the idea of Savoring Life.

Thank you, many thanks to each and every one who makes this journey possible.

Paco Meneses

Executive Director of IXIM A.C.



Our Purpose

*Bin ya stijjol
co'tantic*

Our mission is to accompany groups in Tsetal Indigenous communities of Chiapas as they build dignified, self-managed life alternatives grounded in their own values. To achieve this, we work with groups of women over a five-year period in order to reach **Buhts'an Quin'al**, following a three-stage model:"

Buhts'an Qu'in'al

A Tsetal term that implies being in harmony with oneself, with others, with nature, and with transcendence.



1

Physical Well-being

Programas que combaten la desnutrición, desarrollan hábitos de higiene y alimentación, y aseguran el autoconsumo de alimentos sanos y variados.



2

Healthy tsetal home

Equipping households with eco-technologies to ensure access to safe drinking water, cultivate family gardens, produce organic fertilizers, reduce firewood consumption, and breathe clean air. As a result, families sustain good health while caring for their environmental impact.



3

Economic Resilience

It seeks to promote economic resilience through two strategies based on a Social and Solidarity Economy approach:

- a) Savings and collective self-financing groups.
- b) Productive ventures.

Communities

Comonaletic

In **2023**, we directly accompanied a total of **402** **peopel** people and indirectly an additional **405**, belonging to **9** **communities** in the municipalities of Ocosingo and Chilón, Chiapas.



188
Women



15
Men



214
Girls, boys and adolescents

1st Phase

Generation 2023

San Marcos Tulijá
San José Patwits
San Miguel Canxanil

3rd Phase

Generation 2019

Capulín
Fortuna
Pinabetal
Guaquitepec
San Jerónimo Tulijá
San Pedro Tulijá



Learn more here





Physical Well-being

*Scanantayel
slecubel baqu'etalil*

During 2023, three health outreach days were carried out in the communities of San Marcos, San Miguel, and San José to monitor family health, with a particular focus on combating anemia and childhood malnutrition.

Administered Doses



Deworming medication 938

Adult  **513**

Junior  **242**

Pediatric  **183**



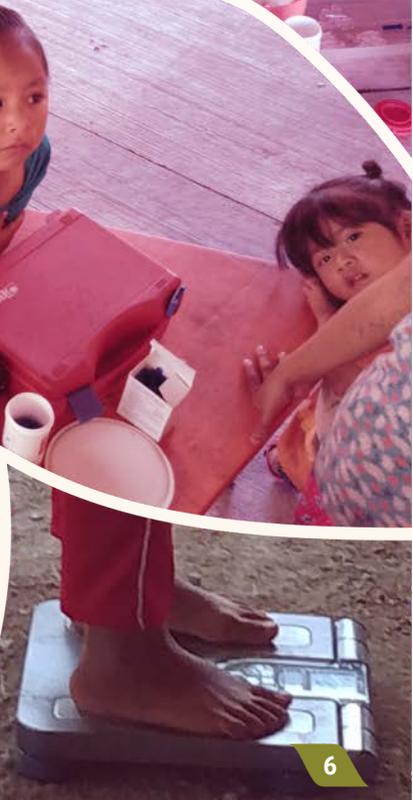
Ferrous fumarate 158

Infants  **92**

Children  **66**

Participants

Malnutrition and Anemia Program





Hogar Tseltal saludable

*Slecubtesel cuxlejilil ta
jwohc' jnahinel*

The eco-technology program aims to promote family development and ensure proper nutrition through techniques that connect with and harmonize with the environment. To achieve this goal, families are provided with and trained in the use of vertical worm composters and family gardens.

Instalación de ecotecnologías



Entrepreneurships

Social and Solidarity Economy Collectives

Slecubtesel cuxlejalil ta jwohc' jnahinel

During 2023, workshops were held for the members of **Yo'tan te', Hi'lum y Ajaw Chab**. The workshops covered topics such as internal regulations, roles and responsibilities, quality, process mapping, costs and pricing, innovation, market segmentation, and project formulation. We received support from advisors who visited the groups in their communities.

These trainings help formalize and strengthen the groups while professionalizing the activities carried out in their ventures. At the end of the year, a sales exercise was conducted with various institutions and companies.

