






# Annual Report 2022



Creating  
spaces of hope







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# Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to our 2022 annual report. Another year of great achievements and learning at ProDESC comes to an end. I am very pleased to share with you through this means what we have promoted, from the organization that I lead, for the defense and promotion of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) in Mexico.

This year, ProDESC made important progress in the defense of the land and territory of the agrarian communities and indigenous people of Mexico. Particularly in Union Hidalgo, after more than 5 years of struggle, the community, alongside with ProDESC and numerous allies, obtained the definitive cancellation of the Gunaa Sicarú wind megaproject that the French company Électricité de France and its Mexican subsidiaries wanted to build in their territory. Additionally, in August 2022 the Mexican authorities recognized the social property of agricultural land in Juchitán de Zaragoza, in a ruling that will have repercussions in favor of indigenous communities' rights in the region.

In terms of labor human rights, several strategies promoted by ProDESC have been strengthened, such as the opening of Centers for workers, the organization of meeting and exchange spaces between women from different sectors of the Mexican industry, as well as the articulation to defend the rights of app workers. Finally, ProDESC has innovated and expanded its training

spaces, strengthening the capacities of human rights defenders in Mexico and in the Latin American region.

Defense tasks are, without a doubt, highly demanding and risky, but they generate spaces of hope whose changes remain over time. I invite you to read this report in detail, a document that compiles the efforts of many defenders of economic, social and cultural rights. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the communities and collectives that we work with, as well as the entire ProDESC team and our allied organizations.



Alejandra  
Ancheita



# Message from the Advisory Board

2022 comes to an end. Another challenging and hopeful year for human rights defenders in Mexico. Especially in ProDESC, we have achieved important results in the defense and promotion of the economic, social and cultural rights of the most marginalized people in the country. I am proud to be part of the Advisory Board of a tireless organization that, with fervor and tenacity, seeks to achieve a dignified life for everyone.

Congratulations ProDESC for so many achievements,

Let's continue building spaces of hope!

Dolores González Saravia  
member of the ProDESC's  
Advisory Board



# About us



The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Project, AC (ProDESC) (Proyecto de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales, A.C.) is a feminist organization with a transnational scope and an intersectional vision of human rights, founded in 2005 by the lawyer and human right defender Alejandra Ancheita. ProDESC's main objective is to defend and promote economic, social and cultural rights, to contribute to their validity, justiciability and enforceability, and thus build a more just and equitable society.

## Mission



Defend and promote, from a comprehensive perspective, the economic, social and cultural rights of groups that are disadvantaged with respect to the full enjoyment of their rights.

## Vision



That communities and workers enjoy a dignified life from the collective organization and the understanding and exercise of their human rights, specifically economic, social and cultural.

## Methodology

The comprehensive defense method is the model applied by ProDESC for the promotion and defense of the economic, social, and cultural rights of communities and collectives. This proposal, unique in Mexico, is perfected and complemented over time in a joint creation exercise that involves communities and collectives as a central element.

The comprehensive defense method is based on a series of strategic guidelines, that, when applied harmoniously, increase the probability of access to justice and the enjoyment of ESC rights for communities and collectives not only in Mexico, but in the Global South. These guidelines are:



National and international strategic litigation in human rights.



Analysis of key information for the defense of human rights.



Incidence with public and private actors with interference in human rights.



Strategic communication with narratives that contest the hegemonic discourse.



Organizational strategies to strengthen collective subjects.



Workshops and training for human rights defenders.

## Theory of change

ProDESC has a 2017–2027 strategic plan with three change targets:





# Our TEAM

## Executive Director

Alejandra Ancheita is the Executive Director and founder of ProDESC. Since 2005, she has led processes aimed to protect economic, social, and cultural rights with unprecedented results, such as accountability mechanisms for important transnational businesses. Alejandra was granted with the 2014 Martin Ennals Award by the International Human Rights community and in 2015 she received recognition from the Mexican Senate for her ongoing work as a human rights defender. Alejandra studied Law at the Metropolitan Autonomous University (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana) in Mexico City and has a master's degree in International Law and Global Justice from Fordham University School of Law in New York.

## Team

### **Alejandra Ancheita**

Founder and Executive Director

### **Juan López**

Transnational Justice Coordinator

### **Briseida Aragón**

Senior Lawyer

### **Guillermo Torres**

Senior Lawyer

### **Alejandra Flores**

Semi Senior Lawyer

### **Marlene Rodríguez**

Semi Senior Lawyer

### **Gabriel Rocha**

Organizational Processes Coordinator

### **Sofía Parra**

Head of the Human Rights and  
ESCR Defenders Program

### **David Bravo**

Land and Territory Organizer

### **Daniel Pacheco**

Land and Territory Organizer

### **Efrén Lugo**

Labor Human Rights Organizer  
in Topolobampo

### **Indira Solís**

Labor Human Rights Organizer

### **Lautaro Marcionni**

Strategic Communications Member

### **Estefania Díaz**

Strategic Communications Member

### **Eduardo Villarreal**

Analysis and Advocacy Coordinator

### **Jesús Guarneros**

Analysis and Advocacy Member  
in Land and Territory

### **Lautaro Costantini**

Institutional Development Coordinator

### **Melissa Rando**

Fundraising Manager

### **Betzaida López**

Institutional Development Member

### **Isaura Pagaza**

Administration and Finance Coordinator

### **Kelly Rodríguez**

Head of Accounting and  
Human Resources

### **Mario Granados**

Financial Resources Manager

### **Elizabeth Zamora**

Administrative and Accounting Assistant

### **Socorro Barriga**

Maintenance Responsible



# Members of the Board of Directors

**Alejandra Ancheita**  
Executive Director of ProDESC

**Benjamin Davis**  
Director of International Affairs at United Steelworkers

**Dolores González**  
Cofounder of SERAPAZ

**Wolfgang Kaleck**  
Founder and Executive Director of the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights

**Manuel Fuentes**  
Labor lawyer and academic

**Jorge Fernández**  
Retired Judge of the Administrative Litigation Court of Mexico City

**Tamaryn Nelson**  
Researcher at Physicians for Human Rights

**Mylai Burgos**  
Academic at the Autonomous University of Mexico City (Universidad Autónoma de la Ciudad de México)



OUR

TEAM

OF PROFESSIONALS

## National Coordinator of Labor Human Rights Defenders

(Baja California, Chihuahua, Sinaloa, Puebla, Oaxaca, Veracruz y Chiapas)

