

Annual Report



Annual Activities Report

Proyecto de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales A.C.

—
2023





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Message from the Executive Director



Alejandra Ancheita

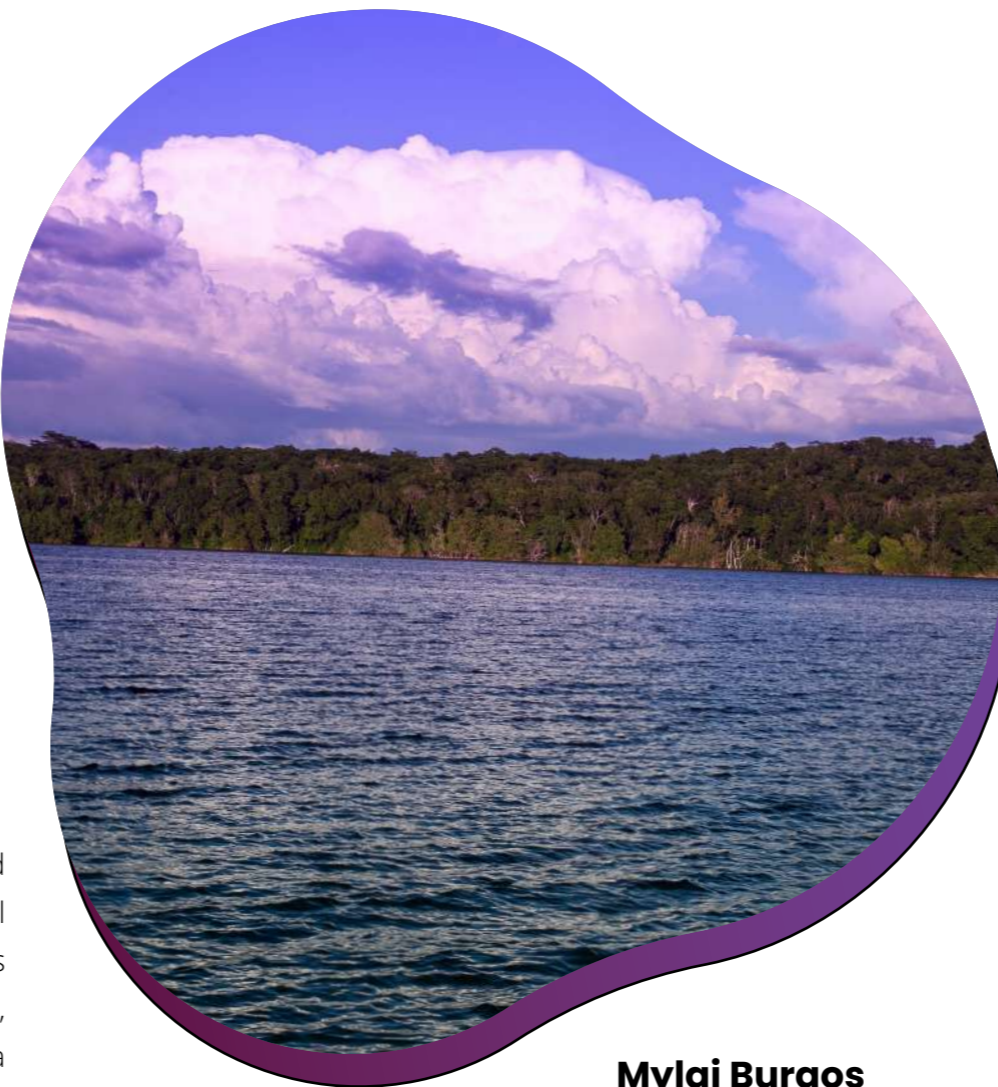
Founder and Executive Director of ProDESC

Welcome everyone to our Annual Activities Report 2023. We concluded the year with great achievements but also with high expectations for future work. We have started new partnerships that have led to new reflections and challenges, and we have strengthened our networks in Mexico and around the world, networks that have been woven together by the work of defenders and with the support of our allies.

Today, we are a consolidated organization, with a professional and capable team that provides support to groups, communities, and defenders to achieve a dignified life with the recognition of all their rights.

I am proud to share the work we do in the tireless fight for the defense and promotion of economic, social, and cultural rights. And I invite you to continue joining efforts to build together spaces of hope.

Message from the Advisory Board



Mylai Burgos

Member of the ProDESC's Advisory Board

The year 2023 ends as a year in which ProDESC has made significant progress in the defense of economic, social, and cultural rights. Their work focused on strategic litigation, advocacy, training, capacity building, information analysis, organizational strategies, and strategic communication in defense, protection, and respect for these rights is invaluable.



As a member of the Board of Directors, it is important for me to highlight the emphasis ProDESC has placed on carrying out all its work collectively and for the defense of groups and communities in situations of systematic vulnerability, making accompaniment a cross-cutting and essential axis of its work. This underscores the organization's commitment to carry out its work with a long-term perspective, with the fundamental objective of addressing social issues linked to the violation of these rights.

I would like to highlight the high level of organization they have in carrying out dozens of socio-judicial processes, which ensures that the work done reaches satisfactory levels within their proposed objectives.

Congratulations on another year of fruitful work, and let us continue building spaces for collaboration and struggle in the defense of human rights

About us

The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Project, AC (Proyecto de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales, A.C., ProDESC) is a feminist organization with a transnational scope and an intersectional vision of human rights, founded in 2005 by the lawyer and human rights 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.



Incidence with public and private actors interfering in human rights;



Strategic communication with narratives that contest hegemonic discourse;



Organizational strategies to strengthen collective subjects; and



Workshops and training for human rights defenders.

Mission

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

Vision

For communities and workers to enjoy a dignified life based on collective organization and the understanding and exercise of their human rights, specifically economic, social and cultural rights.

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 refined and complemented over time through a collaborative process involving communities and collectives as the 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:



Strategic national and international litigation in human rights;



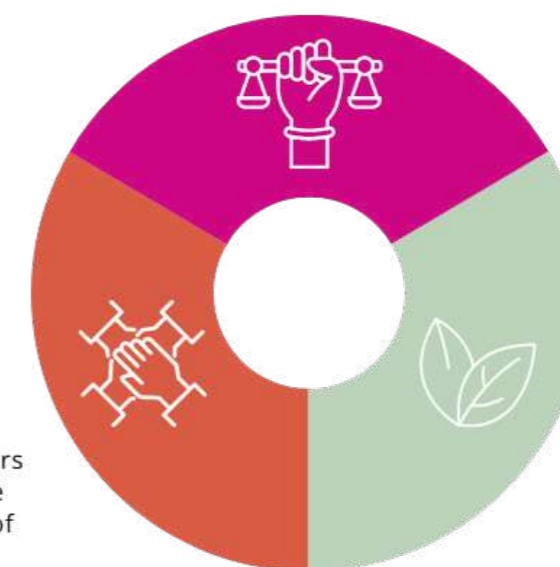
Analysis of key information for the defense of human rights;

Theory of change

ProDESC has a 2017-2027 strategic plan with three objectives of change:

Objective 1

In 2027, women and men of the communities and collectives supported by ProDESC equally decide about their rights to land, territory and natural resources, and their collective labor human rights; building political agency.



