



**MISIÓN MÉXICO FOUNDATION
IMPACT REPORT 2023**



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Part 1:

MISIÓN MÉXICO FOUNDATION

UPDATES



Global Reconnection And Transformative Change

After navigating through two and a half years of challenges, grief and restrictions caused by the pandemic, 2023 became the year when we embarked on a journey of expansion, change, and global reconnection.



Our Guzman y Gomez Mision Posible Sydney fundraiser was a notable highlight of the year and our most successful event to date, attended in person by myself, Pam, Alan, past Mision Mexico Casa youth –Dr Katherine, and 300 Australian supporters. As well as spending time strengthening our ties along the East Coast of Australia, I was able to return to the UK to reconnect with Mision Mexico UK supporters, old and new. We closed the year by co-hosting our first-ever Mexico City fundraiser, which made invaluable links in our capital thanks to business sponsors Hola Therapy and Wax Revolution.

Locally, we welcomed a visit from Global Development Group representatives (Australia and USA) and formed new partnerships and joint projects with YouthBuild Mexico, UNICEF, COBACH, Fray Matias A.C and Hospitalidad y Solidaridad.

We saw the return of individual fundraisers and challenge events from around the globe, including Tapachula. where our youth participated in Miles for Mexico and our annual volcano climb.

2023 was also a year of expansion and restructuring. Our community program went from strength to strength, expanding existing activities, launching new programs across three locations, and reaching more youth than ever before in its 23-year history.



We restructured our approach to staffing and volunteers, moving towards local staffing to provide long-term stability for our youth and programs. This decision helped us culturally connect our youth with their heritage and roots. We are incredibly proud to share that 83% of our staff are female, with all leadership positions being held by strong and dedicated females. Following our 2022 pilot to redesign our Volunteer Program, 2023 saw the creation of non-youth-focused volunteer positions as well as the securing of longer-term youth-focused volunteers who each committed to 3-9 months placements.

The growth and resilience of our children and youth continue to stand at the core of everything we do, serving as a constant source of inspiration for me and the entire team. Witnessing their determination and progress, despite the challenges they face, reinforces the importance of our mission each day.

As we reflect on 2023, we are filled with gratitude for the unwavering support from our global community. Your contributions have been instrumental in helping us reconnect, expand, and thrive. Together, we are building a brighter future for the youth and communities we serve.

Thank you for being a part of our journey.

- Melissa Biggerstaff,

Mision Mexico Foundation Director





Mexican Charitable Status: A Milestone in Impact

Since early 2023, we have been working with a lawyer in Mexico City who has experience working with other NGOs in Chiapas to seek information and guidance on how to obtain our charitable status in Mexico. Although we have been a non-profit organisation since our inception, we needed more registration prerequisites to legally issue tax receipts for donations, which was a significant obstacle when it came to collaborating with other organisations within Mexico. To comply with Mexican tax law requirements for charities to receive the two registration numbers, CLUNI and Donataria, our lawyer has helped us undertake a thorough review of our constitution and general assembly acts, and we modified the statutes as necessary. Our CLUNI was approved at the end of August, and our Donataria number was issued for national donations in early September. Finally, in late October, we also received our Donataria registry for international donations. This is a significant step for our foundation, as it now has full legal status as a charity under Mexican law.

As we look forward to 2024, we are excited about the many opportunities that lie ahead for collaborations with other organisations in Mexico and abroad. We believe that these partnerships will be instrumental in enhancing our expanding programs and making a greater impact in the communities we serve.

- Kim Dahl
Director of Programs
and Legal Representative





544

NEW FOLLOWERS ON
FACEBOOK AND
INSTAGRAM

52,800

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM
TOTAL REACH

1,948

SUPPORTERS SIGNED UP TO
OUR NEWSLETTERS

400

HOURS OF STAFF TRAINING &
DEVELOPMENT PROVIDED TO OUR TEAM

5 of 7

WE RECEIVED DONATIONS FROM PEOPLE
LIVING IN 5 CONTINENTS OF THE WORLD

383

ONE-OFF DONATIONS
GIVEN GLOBALLY

144

MONTHLY DONORS INCLUDING
EDUCATION SPONSORS AND CORE
COMMUNITY MEMBERS

6,830

HOURS OF VOLUNTEER TIME HAS
BEEN GIVEN, BOTH LOCALLY AND
GLOBALLY

17,729

WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS
INCLUDING NEW AND RETURNING VIEWERS

9

GLOBAL
FUNDRAISING EVENTS



Part 2:

MISIÓN MÉXICO CASA

HEALTH &

WELLBEING



Welcoming New Faces and Enhancing the Health & Wellbeing of our Youth

Our Health and Wellbeing Program, a cornerstone of our organisation, has made significant progress throughout 2023. We employed an internal Health and Wellbeing Support Worker to monitor and improve the health needs of each child living in our home. We also delivered vital training in first aid and childhood trauma to our staff across all programs.