Collective created in 2013 to organize groups of working women and labor human rights defenders. Space of formation, training and information for the analysis and formulation of advocacy strategies for the labor human rights of women in Mexico.

## Coalition of Temporary Migrant Workers of Sinaloa

(Sinaloa y Sonora)

Collective made up of temporary migrant workers who, since 2013, have positioned themselves as defenders of the labor human rights of people who seasonally migrate to the United States under the H2 visa program. In 2018, the Coalition opened a Center for Assistance, Counseling and Attention to Migrant Workers (Centro de Asistencia, Asesoría y Atención al Trabajador Migrante, CAAATM) in Topolobampo, Sinaloa.

## Accompaniment and Organization Center for Workers

(Chihuahua)

ProDESC and the Collective Rosa Luxemburgo A.C. (Colectiva de Mujeres Rosa Luxemburgo A.C.), a group of women workers in the maquiladoras of Ciudad Juárez, opened this space in May 2022 to inform and organize workers in Chihuahua. This Center is part of the Transnational Labor Justice Corridor, a project that interconnects support centers for workers in the country.

## School of Transnational Justice (Regional scope)

Space organized annually since 2017 so that Mexican and Latin American defenders can learn about the defense instruments, methodologies and experiences that allow them to strengthen their strives for economic, social, and cultural rights in the region. It is also a space for connection and exchange between defenders.

## Community-based Security Measures

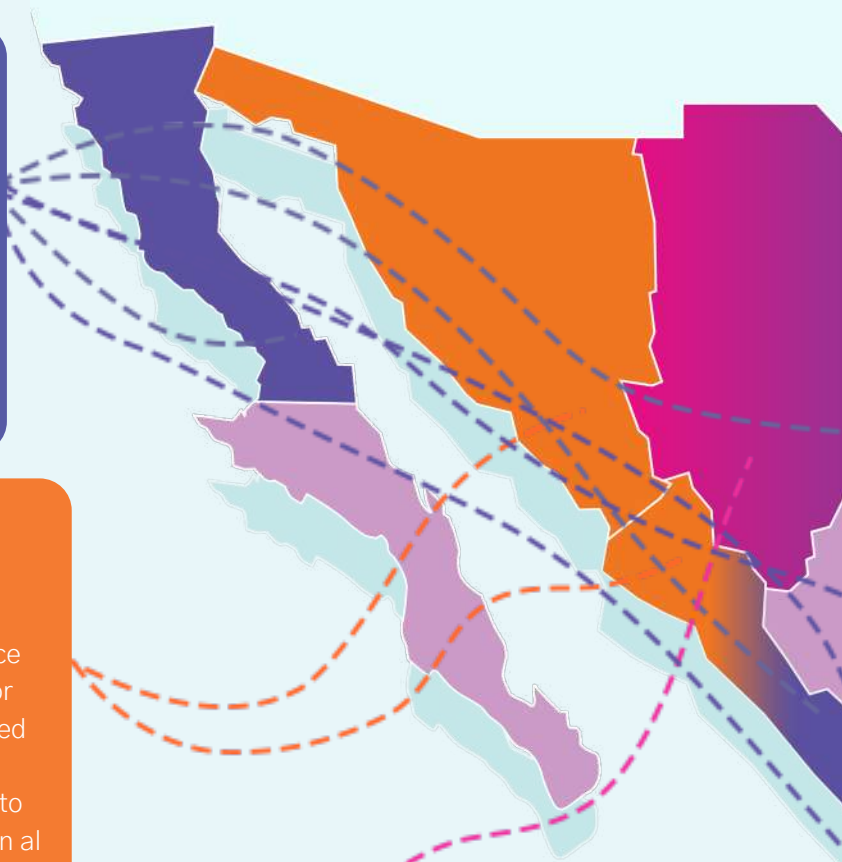
(Regional scope)

The Community-based Security Measures were developed at ProDESC to strengthen agrarian communities and indigenous peoples in the fight for their rights to land, territory, and natural resources, from a community perspective, in light of the risks they face for defending their human rights in Mexico and Latin America.

## P3N

(National scope)

Initiative promoted by various philanthropic foundations and civil society organizations to strengthen the security capacities of environmental defenders in Mexico. It has three main components: 1) documentation of assault cases; 2) rapid response fund to safeguard security; and 3) strengthening holistic security for defenders. ProDESC is responsible for strengthening holistic security.



# Our work and projects



## **RADAR Program (Transnational Scope)**

Instrument created in 2015 to combat the abuses that occur during the recruitment process of temporary migrant workers under the H2 visa system. RADAR seeks to hold employers in the United States accountable for abuses committed by their recruiters or intermediaries in Mexico, as well as companies involved in supply chains.

## **Defense of the land, territory, and natural resources of the Mayan communities of the Chichankanab Lagoon System (Quintana Roo)**

After the legal defense of the Ejido de Dziuché for the recognition of their ejido lands, ProDESC works with several ejidos bordering the Chichankanab lagoon to strengthen their organizational processes and thus, face possible threats to their land and territory.