Objective 2

In 2027, agrarian and indigenous communities supported by ProDESC make effective the enforceability of justice regarding their rights to land, territory, and natural resources.

Objective 3

In 2027, collectives of workers supported by ProDESC make effective the enforceability of justice regarding their collective labor human rights, including freedom of union association and collective bargaining.

Our team

Our Executive Director

Alejandra Ancheita is the Founder and Executive Director of ProDESC. Since 2005, she has led processes aimed at protecting economic, social, and cultural rights with unprecedented results, such as accountability mechanisms for major multinational corporations. Due to the impact of her work, Alejandra was awarded the 2014 Martin Ennals Award by the International Human Rights Community, and in 2015 she received recognition from the Senate of the Mexican Republic for her continuous work as a human rights defender. Alejandra studied Law at the Metropolitan Autonomous University (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana) in Mexico City and holds a master's degree in International Law and Global Justice from the Fordham University School of Law in New York. In 2019, she received an honorary doctorate from Paris Nanterre University

Our Team

Alejandra Ancheita
Founder and Executive Director

Juan López
Transnational Justice Coordinator

Guillermo Torres
Senior Lawyer

Marlene Rodríguez
Semi Senior Lawyer

Juan Manuel Beltrán
Fellow Lawyer

Perla de Jesús Herrera
Fellow Lawyer

Francisco Méndez
Fellow Lawyer

Vanessa Ancheita
Fellow Lawyer

Gabriel Rocha
Organizing Processes Coordinator

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

Estefanía Díaz
Strategic Communications Member

Eduardo Villarreal
Analysis and Advocacy Coordinator

Jesús Guarneros
Analysis and Advocacy Member

Abigail Paniagua
Analysis and Advocacy Member

Sofía Parra
Head of the Human Rights and ESCR Defenders Program

Lautaro Costantini
Institutional Development Coordinator

Betzaida López
Institutional Development Member

Isaura Pagaza
Administration and Finance Coordinator

Kelly Rodríguez
Head of Accounting and Human Resources

Elizabeth Zamora
Administrative and Accounting Assistant

Ofelia Ojeda
Maintenance Manager

Verónica Valencia
Maintenance Manager

Members of the Board of Directors

Alejandra Ancheita
Founder and Executive Director of ProDESC

Benjamin Davis
Director of International Affairs at United Steelworkers

Dolores González
Co-founder 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
Legal Advisor at Amnesty International

Mylai Burgos
Academic at the Autonomous University of Mexico City

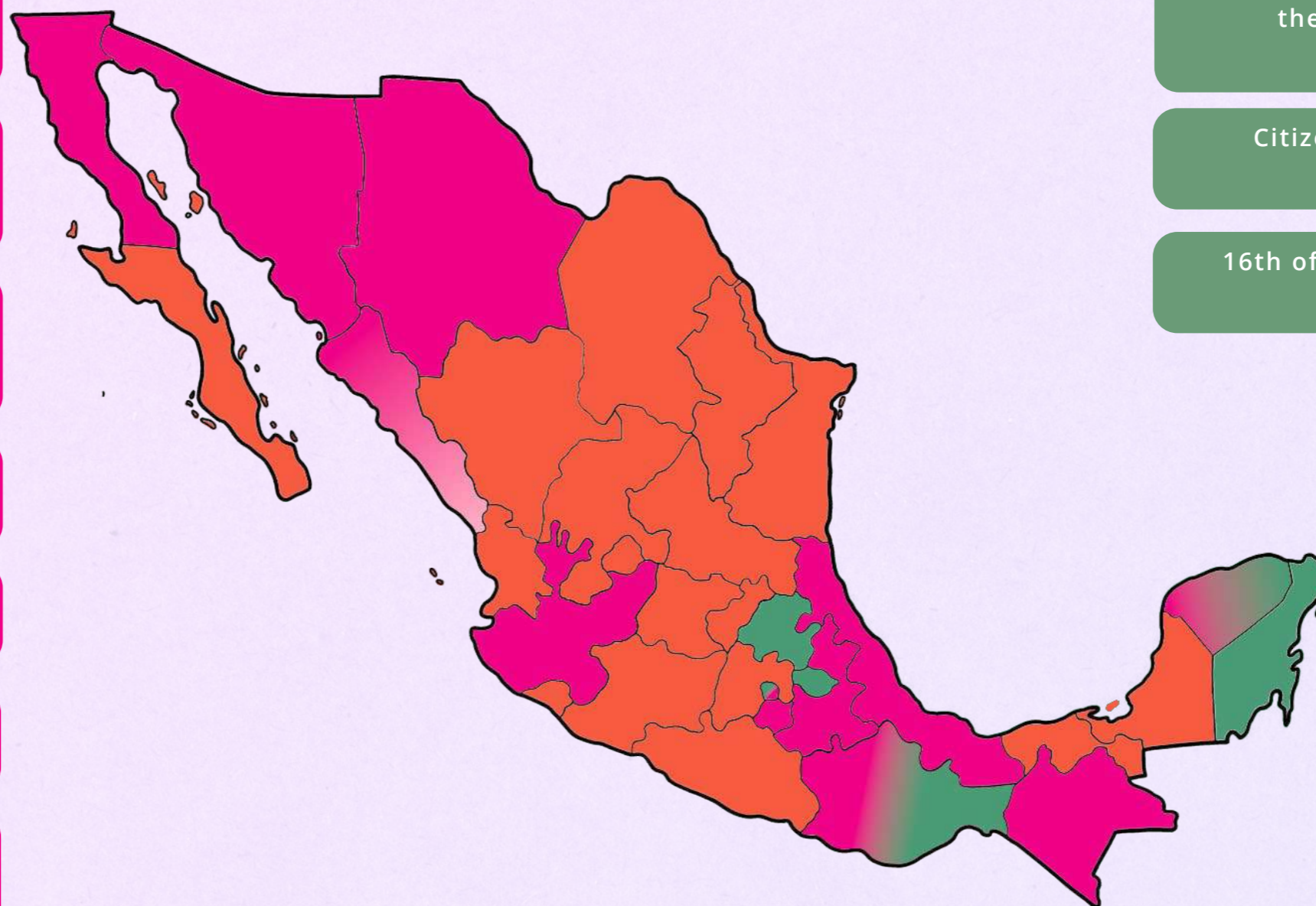


Map of work and projects

● Labour Human Rights

● Right to Defend Human Rights

● Rights to the Land, Territory, and Natural Resources



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

Defense of the land, territory and natural resources of the Unión Hidalgo Community (Oaxaca)

Defense of the land, territory, and natural resources of the Mayan ejidos around the Chichén Itzá Archaeological Zone (Yucatán)