“ *Regarding costs and pricing, the women were surprised, as they were not aware of all the factors considered when calculating product prices; they mentioned that they used to set prices without accounting for their time and investment.* ”



43
partners



\$85,000
in sales

Commercialized Products

- Furniture (shelves and benches)
- Wooden snack tables
- Concrete candle holders
- Three-candle table set
- Honey



Savings Group for a Better Life

*jWohc' stsobqu'ejel taqu'in
yu'un slecubtesel cuxlejilil*

Within Ixim's methodology, three savings cycles are considered; during 2023, six cycle closures were carried out in the different communities.

Through this process, participants have improved their lives by using the resources to enhance their homes, purchase appliances, reduce junk food consumption, and assist the less fortunate.

An experience-sharing meeting was held for all the collective self-financing groups in San Jerónimo. Representatives from the six groups shared their achievements, exchanged ideas, and discussed ways to manage administration and regulations."



\$600,650
Total Savings
Across
Communities

Cycle closure	GROUPS	PARTICIPANTS	SAVINGS	GOAL EXCEEDED
1st Cycle	5	82	\$332,739	65% participants
2nd Cycle	1	32 (18 external)	\$267,111	81% participants



Life Skills Training Program



Chahpambil sbehlal p'ijubtesel yu'un cuxlejilil

With the participation of representatives from Ibero Puebla, the graduation of 82 women from the Life Skills Training Program was carried out. These women began the program in 2021. Diplomas were awarded to those who completed more than 80% of the 110 lessons, covering the four key areas: Health, Society and Culture, Environment, and Economy.

During this year, the training program was initiated in the three new communities with the newly incorporated groups: San Miguel Canxanil, San Marcos Tulijá, and San José Patwitz. For this new training cycle, Book 1 was provided, containing topics that reinforce practical skills related to health, nutrition, good eating habits, hygiene practices, organic fertilizers, and environmental care. The participants received the corresponding materials, including books, worksheets, pencils, colored pencils, erasers, and pencil sharpeners.

Graduates



82
women

Distribution of materials



84
Books and worksheets



Pilot Program: Play Libraries and Child Savings

We carried out the closure of the pilot toy library program with the groups from the six communities we support. The child savings, which reached over 14,000 pesos, were distributed to a total of 80 participating children.

Additionally, 7 young people, both women and men, participated and managed to save 3,130 pesos.

This program included reading, writing, and drawing exercises that helped develop fine motor skills, as well as organizational and group coordination abilities.

Strengthening Our Hearts as a Team

In January, we attended the first Life Skills workshop at IXIM's operational offices in Ocosingo, accompanied by our friends and teachers Jenny Hidalgo and Claudia Vallina from the city of Puebla.

In December, to close the year, the entire IXIM team traveled to Puebla to participate in the Nonviolent Communication (NVC) workshop, which has allowed us to communicate more effectively with each other and with those around us.



	PARTICIPANTS	SAVINGS
Children	80	\$14,000
Youth	7	\$3,130



Partnerships

Mach'atic ya xcoltaywanej

Training Center for Indigenous Promoters Chilón, Chiapas

The Collective Self-Financing Group model was shared in the community of Coquite'el by four women from the community of Pinabetal. This allowed for an exchange of experiences among the women participating in these groups.

JOY JOY

HIV screening tests were carried out in the communities of San Jerónimo, San Pedro, Fortuna, Capulín, Guaquitepec, and Pinabetal. At the same time, an HIV workshop for youth was conducted in the six communities we support.

Soriana Foundation

We shared our Rainwater Harvesting System model to be replicated in communities in the region surrounding the capital.

En Concreto

The entrepreneurs from Hi'lum visited the 'En Concreto' workshop in Guadalajara to learn how to create and handle larger pieces.



Celebrating and Reaping the Fruits of 5 Years of Journeying

An evaluation was conducted with each of the groups from the six communities we support to review the five years of journeying with IXIM under the new accompaniment model.

Subsequently, we held a meeting in the community of Capulín to gather feedback from the six groups and bring it to Mexico City for the annual event held at CEMEFI. There, the IXIM family gathered around the Mayan Altar, where representatives from each group presented the evaluation results.

The celebration brought together the entire IXIM family: friends, relatives, advisors, IXIM founders, individual donors, and representatives from allied foundations.