## **Defense of the land, territory and natural resources of the community of Unión Hidalgo (Oaxaca)**

Work with the Assembly of Community Members of Unión Hidalgo and the Collective in Defense of Human Rights and Community Resources of Unión Hidalgo to defend their land, territory and natural resources from the construction of the Gunaa Sicarú wind farm, a project from Électricité de France and its Mexican subsidiaries.

## **National Union of Application Workers (National scope)**

Union of workers by application created in 2020 to address the legal and labor gaps that exist for people employed in said sector. ProDESC has initiated a follow up to strengthen their organizational capacities.



# Impact story 2022: Setback to EDF in Mexico!

The Isthmus of Tehuantepec is a region in the State of Oaxaca known for its favorable conditions for the production of wind energy. For several years, this vast territory has been the recipient of energy generating projects, transforming the landscape and the social dynamics of the surrounding communities.

In 2016, Électricité de France (EDF), a French public energy production and supply company, obtained energy generation permits and promoted the construction of a new wind farm in the territory of the community of Unión Hidalgo. This project, named Gunaa Sicarú, would become one of the largest wind farms in Latin America.

The Isthmus of Tehuantepec, of which the community of Unión Hidalgo belongs, was already surrounded by wind farms. Quickly, the inhabitants of Unión Hidalgo identified that this new project would have a negative impact on their quality of life and that it would violate various human rights of the community. Given this scenario, the community of Unión Hidalgo approached ProDESC and requested support to defend their land, territory, and natural resources.

From the beginning of the case, ProDESC verified that 1) EDF had signed unwarranted contracts and agreements, since the lands were communal property and not individual property; 2) EDF did not have communication

channels with the Unión Hidalgo Community Assembly, preferring to hold meetings with municipal, state and federal government bodies; and 3) the corresponding authorities had not received the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous community of Unión Hidalgo, in violation of various national and international regulations.

One of the main legal strategies was to file a claim for termination before the Agrarian Court of Tuxtepec, arguing that the lease contracts signed by EDF were illegal because there is no private property in the community. Likewise, an organizational accompaniment was started with the Collective in Defense of Human Rights and Communal Resources of Unión Hidalgo. A series of training sessions and informative talks were given on the impact of the project in the community, as well as on their community security in the face of the growing violence against defenders.

Along with this, ProDESC generated several communication campaigns focused on making visible the violations to human rights and the voices of the community. A final line of action was the positioning of the case before influential actors with decision-making power to reverse the possible construction of the park and protect the human rights of the community.

In parallel to the legal process in Mexico, ProDESC implemented a strategic transnational litigation to sue EDF in France, under the French Duty of Vigilance Law. The community, ProDESC and the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) filed a lawsuit to suspend the Gunaa Sicarú project in Paris on October 13, 2020. This lawsuit turned out to be the first worldwide promoted by an indigenous community in the Americas.



On June 2, 2022, after 5 years defending their rights to land, territory and natural resources, the community of Unión Hidalgo and ProDESC shared that the Federal Electricity Commission (Comisión Federal de Electricidad, CFE) decided to definitively cancel the electricity production contracts with EDF, with which the Gunaa Sicarú project was definitively cancelled.

Another breakthrough occurred in August, when the Agrarian Court of Tuxtepec ruled the nullity of 11 contracts signed between the alleged owners of Unión Hidalgo and an energy company in Juchitán de Zaragoza. The Court specified that the lands in question within the agrarian community of Juchitán de Zaragoza are entirely social property, therefore all contracts signed between individuals and companies are

invalid. The annulment also recognized the Community Assembly as the only body that can define the use, destination and enjoyment of the land. This sentence opened the possibility that the indigenous communities in the agrarian community of Juchitán de Zaragoza demand the annulment of the contracts signed by companies that already have wind farms built in the region, significantly reducing the inequality of power that persists between indigenous communities and transnational corporations.

These victories demonstrate, once again, the important work that ProDESC carries out for the rights of agrarian communities and indigenous peoples. The determination of the community prompted a significant change in their territory, also leaving a precedent for other communities in Mexico and the Global South that face large capital with interests in their territories.



# Unión Hidalgo TIMELINE





# Rights to Land, Territory and Natural Resources

## Community of Unión Hidalgo

The community of Unión Hidalgo belongs to the Zapotec indigenous people of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, in Oaxaca. For more than 5 years, ProDESC has been working with this community in the defense of their land and territory, threatened by the construction of the Gunaa Sicarú wind farm project promoted by the French company EDF and its subsidiaries in Mexico.

In June 2022, the community of Unión Hidalgo, together with ProDESC, announced that the CFE canceled the electricity supply contract with EDF and, in August, the Agrarian Court of Tuxtepec annulled the lease of 11 contracts signed between the alleged owners of land in Unión Hidalgo and a wind farm company. The court mentioned that these lands were communal and could not be recognized as private property. This sentence sets a precedent so that any person affected within the agrarian community of Juchitán de Zaragoza can request the chronological annulment of contracts that have been

authorized individually and not through the Community Assembly.

Despite the victory obtained with the cancellation of the energy supply contracts in Mexico, the lawsuit against EDF in France continues, due to the impacts that the lack of due diligence caused in the community of Unión Hidalgo.

In October 2022, the International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR) granted ProDESC and the Collective in Defense of Human Rights and Communal Resources of the indigenous community of Unión Hidalgo, the Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award. This prize recognizes the work of a person or organization that has made a significant contribution to corporate responsibility.

Thanks ICAR for your recognition!