Citizens' Assembly of the Town of Xoco (México City)

16th of October Collective of Calpulalpan (Tlaxcala and Hidalgo)

Community-based Security Measures (Regional scope)

Latin American Network of Community-based Security Measures (Regional scope)

"Protecting People, Protecting Nature" Initiative (P3N) (National scope)

School of Transnational Justice Network (REJT) (Latin American scope)

School of Transnational Justice (EJT) (Latin American scope)

National Coordination of Women Labor Rights Defenders

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

Coalition of Temporary Migrant Workers of Sinaloa

(Sinaloa and Sonora)

Accompaniment and Organization Center for Workers

(Chihuahua)

Sex Workers Labour Coalition (CLaPI)

(México City and Yucatán)

Drivers for Juárez (CXJ)

(Chihuahua)

Agricultural Workers' Union (UJA)

(Sinaloa)

National Union of the Motion Picture and Audiovisual Industry (UNICA)

(National reach)

RADAR Program

(Transnational scope)

Our work and projects

Coalition of Temporary Migrant Workers of Sinaloa (Sinaloa and 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.

Sex Workers Labour Coalition (CLaP!) (México City and Yucatán)

A collective made up of cis and trans sex workers, who seek to influence and organize for the defense, demand, and effective guarantee of human rights, especially labor and social security rights, to ensure dignified working conditions

Accompaniment and Organization Center for Workers (Chihuahua)

ProDESC and the Rosa Luxemburgo Women Workers Collective A.C., a group of women workers from the maquiladoras of Ciudad Juárez, opened this space in April 2022 to organize the workers of Chihuahua and provide advice on labor rights; particularly, to women workers in the maquilas sector. This Center is part of the Transnational Labor Justice Corridor, a project that interconnects support centers established in Mexico with workers in vulnerable situations.

National Coordinator of Women Labor Rights Defenders (Baja California, Chiapas, Chihuahua, Morelos, Jalisco, Sinaloa, Puebla, Oaxaca and Veracruz)

Collective created in 2013 for the collective organization of women worker groups and defenders of labor human rights. A space for training, capacity-building, and information for the analysis and construction of advocacy strategies for women's labor human rights in Mexico.

Defense of the land, territory and natural resources of the Unión Hidalgo Community (Oaxaca)

Support for community defenders from Unión Hidalgo, Oaxaca, in the filing of a lawsuit against the "Gunaa Sicarú" project before the French courts, using the Duty of Vigilance Law, as well as the recognition land's rights of defenders according to the Agrarian Law.

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

Following the legal defense of the Ejido of Dziuché for the recognition of its communal lands, ProDESC supports 5 neighboring Mayan ejidos around the Chichankanab Lagoon System to strengthen their organizing processes and thus, confront threats to their land, territory, and natural resources from public and private interests.

Defense of the land, territory, and natural resources of the Mayan ejidos around the Chichén Itzá Archaeological Zone (Yucatán)

Support of three Mayan ejidos located around the Chichén Itzá Archaeological Zone. With these ejidos, ProDESC is working on strengthening their agrarian structures and defending their land, territory, and natural resources against the expansion of megaprojects, land dispossession, and violations of their right to development.

Citizens' Assembly of the Town of Xoco (México City)

Support for the defense of the land and territory of the "originary" people of San Sebastián Xoco, located in the Benito Juárez delegation of Mexico City. For decades, real estate interests have negatively impacted the community's quality of life, a problem that has been exacerbated by the partial construction of the Mítikah project. This construction has led to violations of the community's human rights, including access to water, the right to prior, free, and informed consultation, and the right to development, among others. Additionally, the constant increase in urban services and taxes represents a significant threat of displacement for the community's inhabitants.

16th of October Collective of Calpulalpan (Tlaxcala and Hidalgo)

Legal and organizing support for the 16th of October Collective of Calpulalpan, composed of human rights defenders who protect the land and natural resources of the Calpulalpan community against the construction of the solar energy park "Nueva Xcala," which infringed agrarian regulations and caused environmental damage due to deforestation caused by the implementation of said project.

Drivers from Juárez (CXJ) (Chihuahua)

Cxj is an alliance formed by platform drivers in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua. It emerged in 2020 in response to the violence that impacted the platform driver community. In addition to having a local impact, Cxj has national influence, with similar groups in other cities in the country. ProDESC supports Cxj in the development of organizing and community security strategies, seeking to strengthen democratic leadership, especially among women drivers.

School of Transnational Justice (EJT) (Latin American scop)

A learning space that ProDESC has been promoting since 2017 for Mexican and Latin American human rights defenders to learn and to have access to the tools, methodologies, and defense experiences that allow them to enhance their defense of economic, social, and cultural rights in the region, facilitating the exchange between defenders from different regions.

School of Transnational Justice Network (REJT) (Latin American scope)

The REJT is a network created in May 2022 by people who have completed their training at the EJT. Its objective is to weave bonds of solidarity among the graduating defenders from the School, their collectives and/or communities, in order to encourage collaborations and build collective power in the defense of ESC rights and the environment in Mexico and Latin America..

“Protecting People, Protecting Nature” Initiative (P3N) (National scope)

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

Community-based Security Measures (Regional scope)

From the community security methodology developed by ProDESC with a group of Latin American organizations, the organization supports groups, agrarian communities and indigenous peoples in their defense for their rights to land, territory, and natural resources from a communal perspective. ProDESC advises on the development of security plans and protocols in order to strengthen the holistic security of communities and collectives facing risks in defending their human rights in Mexico and the Latin American region.

Latin American Network of Community-based Security Measures (Regional scope)

Regional network created in 2021, stemming from the development of annual meetings focused on the exchange of experiences in community and collective security in the Global South, especially in the context of land and territory defense processes in contexts of risk generated by states, corporations, and transnational capital. To date, more than 20 organizations, communities, and collectives in the region are working to strengthen strategic alliances based on transnational solidarity.

RADAR Program (Transnational scope)

A tool launched 2015 by ProDESC to combat abuses that occur during the recruitment process of temporary migrant workers under the H2 visa system and that seeks to hold employers accountable in States where abuses are identified, as well as various companies along the product supply chain.

Agricultural Workers’ Union (UJA) (Sinaloa)

The Agricultural Workers’ Union (Unión de Jornaleros Agrícolas, UJA) is a collective that arose from the need to defend and promote the labor human rights of agricultural workers in Sinaloa. The UJA seeks to be an organizational reference so that agricultural workers know and enforce their labor human rights.

National Union of the Motion Picture and Audiovisual Industry (UNICA) (National reach)

A union composed of professionals from the film and audiovisual industry who are fighting to protect labor rights in a sector where violations are frequent. Additionally, they seek to address the imbalance generated by new forms of content production and distribution, which often excessively favor platforms.





2023 Impact Story:

Global Strategy Meeting on Climate Justice and Corporate Accountability.