Ensuring good health is crucial for the overall development of children and adolescents. Many of our youth come to us facing different health risks and have specific needs that require attention, both physically, emotionally and mentally. Therefore, it's crucial to provide individualised care and attention to every child. In 2023, we welcomed five new children between the ages of 6 and 15 into our home, including siblings who had previously been separated for a number of years across different children's homes in Tapachula. We were able to give complete health checks and medical, emotional and psychological support to each of our new children to help with their transition into our home.

We welcomed an increase in monthly health & wellbeing sponsors, enabling us to implement specific actions tailored to individual needs and develop personalised solutions for each of our children, as we understand that each child is unique.

Our commitment to the holistic and long-term wellbeing of our children saw an expansion in therapeutic support. We increased our pool of psychologists, both remote and in-person, across Mexico and Tapachula. These professionals each bring diverse and specialised skills and knowledge in various therapeutic practices, enhancing the mental and emotional support for our children and youth.

In addition, we have continued to strengthen and grow our connections with a range of other local health specialists, many of whom support us on a pro-bono or discounted basis, including:

- Pediatrics
- Ophthalmology
- Gynaecology
- Neurosurgery
- Maxillofacial
- Endocrinology
- Psychiatry
- Psychology
- Geneticist
- Dentist
- Orthodontist



100%

ULTRASONIC DENTAL CLEANINGS WERE PERFORMED ON 100% OF YOUTH AT MISION MEXICO CASA, RESULTING IN A 98% REDUCTION IN DEEP CAVITIES AMONG ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

280

280 HOURS OF INDIVIDUAL THERAPY WITH LOCAL PSYCHOLOGISTS FOR YOUTH IN OUR MISION MEXICO CASA.

61%

61% OF OUR STAFF ATTENDED A FIRST AID TRAINING COURSE WITH "SERVICIOS AUXILIARES EMERGENCIAS A.C." (SAE), IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS ACROSS ALL LOCATIONS FOR THE WELL-BEING OF OUR YOUTH AND COMMUNITY.

70%

THIS YEAR, APPROXIMATELY 26 VACCINES HAVE BEEN ADMINISTERED, INCLUDING TETANUS, INFLUENZA AND HPV, COVERING 70% OF THE VACCINATION SCHEDULE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING AT HOME.

120

120 MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS WERE SCHEDULED WITH LOCAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS, INCLUDING MONTHLY AND ANNUAL CHECKUPS, MEDICAL EMERGENCIES, AND SPECIALIZED TREATMENT PLANS.

98%

98% OF OUR MISION MEXICO CASA YOUTH ATTENDED OPHTHALMOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS AND RECEIVED NEW GLASSES TO IMPROVE THEIR VISION.

73%

EVERY MONTH, AN AVERAGE OF 73% OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDED WEEKLY OR BIWEEKLY PSYCHOLOGY APPOINTMENTS WITH FIVE DIFFERENT SPECIALIST THERAPISTS.

64%

64% OF THE YOUTH AT MISION MEXICO CASA PARTICIPATE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES SUCH AS DANCE, MIXED MARTIAL ARTS, SOCCER, GYM, SURFING, SWIMMING, AND CROSSFIT.



MISIÓN MÉXICO FOUNDATION

Part 3:

MISIÓN MÉXICO CASA

EDUCATION



Educational Opportunities and Support

2023 has posed several challenges due to the remaining impact of the pandemic and the restructuring of school dynamics across all educational levels. As a result, our Education Program has been working tirelessly to enhance its processes and find effective solutions to the problems at hand.

We have also been working hard to provide our youth with access to better educational opportunities. This includes specialised education support, extracurricular activities, and guidance to help them pursue university careers. Our ultimate goal is to help each one of our youth improve their educational, social, and interpersonal skills to become successful individuals in the future.