# Dziuché Ejido

ProDESC has promoted meetings with the ejidos surrounding the Chichankanab Lagoon System in order to integrate them into the accompanied process that has been implemented with the ejido of Dziuché, since these ejidos also face the dispossession of their land, territory, and natural resources. During 2022, ProDESC took legal action to protect the land and territory of the ejidos of Kantemó , Bulukax, La Presumida and Santa Gertrudis. In the meetings held with members of the 5 communities, the effects that these territories could suffer were jointly analyzed. At the same time, an information campaign was promoted on indigenous radio stations in the area in favor of the protection and defense of indigenous territories and ejidos.



ProDESC collected 1,885 signatures from the inhabitants of the Dziuché ejido to request the General Assembly of Ejidatarios to carry out actions in order to continue with the protection of their territory. These signatures represented 63% of the total population of the ejido. On November 27, after receiving the signatures, the General Assembly of Ejidatarios decided to protect the territory of the Dziuché ejido from ecotourism, monoculture, and real estate projects, among others, that affect their right to land, territory, and community life.



# Labor Human Rights

## RADAR

On September 28, 2022, ProDESC, through the RADAR program, sent a notification letter to the American company Pontchartrain Blue Crab INC located in Louisiana (United States). The purpose of this letter is to notify the company about the violations of labor human rights of temporary migrant workers during their hiring process and work stay, among which are: work accidents and illnesses not covered by the company, lack of sanitation, lack of formal notices of dismissal and inclusion in the so-called blacklists that prevent workers from being called back during work seasons, among others.

In November, ProDESC invited Jennifer Gordon, associate professor at Forham University School of Law, to a conversation in Mexico City. Among other topics, the discussion focused on the RADAR Program and the possibilities of strengthening ProDESC's lines of action in order to broaden its scope to the different transnational supply chains where violations of the labor human rights of temporary migrant workers are identified.





# National Coordinator of Labor Human Rights Defenders (CNDDHL)

The CNDDHL met twice in Mexico City. During the first annual meeting, on April 30 and May 1st, the workers attended informative talks on topics related to social security.

The first session of a spokespersons workshop was also held, to enable participants to become agents of change and spokespersons for their collectives. The second annual meeting was held on October 21 and 22. It was focused on evaluating the potential and areas of opportunity represented by the CNDDHL. Likewise, the workshop on spokespersons continued.

The CNDDHL has met monthly virtually to receive training or discuss strategies to strengthen the space. On March 8, the women of the Coordinator published a statement on the Multimedia Platform explaining the objectives of their group and inviting new working women groups to join. In July, a workshop was held on violence in workplace and more specifically on the violence against female workers. At the August meeting, self-care sessions were organized and methods were shared to attend their work needs. At the September meeting, a communication campaign was jointly developed to make visible the Coordinator's work.

On October 24 and 25, 2022, ProDESC organized the second edition of the Intergenerational Dialogues for Women's Labor Human Rights, a creative and collective proposal for the promotion and defense of labor human rights of women working in the most precarious sectors of the Mexican economy.

The meeting brought together women academics, national and international civil organizations, and labor human right organizations to analyze the context of workplace violence, as well as exchange experiences and good practices to influence the improvement of women's labor rights in Mexico.



## Coalition of Temporary Migrant Workers of Sinaloa (CTTMTS)

In 2022, the Center of Advisory, Assistance and Attention for Migrant Workers (Centro de Asesoría, Asistencia y Atención al Trabajador Migrante, CAAATM) received, attended, advised, and assisted 704 temporary migrant workers, of which 407 are women and 297 are men. Among the most recurring topics there were applications for federal pension benefits, verification of job offers and filling out forms for tax return, among others .

ProDESC has worked with the CTTMTS to integrate a gender perspective into the work of the collective. On March 8, the Coalition presented at the CAAATM the book “Migration of Topeño women with H2B visas in the seafood industry in Louisiana, United States”, which recognizes the leading role that migrant women have played in the U.S. labor markets.

Likewise, on October 15, workshops called “Las Hijas de la Migración” (Daughters of migration) were held on labor human rights

with a gender perspective and the creation of the Women’s Commission of the CTTMTS was announced. Finally, ProDESC has facilitated an approach with specialist Chris Gruenberg, to provide the Coalition with advice on national and international non-discrimination norms, psychosocial support and the fight against labor violence.

On October 16, the 9th anniversary of the CTTMTS and the 4th anniversary of the CAAATM were celebrated. In addition to several awareness-raising talks, a commemorative mural was unveiled, painted on partitions that can be moved according to the needs of the group.

ProDESC and the Center for Justice and International Law (Centro por la Justicia y el Derecho Internacional, CEJIL) presented on December 8, via zoom, the report on Temporary migrant workers in the H-2 visa system: Rights violated, recruitment problems and possibilities for improvement. The report evidences the different human rights violations experienced by temporary migrant workers incorporated into the H-2 visa system. Likewise, it examines the role of recruitment agencies, employers and companies.





# Center for Accompaniment and Organization of Workers (CAOPT)

On May 14, 2022, the Collective Rosa Luxemburg A.C. and ProDESC inaugurated the Center for Accompaniment and Organization of Workers in Ciudad Juárez. This center seeks to be a space for training and organization for the empowerment of workers in Ciudad Juárez, as well as in the surrounding regions.

Since the opening of the Center, the Collective has positioned its work in spaces for the defense and promotion of their rights at a local and transnational level. In July, they participated in the discussion “Lights and shadows of labor human rights in Venezuela”; In August, they participated in the event “Building collective power for workers of digital platforms: Thoughts on the importance of organizing to advocate collectively.” Finally, in October they participated in the discussion tables of the Intergenerational Dialogues on Labor Human Rights in Mexico City.

Among other activities to make themselves known among the working population of Ciudad Juárez, the Collective has carried out flyers and visits to work spaces,

as well as meeting with local organizations such as Casa Amiga and the Women’s Movement in Juárez.





# National Union of Application Workers (UNTA)



On August 10, both parties signed a memorandum of understanding that lays the groundwork for cooperation in strengthening UNTA's organizational processes.