On April 17-18, 2023, ProDESC together with the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) and the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) had the opportunity to bring together more than 20 experts from 15 organizations from around the world at the Global Strategy Meeting on Climate Justice and Corporate Accountability, with the aim of developing strategies to address the social, political, economic and environmental crises in the Global North and South while guaranteeing the human rights of all people.

Derived from the workshop “Human Rights in Times of Crisis” held in Berlin in November 2021, which discussed issues such as the growth of authoritarianism, the increasing

concentration of economic power and social inequalities, and the role of the law in combating systematic human rights violations, the urgent issue of initiating joint action by organizations to work on a climate, gender and racial justice agenda emerged, with clarity that the analysis must also include the role of corporations in the respect and promotion of rights, and its influence on the protection and guarantee of these rights.

The meeting brought together experts to discuss three main objectives:

1. Promote a debate and agreements to continue the political and strategic reflection initiated in Berlin 2021.
2. Design a minimum agenda for global intervention, rethinking existing strategies and adjusting to new challenges and international scenarios, thus seeking to connect the struggles of the Global South with transnational and international forums.
3. Identify more allied organizations and movements to activate a renewed global human rights agenda and implement it from a transnational logic.

During the discussions, several conclusions were drawn, including: there is an increase in corporate power and, therefore, the need for greater accountability on human rights issues; it is necessary to create and improve corporate accountability mechanisms and to think about creative forms of demand beyond litigation and “name and shame”; and the need for intersectionality in the design of said Agenda.

During the day, a minimum agenda was proposed in the working groups with four objectives: research, training, communication, and strategic litigation.

1. Research: Building knowledge for action. This includes identifying a key data collection mechanism, mapping relevant actors, compiling information on fiscal policies, learning about the “follow the money” methodology, organizing generated information, creating an update bulletin on due diligence, and

sharing successes and lessons learned.

2. Training: Building sustainable power. Generate spaces for exchanging experiences on cases, socialize the agenda constructed, and share risk analysis methodology for the protection of defenders.

3. Communication: Change hegemonic narratives. The narratives will be around the themes of justice, gender and race, green transition, reparations and diversity of futures, promotion and follow up on due diligence, identification and advocacy in regional spaces and presentation of these narratives in international forums

4. Strategic Litigation: Strengthen accountability of economic actors. Develop strategies to hold managers and shareholders of corporations linked to human rights abuses legally accountable, strengthen and develop new litigation on energy transition, identify possibilities to litigate/accompany cases in alliance or bilaterally among group members, and promote “classic” litigation in criminal, civil and environmental matters.



Rights to Land, Territory and Natural Resources

Chichankanab Lagoon System

During 2023, several capacity-building activities were conducted for the inhabitants of different ejidos (communally owned land in Mexico) regarding the defense and promotion of the right to land and territory of their communities.

By July, the five ejidos around the Chichankanab Lagoon System (Dziuché, Bulukax, Kantemó, La Presumida, and Santa Gertrudis) had held Assemblies of Special Formalities, through which they decided to preemptively defend their land and territory against extractive and mega-tourism projects. Through these actions, the five ejidos effectively shielded the exploitation of the Lagoon System from external actors and interests.

Considering the importance of women in the defense of land and territory, activities were carried out with the Women's Agricultural and Industrial Units (Unidades Agrícola e Industrial de la Mujer, UAIM) in order to review and learn about the statutes and regulations on the agrarian law subject, and also to encourage women to gain access to land ownership through agrarian procedures.

ProDESC and the ejidos of Dziuché, Bulukax, Kantemó, La Presumida and Santa Gertrudis met in February 2023 in order to obtain the signature of all the ejidos to file an injunction against the installation of pig and

poultry farms in the municipality of Peto, Yucatán. During the meetings held, they jointly analyzed the effects that the ejidos could suffer, mainly in terms of health, since the waste from the farm would be directly reaching the Chichankanab Lagoon and the groundwater, which is the only source of water for human consumption in the area. In parallel, an additional injunction was filed for violations of the right to free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous people living in Peto; thus, on November 16, 2023, the Fifth District Judge in the State of Yucatán ordered the temporary suspension of the construction works of the Akutzá poultry farm of the company Bachoco S.A. of C.V.

As a result of the work carried out with the five ejidos around the Chichankanab Lagoon System, nearby ejidos requested ProDESC's assistance in reviewing their internal regulations and identifying areas of improvement.



**JUNTAS POR
LA JUSTICIA CLIMÁTICA**

Communities adjoining the Chichén Itzá Archaeological Zone

Chichén Itzá is one of the most important tourist attractions in Mexico, attracting around 2,500,000 tourists per year. However, the Mayan communities and ejidatarios of the communities near the archaeological zone receive nothing of the income generated by visits to Chichén Itzá, with state and federal authorities taking the lion's share of the profits. At the same time, federal authorities have prevented communities from developing ejido projects to take advantage of the tourist flow, and have prevented them from selling crafts and services around the archaeological zone.

In the first quarter of 2023, one of the ejidos near Chichén Itzá, Xcalacoop, requested ProDESC's legal accompaniment in the defense and protection of land, territory and natural resources. In April, an amparo lawsuit was filed to protect the agrarian rights of the Xcalacoop ejido, due to the registration of the Balankanché Caves as an archaeological zone before the National Institute of Anthropology and History (Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, INAH) and the Institute of Legal Patrimonial Security of Yucatán (Instituto de Seguridad Jurídica Patrimonial de Yucatán, INSEJUPY). This is due to the frequent use of the declaration of archaeological zones as a form of dispossession of the communities that, in addition, do not receive any type of economic recognition for it.

In September 2023, amparo lawsuits were filed to guarantee the right to culture, identity and cultural heritage for economic use, as well as to participation, information, inclusion in the administration, development and/or management of the Chichén Itzá archaeological zone of the indigenous Mayan community of Xcalacoop and Pisté, both belonging to the Municipality of Tinum, Yucatán.