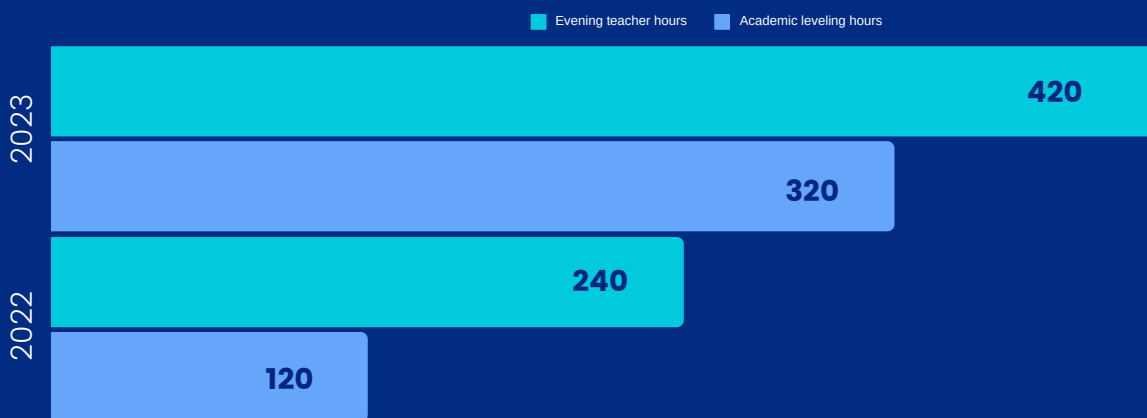
- Alejandra Gordillo Prado,
Education Coordinator,
Misión México Casa



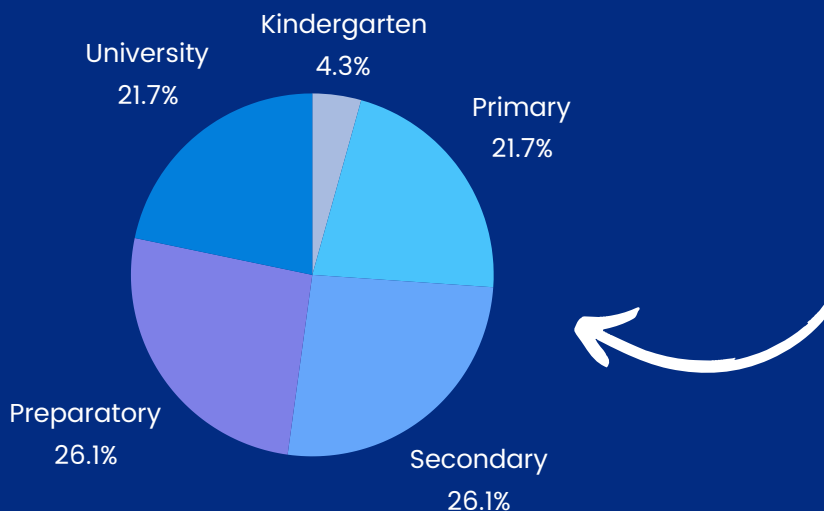


Education has always been a top priority at Mision Mexico Foundation. In 2023, we expanded our internal education team with the addition of specialised tutors, an education coordinator, and student teachers.

This strategic move resulted in a more efficient use of study time and allowed for a tailored approach to addressing the individual needs of all our youth. As a result, all of our youth have benefited from personalised one-on-one attention and guidance, increasing their grade averages.



In 2022, 37.5% of our youth were homeschooled due to gaps in their educational history, which prevented them from joining mainstream schools. Our goal was to reduce barriers to learning and participation in education significantly. By December 2023, 89% of our youth had achieved entry into the mainstream education system, both in the public and private sectors. Our target for 2024 is to ensure that 100% of our youth have access to mainstream education.



Academic Levels

In 2023, we witnessed a rise in academic achievement and an increase in the number of students staying in school and advancing their academic levels.



Student support meetings

In 2023, a dynamic system of one-on-one meetings was implemented between the education team and our youth. These meetings provided safe spaces for youth to address academic performance while also focusing on personal and emotional development and pursuing their own interests.