The aim is to build a broader and more diverse movement that contemplates the affiliation of women workers, migrant workers and other precarious workers identities. The meetings between ProDESC and UNTA have focused on strengthening the union's organizational and vocal capacities.

ProDESC has addressed the issue of workers by application in alliance with OXFAM Mexico, the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation, the Network of Women Trade Unionists and the Solidarity Center. In August, these organizations convened a National Workshop for Digital Platform Workers: "Towards labor regulation in Mexico", aimed at digital platforms workers who want to get involved in strengthening the labor regulations that governs them. Subsequently, we worked together on the "Manifesto for a Minimum Floor for Digital Platforms Workers" presented to the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare as a basis for a labor reform that integrates the labor rights of this sector.



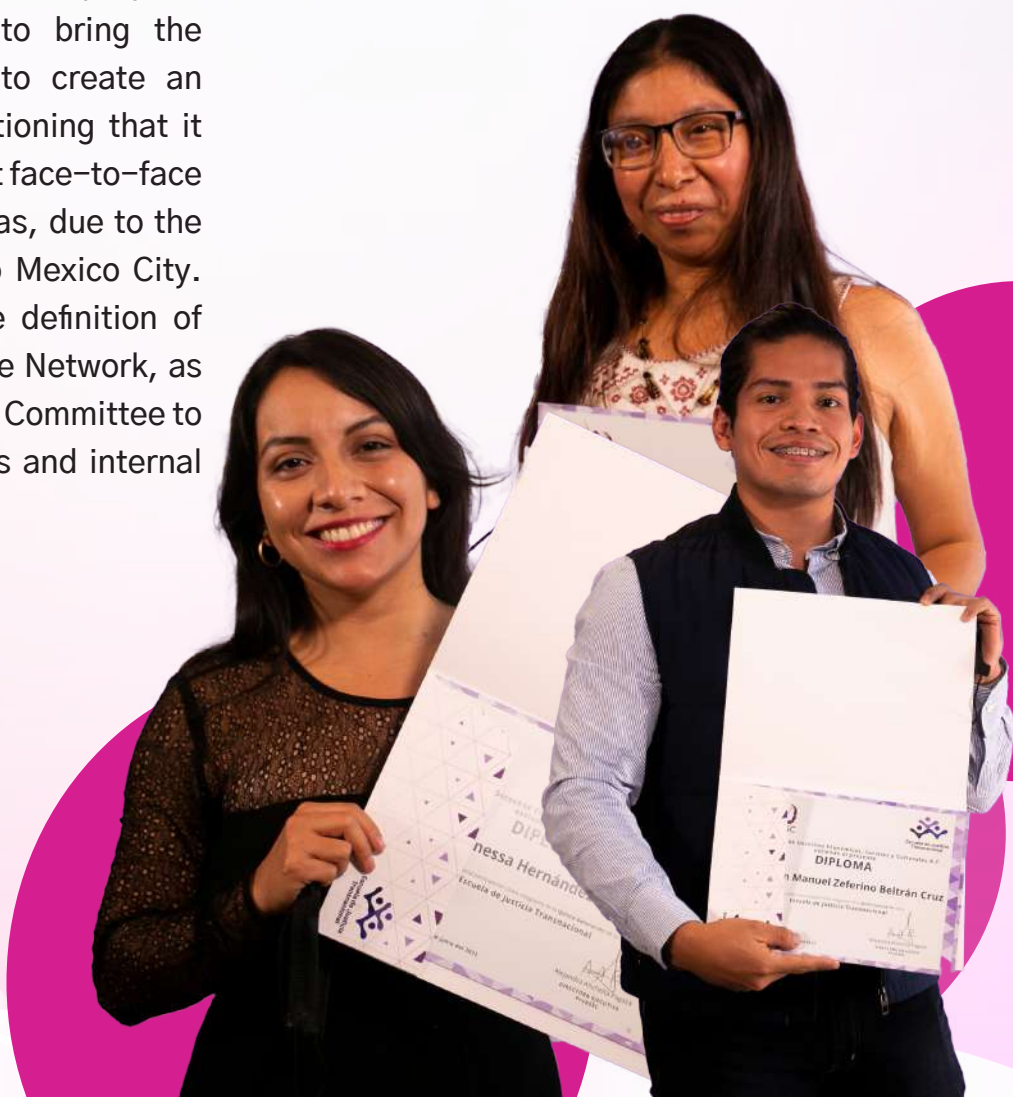
# Right to defend human rights

## School of Transnational Justice (EJT)

The fifth generation of the Transnational Justice School was held from December 2021 to June 2022. This space brought together a total of 32 defenders, of which 21 are women and 11 are men. In the last session of June 2022, the participants made their final presentations in person in Mexico City. It was an opportunity to share and built support networks.

On June 18, ProDESC organized the first intergenerational meeting between the fourth and fifth generations of the EJT. The purpose of the meeting was not only to bring the generations together, but also to create an Alumni Network. It is worth mentioning that it was also an opportunity for the first face-to-face meeting of the fourth generation as, due to the pandemic, they couldn't travel to Mexico City. The meeting culminated with the definition of general guidelines of action for the Network, as well as the creation of a Promotion Committee to generate communication activities and internal dialogue actions.

After several requests to participate in the EJT from Latin American defenders, ProDESC and the Academic Coordination worked on the design of a proposal for a School that includes content of interest to defenders throughout the region. The process was successful and on September 1st the Call for the sixth generation was launched throughout Latin America. The virtual opening meeting was held on December 2, 2022, with participants from 7 countries of the region.