Asistentes

10
IXIM team

10
Board of council

13
Group Representatives

10
Partner Foundations

48
IXIM friends

*Squ'intayel soc stsobel te sit
a'tel ta ha'i ho'eb hábil
behenel ini*



Evaluating and Dreaming: Planeación 2024 - 2028

During the month of November, a reflection was held on the five-year journey of IXIM with the groups from the six communities. This marked the beginning of gathering feedback from the groups to prepare for our institution's 2024–2028 strategic planning meeting.

In addition to conducting an analysis of the current reality using the PESTAL methodology (analyzing the Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental,

Yocliyel soc swayichtayel: Schahpanel sbehlal a'tel 2024-2028

and Legal situation), several guiding questions were addressed that provided new insights to improve our accompaniment model:

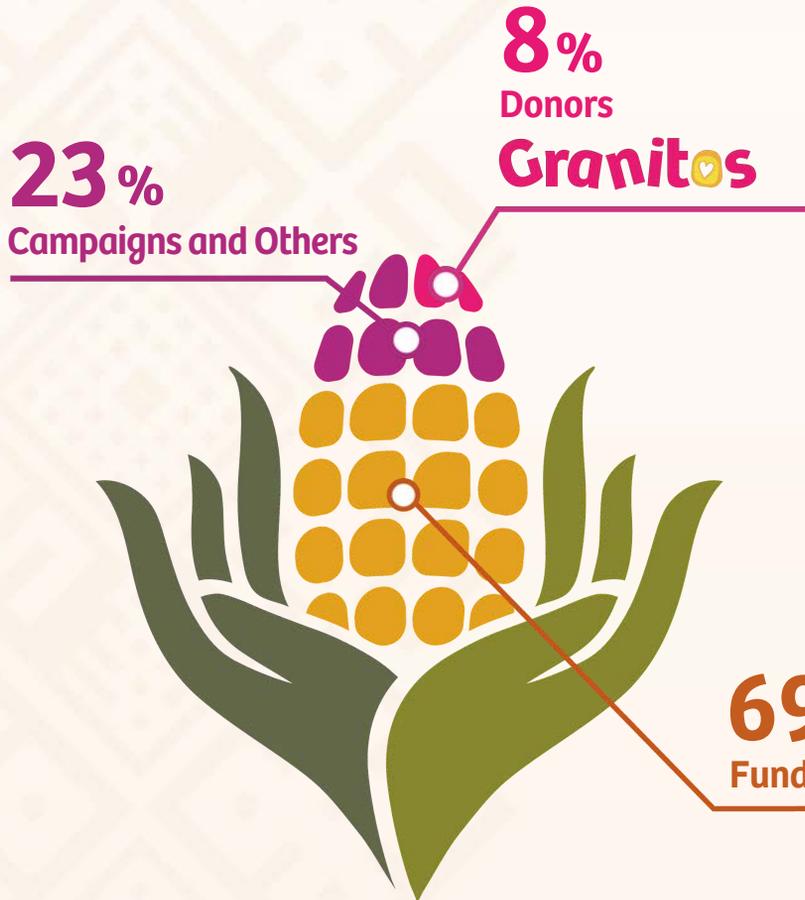
- **What has not worked in what IXIM has done? What has IXIM not done well?**
- **What should IXIM and the team improve to enhance their accompaniment and processes?**
- **Why do you think many women left the group? (What did they not like?)**
- **What problems exist in our family/community that IXIM is not addressing?**
- **What do you ask IXIM to see or address regarding the problems we have in the community?"**