Town of San Sebastián Xoco

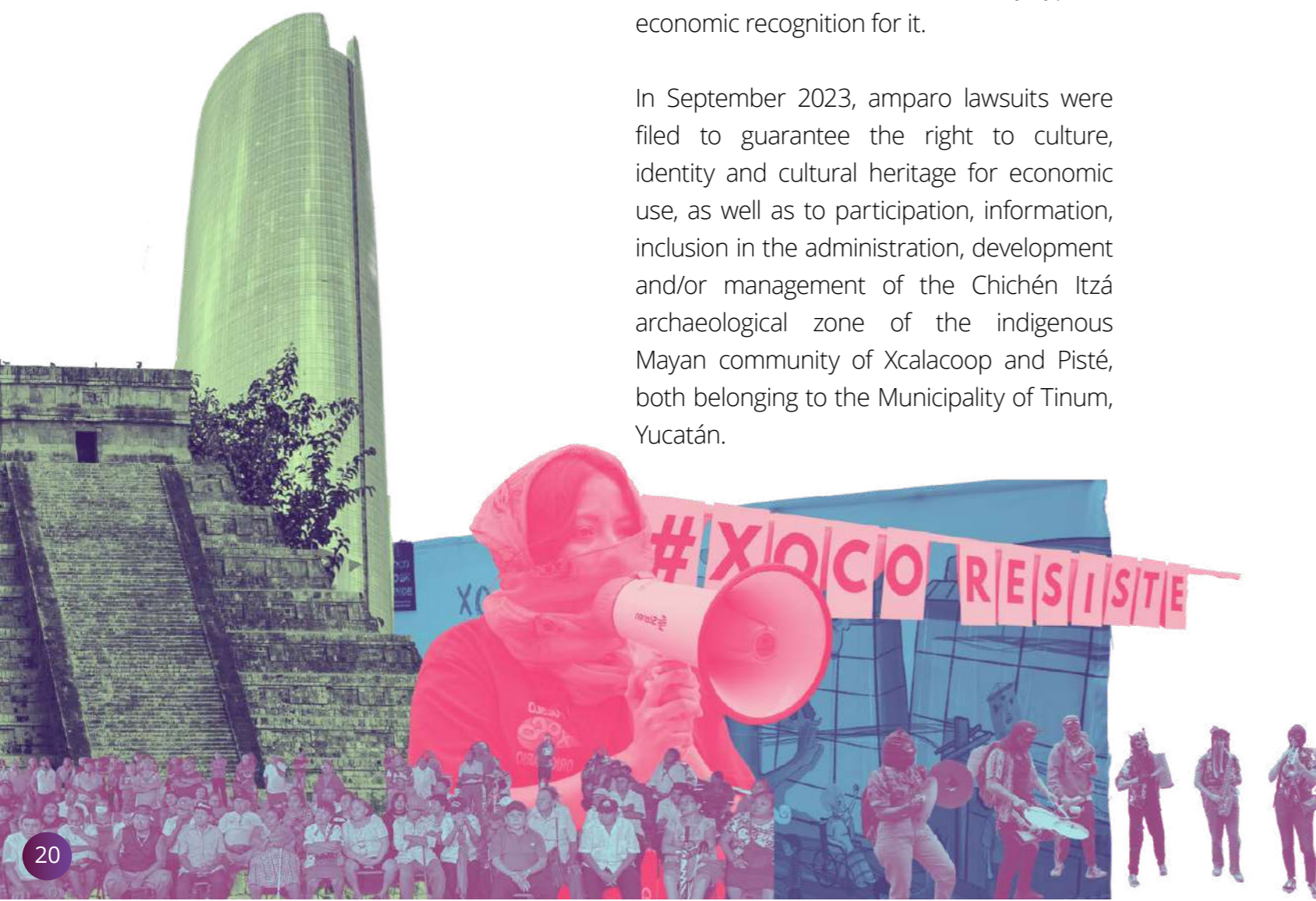
Mítikah is a real estate megaproject consisting of various residential and commercial buildings. It is important to mention that the Mítikah project is only partially completed; a second phase intends to construct several additional skyscrapers and expand the shopping center, which would become the largest in Mexico and Latin America. This expansion would generate cumulative and exponentially negative impacts on the indigenous community of San Sebastián Xoco. The town of San Sebastián Xoco was recognized as an "originary" town by Mexico City and, according to the local Constitution approved in 2017, they have the right to self-determination, land, territory, and natural resources, and to free, prior, and informed consent.

In February 2023, the town of San Sebastián Xoco requested ProDESC's assistance in defending their land, territory, and natural resources against the construction of the Mítikah project. One of the major impacts generated by Mítikah is the lack of access to drinking water, the privatization of public space which has had significant impacts on mobility, as well as the displacement of local commerce and an exponential increase in property taxes and other urban services, putting the population at risk of displacement due to gentrification. Additionally, the town was not properly consulted for the construction of the Mítikah project and, therefore, did not give its consent to it.

On March 22, 2023, with ProDESC's assistance, representatives of the Citizens' Assembly of the Town of Xoco filed an amparo lawsuit before the District Courts in Mexico City against various authorities for violating their right to free, prior, and informed consent, as well as to participate in the development and decision-making of environmental, social, cultural, and urban impact studies, evaluations, and assessments regarding the construction and operation of the Mítikah project, located in their territory. These authorizations, issued by authorities of Mexico City, violated various national and international provisions.

As part of a strategy to strengthen collective power, regular meetings were held with the Citizens' Assembly of the Town of Xoco (a group mainly composed of women) to analyze the community's issues, develop communication strategies, and strengthen capacities in human rights defense.

On December 2, 2023, in front of the Mítikah facilities, ProDESC and the Citizens' Assembly of the Town of Xoco carried out a public action to highlight the negative impacts generated by this megaproject, which has severely affected the community.



16th of October Collective of Calpulalpan

In July 2023, the 16th of October Collective of Calpulalpan, Tlaxcala, and ProDESC formally began their collaboration for the organization and defense of their land and natural resources against the operation of the “Nueva Xcala” photovoltaic park, located between the territories of Calpulalpan (in the States of Tlaxcala and Hidalgo). This area is characterized by hosting a diversity of flora and endemic species. In 2017, the construction of this photovoltaic park was approved without considering the guidelines established in the Agrarian Law by the Ejidal Assembly, and the company did not inform the community about the benefits and impacts that the project would bring.

During 2023, ProDESC and the 16th of October Collective held some organizational meetings to begin gathering information to build a case diagnosis and, based on the results obtained, they worked on an action plan using the comprehensive defense methodology. Additionally, the capacities of members of the Collective in terms of security for human rights defenders were strengthened. In October of the same year, ProDESC and the Collective filed an agrarian lawsuit against the authorization of lease contracts for the construction of the photovoltaic park before the 33rd Agrarian Court in Tlaxcala.

Labor Human Rights

RADAR

During the year, ProDESC has accompanied regional and international advocacy efforts on temporary labor migration, mainly to achieve joint responsibility on the part of recruiters and employers in the United States to protect the human rights of migrant workers. On June 27, 2023, the actions taken in this area were presented at the monthly meeting of the Global Exchange Labor Committee. On July 14, ProDESC signed the “Report of civil society organizations on migrants and persons under international protection in light of the 2024 Universal Periodic Review of Mexico” as part of the Latin American Migration Block. On July 27, 2023, ProDESC participated in the Regional Knowledge Meeting organized by the Return Working Group of the Latin American Block.

To strengthen the RADAR Program, ProDESC supported the case of a group of temporary migrant workers whose human labor rights were violated in the United States during 2023. Actions to make these violations visible were planned for the first months of 2024.



National Coordinator of Women Labor Rights Defenders

During the first quarter of the year, capacity-building actions were carried out with the members of the National Coordinator of Women Labor Rights Defenders (Coordinadora Nacional de Defensoras de Derechos Humanos Laborales, CNDDHL), the virtual workshop 'History of Labor Human Rights' stands out, with members of the CNDDHL, with the aim of carrying out a historical recount of the recognition of labor human rights in the world to reflect on their importance.