## Community-based security measures

On June 7, a virtual workshop was held with the Commission for Human Rights and Citizenship of Venezuela, in coordination with the Andrés Bello University and the Foundation for Justice and the Democratic State of Law, where the community-based security measures were presented. Between August and September, three new training sessions were held with organizations, communities or groups of former EJT participants. Among the recipient organizations were Luminas (San Luis Potosí), Friends without borders (Amigos Sin Fronteras, Chiapas), Claudia Cortés Collective (Colectivo Claudia Cortés, Mexico City), and the Poniente Yucatán Maya Council (Consejo Maya Poniente Yucatán, Yucatán).

The sixth Latin American Community-Based Security Measures Meeting was organized on September 2 and 3 in Mexico City. Around 20 people participated, including representatives from 4 countries: Mexico, Colombia, Argentina and Peru. Among the highlights were: 1) the definition of approaches and strategic lines; 2) the exchange of lessons learned and good practices; and 3) the socialization of the work of the Commissions. ProDESC has a microsite where you can find all the information regarding the Latin American meetings. In addition to this, eight working sessions have been held with the Training Commission, the Organizational Strengthening Commission and the Strategic Communication and Advocacy Commission.





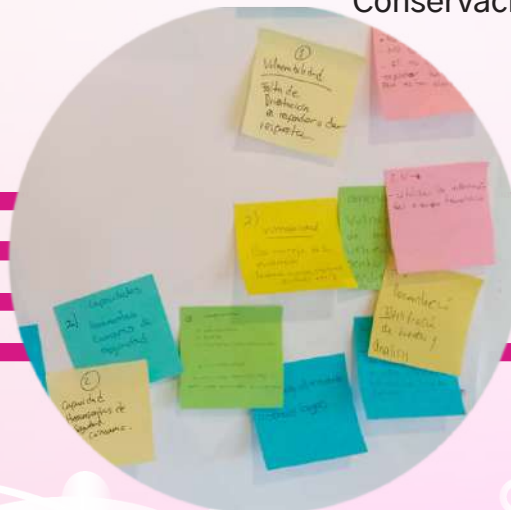
## P3N

The P3N initiative “Protecting People, Protecting Nature ” is part of a project promoted by various philanthropic foundations and implemented in coordination with Creatura, the Mexican Center for Environmental Law (Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental), Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide and Global Greengrants Fund. Its objectives are:

- 1) to document cases of aggressions against defenders;
- 2) to offer a rapid response fund to safeguard their safety; and
- 3) to train defenders of land and territory in holistic security.



ProDESC is in charge of the third component of the project. It worked with an external Academic Coordination to design and implement the program. In the first year of launching, 25 defenders from Baja California, Baja California Sur, Mexico City and Yucatán successfully completed the process. On July 8 and 9, a meeting was organized to close the training process of the first group of the P3N project. As a result of this project, in October, ProDESC held the Subregional Meeting in La Paz and provided personalized advice to the organizations Terra Peninsular, Friends for the Conservation of Cabo Pulmo (Amigos para la Conservación de Cabo Pulmo) and Niparájá .







# Our publications and collaborations

## ProDESC publications

**Informe** Sobre personas trabajadoras migrantes temporales en el sistema de visas H-2:  
*Derechos vulnerados, problemas en el reclutamiento y posibilidades de mejora.*

**Report on temporary migrant workers in the H-2 visa system: rights violated, recruitment problems and possibilities for improvement.**

This report evidences the different human rights violations experienced by temporary migrant workers incorporated into the H-2 visa system. It makes an approximation to the role of recruitment agencies, employers, as well as businesses.



Proyecto de Derechos  
Sociales y Culturales  
Ciudad de México

**PERSPECTIVA DE PRODESC SOBRE LA PUBLICACIÓN DE LA PROPOSICIÓN DE DIRECTIVA DEL PARLAMENTO EUROPEO Y DEL CONSEJO SOBRE LA DILIGENCIA DE MATERIA DE SOSTENIBILIDAD DE LAS EMPRESAS**

La publicación por parte de la Comisión Europea de una propuesta de directiva sobre sostenibilidad de las empresas representa un paso importante para quienes desde hace años consultamos, foros y debates con grandes expectativas de que la propuesta pueda contribuir a frenar el impacto destructivo de las empresas sobre los trabajadores, las comunidades y el medio ambiente, así como acabar con la explotación de las poblaciones humanas.

Desde el Proyecto de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales (DESC) de la

Organización de las Naciones Unidas (ONU) para las Américas (OEA) y la

Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos (CIDH) de la OEA, así como

del Consejo de Derechos Humanos de la ONU, así como de la

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Spanish / English



# Publications in which we participate

## Evaluating corporate due diligence through a gender perspective in Latin America

This document is a compilation from May 27, 2022, where Latin American activists and NGOs, international CSOs and academics gathered in an online workshop to discuss the differential impact on women's human rights when businesses fail to comply with their due diligence obligations.



## Main results and analysis on the First Conference of the Parties of the Escazú Agreement (CoP1)

The document is a report of a side event held within the framework of CoP1 in Escazú, as well as an analysis of the challenges, opportunities, and context in which the Agreement at the regional level.



## Investing in renewable energy to power a just transition: a practical guide for investors

The document contains ProDESC contribution on the Unión Hidalgo case to demonstrate the negative effects of the lack of adequate due diligence and the impacts on people's rights.



## Business and human rights litigation in Latin America: Lessons from practice

The document presents a toolbox and a database of paradigmatic cases of strategic litigation in the Americas. The Unión Hidalgo case is one of the three emblematic cases that are reported.