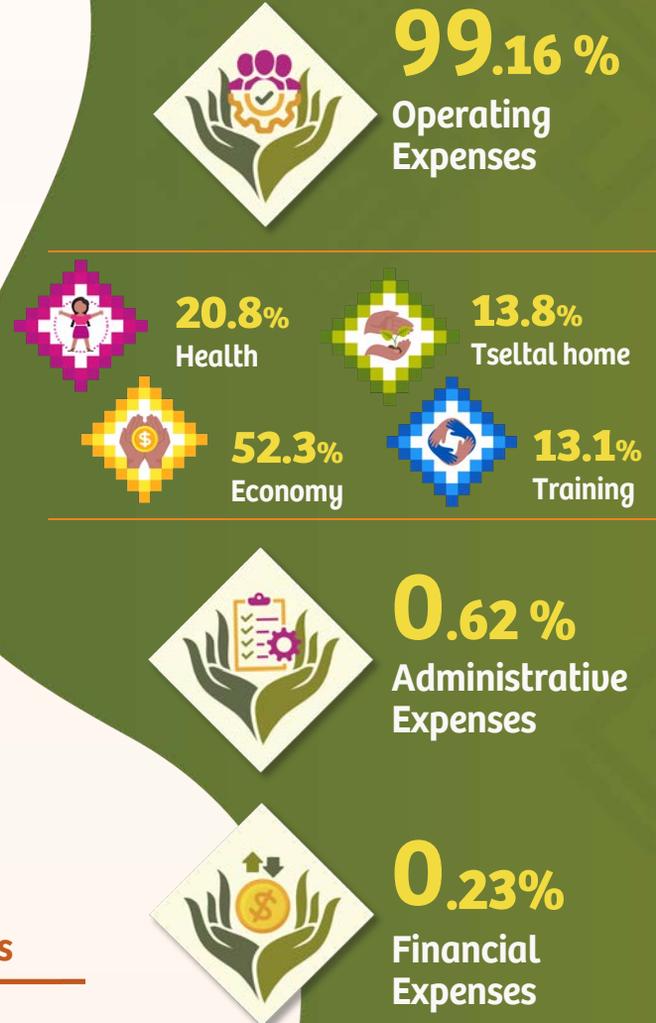
Financial Report

Yaqu'el ta na'el
banti ya xtuquin
te taqu'in

Income



Expenditures



Testimony

Yaqu'el ta na'el sc'op

“

It was difficult to find women to form this working group. I even went door to door to invite them because I saw the need in my community. Later, we started making gardens—each family began to create their own garden and learn how to properly feed their children. Then IXIM gave us a water collector, a water purifier, and a firewood-saving stove. From there, we began thinking about what we wanted to do, and the proposal for the Hi'lum Antsetic venture emerged (...)”

“Before, the community did not accept women working; they didn't like it. There was a lot of envy, and they even threatened to fine us (...). Later, we spoke with the community, started conversations with the local authorities, and now they allow it. They recognize the work we are doing and even encourage us to continue working.

”

María del Carmen Álvarez Pérez

Pinabetal, Chilón, Chiapas - october 2023





Volunteering

Mach'a loqu'em ta yo'tan ya xcoltaywanej

2

Volunteers

8

IXIM
Collaborators
Team

27

Social
Service

Harvesting Major Achievements in 2023

Tsobel jayeb sit a'tel te laj yich' pasel ta habil 2023

Dear IXIM Family and Community

With great joy, we share the important achievements we harvested in 2023.

We celebrate another year of working closely and respectfully alongside nine groups in Tselal Indigenous communities. The accomplishments of this year not only fill us with hope but also strengthen our commitment to continue working for the well-being of the communities—promoting physical health through health campaigns, strengthening the Healthy Tselal Household with water filters, firewood-saving stoves, and gardens, and supporting productive ventures and savings groups.

I want to especially thank the communities for all their effort and dedication. We recognize the achievements of the six groups that are already in a self-managed development phase, and we wholeheartedly celebrate the three new community groups that have completed a year of hard work and commitment to empowering their members.

Thank you, IXIM team, for being so present and united, always looking for ways to support, accompany, train, and strengthen the groups and their communities. Your dedication is impressive. Your efforts have a direct impact on the lives of many people, and your support is a fundamental part of this process of empowering communities.

Thank you, IXIM Family, Advisors, Collaborators, Partners, and Donors. Your generosity is a source of inspiration for us and for all those we accompany. It fills us with joy and gratitude to know we can count on your support and trust.

With all our love and appreciation,

Verena Grimm

Presidenta de IXIM A.C.



Acknowledgements

Bayel Hocolawal

CASA GALLINA
CULTURA • COMUNIDAD • MEDIO AMBIENTE

CNC
TRIANGLE STUDIO

EN·CONCRET[]



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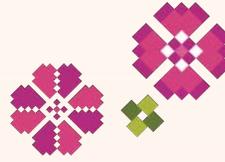
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Soriana
Fundación

Ya xbehenotic ta jun nax co'tantic



Let us walk together
with one heart

Sign up for the program

Granitos

Donate here



www.ixim.org.mx