On April 12, the campaign "Join the CNDDHL" was launched. In this call, the member organizations invited collectives, organized women workers from all grassroots sectors, independent unions and organizations that promote the defense of women's human labor rights in Mexico to join the CNDDHL in weaving new networks of collaboration throughout the country that will serve to reduce gender gaps and the violation of women workers' labor human rights. The integration of the organization "Conductorxs por Juárez" was celebrated.

During the year, two face-to-face meetings were held in Mexico City, the first on May 19 and 20. During this meeting, on May 19, the Comic "Women workers in the face of violence and precariousness" ([Mujeres trabajadoras frente a la violencia y a la precariedad](#)) was presented, which includes 6 stories that make visible the experiences and reflections of women workers from precarious sectors who are members of the CNDDHL. These stories

reiterate the importance of collective power as a central axis to continue the struggle for a significant and lasting change for a future with better conditions for women. The second meeting was held on November 24 and 25, where a workshop on fundraising was offered, and the Rosa Luxemburg Collective shared its experience following up on the reduction of working hours in the open parliament. The Ollin Calli Collective presented a documentary on the precarious conditions in the maquilas of Tijuana.

On September 25, members of the CNDDHL participated in a working meeting with civil society organizations and workers in the garment industry as part of the Arropa Initiative, to coordinate efforts in the promotion and exercise of labor human rights in this sector.

In October, the CNDDHL participated in the Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights, organized by the UN in Santiago, Chile, as a collaborative initiative of local organizations with national scope in the defense of labor human rights.

In November, the CNDDHL celebrated its 10th anniversary and we join in their celebrations, recalling that it has been a decade of challenges but also of great achievements. ProDESC is honored to collaborate with tireless defenders of labor human rights. We will continue to create spaces of hope and build together the path to a future with fair work for all.

Coalition of Temporary Migrant Workers of Sinaloa

In 2023, the Center for Assistance, Counseling and Attention to Migrant Workers (Centro de Asistencia, Asesoría y Atención al Trabajador Migrante, CAAATM) received, attended, advised and assisted 971 temporary migrant workers, of which 501 are women and 470 are men. Among the most recurrent topics were requests for information on federal benefits and monitoring of job offers and recruitment agencies.

On February 23, the first meeting of the Coalition's Women's Commission was held, which has also promoted and provided support to the "Harvest and Flower" initiative, which is a gender-focused movement of the Union of Agricultural Laborers. Meetings were held on a recurring basis throughout the year, during which planning and stakeholder mapping were developed. Similarly, actions were taken to strengthen knowledge on labor human rights and fundraising.

On September 25, the Coalition visited the US Consulate in Hermosillo, where a outreach and information session was held to inform about the organization's work and over 130 fact sheets were handed out to workers with

information to avoid fraud in recruitment and so that they could approach the Coalition in case they had doubts or needed support when migrating for work.

During the month of October, the Coalition of Temporary Migrant Workers of Sinaloa celebrated its Tenth Anniversary. Throughout this decade, the Coalition has promoted an advocacy strategy so that the U.S. and Mexican governments implement mechanisms to regulate the H2 visa system that guarantee the labor human rights of migrant workers. Thanks to these efforts, fewer and fewer people are prone to fraud in their recruitment process and during their stay in the United States. As part of the celebration, the Conexión Migrante website published the article "[The Coalition: 10 years of work from migrant to migrant](#)".

Throughout the year, meetings were held with groups of migrant workers from different communities in the country to socialize the work done in Sinaloa and thus advance the nationalization of the Coalition.



Accompaniment and Organization Center for Workers (CAOPT)

In order to promote the work of the Center, the Rosa Luxemburgo Women's Collective has conducted leafleting in Ciudad Juárez, as well as meeting with allies from the Coalition of Temporary Migrant Workers of Sinaloa in a space for exchanging experiences and best practices for the care of workers.

In May, the Collective held a day of outreach called "Labor is political" offering advice to workers who have been victims of unjustified dismissals, delayed pay, discrimination or harassment at work.

On November 13, colleague Elizabeth Ávalos, coordinator of the Rosa Luxemburgo Women's Collective, participated in the Open Parliament on Labor Reform on "Employment, Workday, and Production Standards in Mexico," with the aim of discussing and enriching the initiatives and legal reforms through active listening to

the people and sectors involved in the issue. Several capacity-building activities were carried out. In April, the Collective was given a workshop on strengthening organizations, where topics such as the construction of organizational charts and the design of job profiles were addressed, while in June, September and October a workshop on "Fundraising" was given to provide tools for applying for financing for the development of activities. During the second half of the year, they participated in the workshop "Update on the labor outlook, reforms and reports that most affect the border" and "Freedom of association".

Agricultural Workers' Union (UJA)

This accompaniment began with the joint work with the Coalition of Temporary Migrant Workers of Sinaloa. In November 2023, an approach meeting was held in order to sign the Agreement of Understanding to initiate the accompaniment of ProDESC, in this first meeting some cooperation activities were proposed, among which the following stand out: 1) to carry out informative actions on the problems of agricultural day laborers, 2) capacity building on human rights, labor human rights, corporate accountability, gender approach, among others, 3) documentation of violations of labor human rights of agricultural day laborers,

4) to analyze and if necessary, provide orientation and advocacy actions for situations of violation of the labor human rights of the members of the Union de Jornaleros Agrícolas "Juntos lo Lograremos", as well as of other day laborers, and 5) research, documentation, elaboration and presentation of jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional strategies for the defense and enforceability of the human labor rights of day laborers.

National Union of the Motion Picture and Audiovisual Industry (UNICA)

In recent years, workers in the film and audiovisual industry have faced significant challenges in fully enjoying their labor rights. To address the worsening conditions of precarity, the National Union of the Motion Picture and Audiovisual Industry (UNICA) emerged as an independent union based in Mexico City.

On September 5, 2023, UNICA sent a letter of request to ProDESC to begin a collaboration in the work of defense, protection and promotion of the human labor rights of workers in the Motion Picture and Visual Industry.

During these months of work, ProDESC and UNICA have reviewed the union's internal documents and discussed actions to strengthen its affiliation process.



Sex Workers Labor Coalition (CLaP)

During June 2023, ProDESC, lawyer Jorge Fernández Mendiburu, and three sex workers met with the intention of promoting the creation of a group to defend the labor rights of sex workers. During the initial discussions, it was decided to create a Coalition of Workers, as it is a body recognized by Mexico's Federal Labor Law that allows for the defense of labor rights.

This Coalition's mission is to organize sex workers, through community leadership and collectives, to defend, demand, and effectively apply their human rights, with an emphasis on labor and social security rights, to enable dignified working conditions, transforming the contexts of violence and inequalities in which they carry out their activities in Mexico. Their demands focus on the recognition of

the right to choose sex work as work, social security, the eradication of violence against sex workers, and effective participation in decision-making processes related to the work they perform.