### Business and human rights litigation: Lessons from practice



## Publications of the Executive Director

- 03/15: **Inequalities and women: data and routes**, Opinion, Proceso Magazine.
- 03/26: **Inequality: the white elephant in the room**, Opinion, Proceso Magazine.
- 04/10: **Collective power against inequality**, Opinion, Proceso Magazine.
- 04/24: **Labor inequalities**, Opinion, Proceso Magazine.
- 05/08: **We are warriors, mothering in inequality**, Opinion, Proceso Magazine.
- 05/22: **Unión Hidalgo: wind dispossession or agrarian justice**, Opinion, Proceso Magazine.
- 06/05: **Energy justice is energy sovereignty**, Opinion, Proceso Magazine.
- 06/19: **Transnational Labor Justice Corridor**, Opinion, Proceso Magazine.
- 07/03: **The ability to be free**, Opinion, Proceso Magazine.
- 08/14: **Women and climate change I**, Opinion, Proceso Magazine.
- 08/28: **Women and climate change II: for the mothers of Ayotzinapa**, Opinion, Proceso Magazine.
- 09/11: **Women and business due diligence**, Opinion, Proceso Magazine.
- 09/25: **Inequality and modern slavery**, Opinion, Proceso Magazine.
- 10/09: **Labor inequality and applications (apps)**, Opinion, Proceso Magazine.
- 10/23: **Military espionage**, Opinion, Proceso Magazine.
- 11/20: **Airbnb and the right to housing in CDMX**, Opinion, Proceso Magazine.
- 12/11: **The right to housing II. An international look**, Opinion, Proceso Magazine.
- 12/25: **The insufficient labor reform**, Opinion, Proceso Magazine.
- Tobias Wuttke / Lise Smit / Asmita Parshotam / Alejandra Ancheita / Abu Meridian (2022), **Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence in Global Value Chains: Perspectives from the Global South**, SWP Working Papers
- Contributed a chapter to Katie Redford and Mark Gevisser's book (2022), **The Revolution will not be litigated**, O/R Books.

## Media

During 2022, ProDESC and its work have been monitored in the media, mainly in digital media, with a total of 327 appearances. In the accompaniment in defense of the right to land and territory there are a total of 151 local articles, 63 in national media and 74 articles in international media. The impact of ProDESC and its accompaniment in defense of labor human rights represented 21 notes in local media, 5 in national and 5 in international notes.

# ProDESC in the media

Throughout 2022, there were 146,813 visits to the webpage, with a total of 35,591 users located primarily in Mexico, the United States, and Europe. In order to improve the user experience, the website was updated and optimized in its desktop version and the mobile version was given greater relevance, since 69% of visits to the site are made from mobile devices. The 4 pages that were updated are the minisites of Unión Hidalgo, RADAR Program, the Coalition of Temporary Migrant Workers, and the School of Transnational Justice. Likewise, the pages of Dziuché, the Latin American Community-based Security Measures Network, the Center for Accompaniment and Organization of Workers, the Corridor of Transnational Justice, the Landing Page “CFE Cancela” and the Landing Page of Intergenerational Dialogues were created.



The Facebook Fan Page reported 15,291 followers and 13,914 likes at the end of the year. During 2022, 562 publications were made with 487,081 impressions linked to our work, as well as topics related to ESCR and publications from other civil society organizations. 70% of the followers are women between the ages of 25 and 35. The main countries of origin are Mexico, the United States, Colombia and Peru.

The number of followers on the official Twitter account is 8,705 people at the end of the year. During 2022, 799 publications were made with 425,858 impressions.



## Nationals



La Jornada  
El Economista  
Píe de Página  
Proceso  
DesInformémonos  
Animal Político

## International



El País  
BBC  
Biodiversidad LA  
Amerika21  
Infobae



# Financial report

ProDESC allocates the resources it receives according to the needs identified for each process and project it has.

In 2022, the land and territory axis required greater resources to deal respectively with 1) the expenses related to the trial in France; and 2) to achieve a comprehensive defense in the Chichankanab Lagoon system. Community-based security measures activities also increased this year, allowing the formalization of the Latin American Community-based Security Measures Network, as well as providing specific advice to defenders in risk.

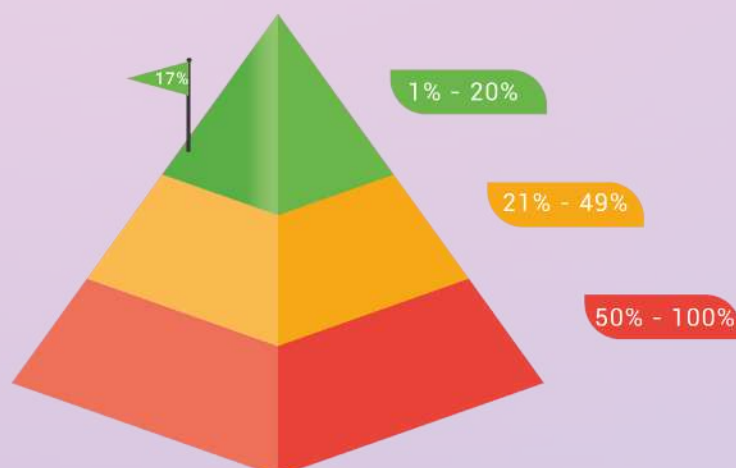


## Distribution of resources assigned by process or project

- |                                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Community of Unión Hidalgo        | Institutional strengthening |
| Community-based security measures | EyDDHH                      |
| CNDDHL                            | CAOPT                       |
| School of Transnational Justice   | CTTMT                       |
| Dziuché Ejido                     | RADAR                       |

As one of its budget risk indicators, ProDESC annually measures its level of dependency on foundations and organizations that contribute with resources to its activities. In 2022, ProDESC stood at a low level of dependency (17%), comparable to the one of 2021 (16%).

## Donor dependency indicator 2022



## Our donors



**BERTHA**  
FOUNDATION

Fundación  
**Avina**



**Brot**  
für die Welt

**OAK**  
FOUNDATION

**LEVI STRAUSS**  
FOUNDATION

**Wellspring**  
Philanthropic Fund

**PORTICUS**



**FORD**  
FOUNDATION

**Laudes** ———  
Foundation

**newventurefund**

the David  
Lucile &  
**Packard**  
FOUNDATION



**ACCOUNTABILITY ACCELERATOR**  
GLOBAL COMMONS ALLIANCE

## Fundraising campaign

From March 7 to 31, 2022, ProDESC organized a fundraising campaign as part of HIP Give's #GOMujeres microfinance movement. On this occasion, the campaign ¡JUNTAS por los derechos de las trabajadoras en las maquiladoras! (TOGETHER! For female workers' rights in maquiladora factories) aimed at strengthening the capacities of maquiladora workers in Ciudad Juárez in conjunction with the Collective Rosa Luxemburg A.C. After opening its Support and Organization Center for Workers in Ciudad Juárez, the Collective required some training in labor law to strengthen its knowledge and be able to advise working people, specifically working women.

# HIP GIVE





The campaign was disseminated on social networks, as well as on the organization's page. By the end of the month, ProDESC had exceeded its initial goal by 14%.

With this resource, the members of the Ciudad Juárez Center will receive their first workshop on human labor rights in January 2023.

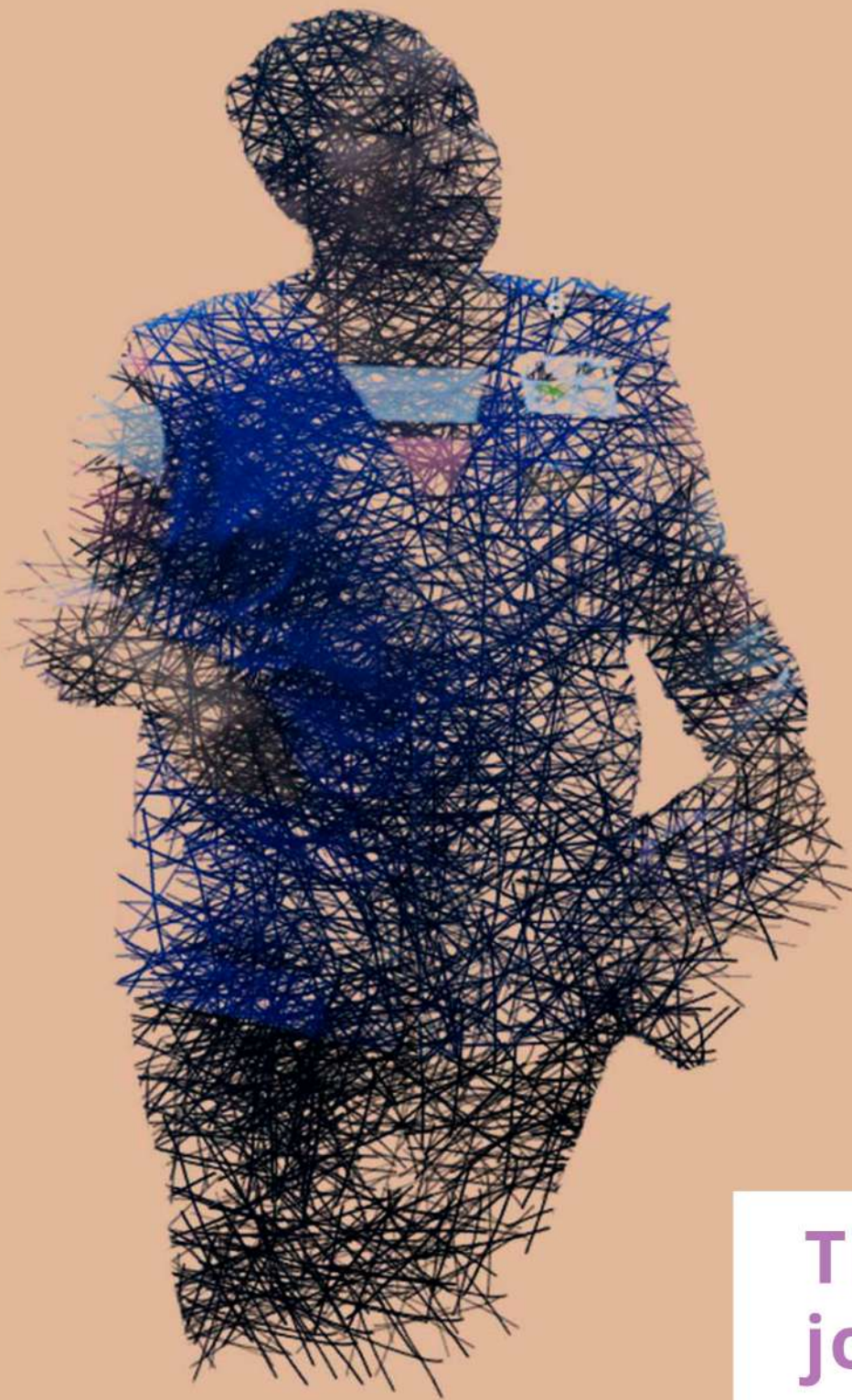


## You too can defend economic, social and cultural rights with **ProDESC!**

ProDESC is an authorized grantee before the Tax Administration System since January 2020. This allows the organization to receive in-kind donations at its offices located in the Condesa, Mexico City, or by transfer on its website.

Each contribution is one more grain of sand towards the defense and promotion of economic, social and cultural rights in Mexico. Remember, all your contributions are tax deductible. Don't think twice and... Join our community of donors!

If you require more information, do not hesitate to contact us at [recaudaciondefondos@prodesc.org.mx](mailto:recaudaciondefondos@prodesc.org.mx).



**Thanks for  
joining us!**