Participation of ProDESC in the Human Rights Complaints Mechanism for the automotive industry in Mexico

The Human Rights Complaints Mechanism (Mecanismo de Reclamación de Derechos Humanos, MRDH) for the automotive industry in Mexico is the first inter-company human rights complaints mechanism for a sector in Mexico and it was developed and launched with the participation of various stakeholders from Germany and Mexico.

The MRDH originated from sectoral dialogue in the automotive industry in Germany and the implementation of the German National Action Plan and the enactment of the German Supply Chain Act. The implementation of the Mechanism, as a pilot program, is funded by four major companies in the automotive industry (Mercedes Benz, ZF and BMW among others) and the German Federal Government, represented by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. For its design and operation, a multilateral council (MSB) has been created, representing

all stakeholders, as a governing body. ProDESC is the only Mexican civil society organization participating as a member of this council, with the intention of providing a perspective based on experience working with collectives and communities, and critically analyzing the scope of this pilot.

The mechanism aims to carry out impartial, effective, and quick management, investigation, and resolution of claims to counteract the absence of a channel that effectively covers negative effects and risks to human rights throughout the supply chain of such an important industry in Mexico. For access to a resource independent of the claims, coordination units have been created in Mexico and Germany, which will receive and process individual or collective claims, and a team of human rights experts who will investigate the complaints received.

Coalition Against Forced Labor in Trade

On September 28th, ProDESC, along with Freedom Fund, the Human Trafficking Legal Center, and 15 other organizations worldwide, launched the Coalition Against Forced Labor in Trade (CAFLT), a global network of civil society organizations working to create and implement bans on the importation of products made with forced labor. ProDESC is the only organization in Latin America that is part of this global effort.

The goal of this Coalition is to ensure that there is no safe haven for goods made with forced labor in any country. CAFLT members advocate for the creation or strengthening of robust trade mechanisms to combat forced labor in global supply chains. The global network will strengthen civil society efforts to coordinate globally, share lessons learned, and collectively advocate for a harmonized approach to corporate accountability.

Right to Defend Human Rights

School of Transnational Justice (EJT)

On February 3, 2023, the Sixth Generation of the Transnational Justice School was welcomed virtually. This space brought together a total of 41 human rights defenders, including 26 women and 15 men. This generation was the first Latin American generation with participants from Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Peru, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

On March 10th and 11th, the Intermediate In-person Meeting was held for the participants of the School based in Mexico, with a total of 25 attendees. On June 30th, during the closing session of the School, which took place in Mexico City, participants had the opportunity to exchange in person and present their final works with their working groups. This session was attended by 27 people, including 21 from Mexico and 6 from Latin America. A total of

33 human rights defenders graduated, with women representing 66% of the graduates.

Between January and March, the Alumni Network (established in 2022) participated in the construction of a foundational document that included the objectives, principles, processes, and admission criteria of the Network's organizational structure. This Network was presented in the final session of the Sixth Generation, with 3 human rights defenders joining.

The call for applications to join the Seventh Generation of the EJT was launched in September and October. There were 231 applications from 14 countries in Latin America.

Community-based Security Measures

During 2023, the team conducted several workshops and support sessions regarding community security at a national and Latin American level. On January 24th, a meeting was held with the FIMA team (Chile) regarding experiences in protecting human rights defenders in Latin America. In February, a community security workshop was held as part of the ALDEA Legal School, which was attended by more than 60 people.

Towards the second quarter of the year, a workshop on security for human rights defenders was provided as part of Waterkeeper Alliance's Latin America Regional Summit at Lake Atitlán (Guatemala), which was attended by more than 20 defenders from 5 countries: Peru, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico.

On April 14th, a workshop on community security was held for the organization SmartFish with the aim of promoting initial reflection for the design of security strategies and the drafting of an emergency plan. On May 11th, colleagues from organizational processes provided security consultancy to TNC-Mexico, during which contacts for funds and consultants were shared so that the organization could carry out a diagnosis of its security situation.

The seventh Latin American Community Security Meeting was organized virtually on November 9th, 10th, and 11th. Representatives from organizations such as Center for Legal and Social Studies (Centro de Estudios Legales, CELS), EarthRights International, Grufides, Peace Brigades International - Mexico Project, National Network of Human Rights Defenders in Mexico, Serapaz México, UDEFEGUA and Thought and Social Action (Pensamiento y Acción Social, PAS), Aluna Psychosocial Accompaniment, and the Coalition of Temporary Migrant Workers of Sinaloa, belonging to 4 countries: Mexico, Colombia, Argentina and Peru. During the work sessions, three main points were defined to continue the work on the topic: 1) recognition of the participating organizations and the work carried out to date, 2) the definition of a route for supporting cases, as well as the identification of a case to be monitored by 2024 and 3) agree on the activities to monitor the identified case and the general lines of strategic planning.

We invite you to visit the Community Safety Network [microsite](#).



“Protecting People, Protecting Nature” Initiative (P3N)

The P3N initiative training course had a first integration session on May 5th and included the participation of Lucia Lagunes from CIMAC who addressed the protection mechanisms against the situation of environmental defense. On June 2nd, the second integration session of the course was held, with the participation of Claudia Samayoa from UDEFEGUA. On August 4 and 5, the in-person closing meeting of the Second Training Cycle of the Security Course was held in Mexico City, with the participation of 27 participants from 17 states of the Republic. During the Meeting, three thematic sessions were held: 1) self-care as the first pillar of activism and human rights defense, 2) Exchange of experiences: on community and collective security in Latin America and 3) Business and Human Rights. There were a total of 33 graduates, of which 24 were women, which represents 72.7% of graduates.

As part of the Initiative, 2 Regional Encounters were held with the aim of strengthening

collaboration networks among defenders, inviting organizations, collectives, and communities defending the environment from each region to learn about the services offered by the initiative and to conduct a contextual analysis of their region, which serves as a starting point to promote dialogue and collaboration among them. On February 23rd, the Regional Encounter was held in Mérida, Yucatán, with 20 participants, and on November 17th, the Regional Encounter was held in Hermosillo, Sonora, with 31 participants.

As a result of P3N's work, ProDESC and FONNOR worked together to carry out a 3-month consultancy in Guadalajara, Jalisco, on Comprehensive Security Management. A security diagnosis was conducted, followed by an in-person workshop, a document analyzing the results of the diagnosis, and a list of security recommendations for human rights defenders.

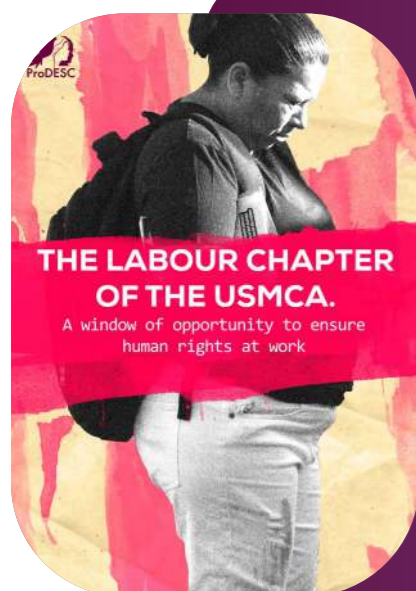


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Our publications and collaborations

Publications by ProDESC



The Labour Chapter of the USMCA: A window of opportunity to ensure labor human rights.

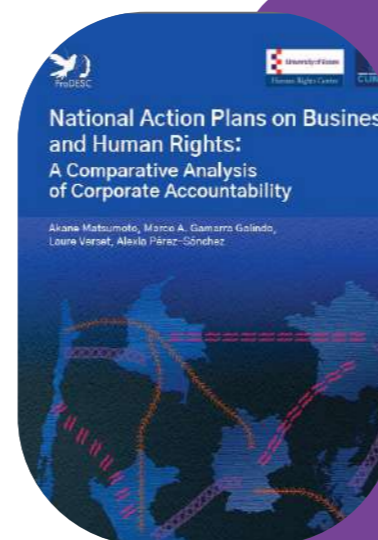
The document analyzes the scope of the Mexico-U.S.-Canada Agreement and its possible positive impacts on the advancement of labor human rights. Since it contains innovative tools, and given that it has the potential to be used in broader strategies and processes for the defense of labor human rights, we are convinced that it should be known in greater detail by diverse actors involved in the labor issue, such as workers' collectives, social organizations, academia, government agencies, companies, etc.

Contributions to other publications



From Rights to Reality: Ensuring a rights-holder-centered application of the French Duty of Vigilance Law

This report focuses on a case brought before French civil courts by members of the Unión Hidalgo community in Mexico against the energy company Électricité de France (EDF). The case alleges that EDF, a company owned by the French state, violated its vigilance obligation by failing to adequately identify and prevent the risk of human rights violations resulting from the development of a wind farm on Indigenous land.



National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights: A Comparative Analysis of Corporate Accountability

The report provides an analysis of the design and implementation in six countries that have published at least one National Action Plan. It also gathers, through a thorough document search and interviews with international experts, a particular focus on three groups of affected people: human rights defenders, women and indigenous peoples. In an innovative way, the document incorporates the voices of civil society and of those who participated in these processes to propose recommendations to the Mexican State.

Publications by our Founder and Executive Director

- January 11th: [Retos laborales 2023](#), Opinión, Proceso Magazine.
- January 22nd: [Miguel Concha](#), Opinión, Proceso Magazine
- March 5th: [Una política fiscal para la justicia antirracista y feminista](#), Opinión, Proceso Magazine
- March 23rd: [Autoritarismos globales y derechos humanos](#), Opinión, Proceso Magazine
- April 16th: [Levantar la mirada](#), Opinión, Proceso Magazine
- May 10th: [Somos guerreras, maternando en la desigualdad](#), Opinión, Proceso Magazine
- July 11th: [Trabajo migrante temporal en Estados Unidos: grandes pendientes, pocas respuestas](#), Opinión, "Conexión migrante" website.
- July 27th: [Visas H2 y violaciones a los derechos humanos de trabajadores/as temporales](#), Opinión, "Conexión migrante" website.
- September 27th: [El programa RADAR y la responsabilidad de las y los empleadores estadounidenses](#), Opinión, "Conexión migrante" website.
- 11/2023: [The impact of strategic human rights litigation on corporate behaviour](#), Foreword, Freedom Fund.

ProDESC in media outlets

During the course of 2023, the website recorded a total of 123,638 visits, doubling the number of users to 62,736, primarily located in Mexico, Bolivia, and the United States. In order to improve the user experience, a website update and optimization were carried out, with special attention given to enhancing the functionality of the mobile version, as 70% of the visits come from mobile devices. Additionally, there was a continuous update of all website pages in both English and Spanish.



f At the end of the year, the Facebook FanPage reported 16,000 followers and 14,458 Likes. During 2023, 463 posts were made with 362,225 impressions linked to support processes, as well as topics related to ESCR (Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights) and publications from other civil society organizations. 71% of the followers are women aged between 25 and 35. The main countries of origin are Mexico, the United States, Colombia, and Peru.

X The number of followers on the official Twitter account is 9,200 people at the end of the year. During 2023, 725 posts were made with 546,834 impressions.

in In addition to the mentioned social networks, LinkedIn was implemented to reach new key audiences. 163 posts were developed, which reached 45,847 people. As a result, we have achieved 1,411 followers on our LinkedIn page.

Media

During 2023, monitoring of ProDESC and its supported processes in the media was conducted, resulting in a total of 213 appearances. Regarding support for the defense of land and territory rights, there were 104 local news articles, 32 in national media, and 3 in international media.

Regarding the impact of ProDESC and its efforts in the defense of labor human rights, there were 15 mentions in local media, 12 at the national level, and 1 at the international level. Additionally, in relation to the dissemination of institutional work, there were 33 appearances in international media, 8 in local media, and 10 in national media.

Medios destacados:

Nacionales



- La Jornada
- El Economista
- Pie de Página
- Reforma
- DesInformémonos
- Aristegui Noticias

Internacionales



- BiodiversidadLA
- Mongabay
- La Lista



Financial report

In 2023, the P3N accompaniment, focused on environmental defense, required the highest amount of resources for the implementation of activities. In second place, the Transnational Justice School required resources to cover expenses related to participation not only from defenders in Mexico but also from those in Latin America.

-  Migrant Worker Assistance Centers
-  CNDDHL
-  EJT
-  P3N
-  Community-based Security
-  Institutional strengthening
-  Climate Justice
-  Unión Hidalgo
-  Dziuché
-  Labour Human Rights



Nuestros donantes



Fundraising campaign

Within the framework of the #CollectiveImpact movement driven by HIP Give, from November 7th to December 1st, 2023, ProDESC organized the campaign "[Migrant Workers United for Decent Employment](#)." The objective of this campaign was to empower more women to have better working and living conditions. Therefore, the funds raised were aimed at having a gender expert guide them in analyzing the issues faced by migrant workers and providing specialized advice to women arriving at the

Center. The fundraising goal was a total of 25,000 Mexican pesos. The campaign was promoted on social media as well as on the organization's website. At the end of the campaign, a total of 18,262.53 Mexican pesos were mobilized, along with 3,720.77 Mexican pesos in counterpart funds.



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

ProDESC has been authorized to receive tax-deductible donations by the Mexican Tax Administration System (SAT) since January 2020. This allows the organization to receive donations in-kind or by transfer through its [website](#) via PayPal or at its offices located in the Condesa neighborhood, Mexico City. It is important to mention that all donations are tax deductible.

Your contributions are used to defend the economic, social, and cultural rights of vulnerable groups in Mexico. Each contribution brings us closer to a fair world where human rights are respected. Don't hesitate, join our community of donors!

If you require more information, please write at recaudaciondefondos@prodesc.org.mx.



Thanks for joining us!

Annual Report

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