We held 380 hours of, bi-weekly one-to-one student/tutor support meetings in addition to classroom and evening tutoring hours.

Extra-Curriculars

As part of our education program, we celebrate the diversity of our youth's interests. In 2023, 64% of our youth attended a wide range of weekly extra-curricular classes and clubs, including dance, mixed martial arts, football, gym, surfing, swimming lessons, and CrossFit, reflecting the diverse interests of our youth community.





Part 4:

YOUTH TRANSITION PROGRAM



Bridging the Gap: Our Youth Transition Program

In developing, middle-income Mexico, and particularly within Chiapas, the poorest state in the country, higher education leads to higher income in future employment. A recent study showed that a worker with a bachelor's degree receives a salary that is 2.3 times that of one with compulsory secondary education. At the same time, diploma graduates and higher vocational training graduates see their salaries multiplied by 1.8 and 1.5, respectively. A lack of formal education or training often limits the available opportunities and employment choices in adulthood, which can, in turn, continue the cycle of poverty and crime. Due to the lack of part-time jobs in Tapachula, youth often have to choose between higher education or joining the workforce in order to pay their rent and bills. Our Youth Transition Program allows our youth to continue in full-time education or work training whilst being financially supported and provided with semi-independent housing by Mison Mexico Foundation. In addition, our Youth Transition Program provides life-skills training, growth & development workshops, emotional support and guidance towards securing independence. We believe these are the stepping stones required for our youth to thrive in adulthood.

- Crystal Wade
Youth Transition Program Manager



Our Youth Transition Program is fundamentally vital in breaking this cycle of poverty for our young adults, given that we work in a state where 8 out of every 10 people live in poverty.



Our Cooking Program:

Every month, our youth aged 14 years and above attend a variety of cooking classes facilitated by our Youth Transition Program Support Worker. These classes allow our youth to cook meals in a supported, hands-on learning environment. They take the lead, giving them the confidence and knowledge to shop and cook independently when they move into the Transition House. Through these classes, our youth and young adults develop the following fundamental practical life skills:



- Food knowledge and sustainability
- Food safety and hygiene
- Planning, preparation and presentation
- Basic cooking skills and food etiquette
- Health and nutrition
- Budgeting
- Teamwork
- Time management

Safe Space Workshops and Goal-Based Growth:

Throughout 2023, our Safe Space workshops were delivered weekly by our Youth Transition Program team and attended by all youth living in our Mison Mexico Casa, aged 15 years and by all young adults living in bachelor's Houses. Safe Space workshops facilitated conversations about values and their importance in everyday life, allowing our youth and young adults to determine their values, establish what's important to them and weigh up relevant ethical dilemmas. Discussion topics included disability rights, climate justice, racism, sexism, migration and immigrant rights. The Safe Space workshops are also linked to our 1-on-1 goal-based sessions with all our young adults, where participants work to outline their personal values, emotional growth, and future goals. As part of Safe Space and our goal-based growth approach, our young adults have also learnt about the EPOCH system of well-being for adolescents. This approach focuses on engagement, perseverance, optimism, connection, and happiness. To promote this learning, Safe Space incorporates games, art projects, team activities and group discussions.



Workshops and Learning within the Transition House:

2023 saw the design and implementation of an extensive and well-rounded new curriculum for the young adults who live in our Transition Houses, supporting them in their move towards full independent living. The following topics were discussed and delivered in weekly training workshops:

- Financial budgeting, saving plans and cost of living
- Interview skills, securing employment, employment rights
- Sourcing housing, understanding rental contracts, paying utility bills
- Emergencies and emergency protocols
- Conflict resolution
- Setting up a bank account
- Vigilance, safety and crime in Tapachula
- Self defense
- Legal issues and identification
- Personal development
- Nutrition
- Sexual health
- Exercise
- Medical care and mental health
- Addiction
- Sleep hygiene



“The Youth Transition Program (YTP) has helped me make a better future for myself and for others. No other refuge I know continues to support children after they turn 18, and it is because of YTP that I was able to continue with my education and go to university. The program helped me to communicate more effectively, gain confidence and make better life choices. It taught me how to take care of myself, cook for myself and handle many situations in life. I feel so happy and fortunate for everything I have learnt and experienced from my time in YTP. “ – D, age 20



Part 5:

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND DEVELOPMENT

PROYECTO FARO



Strengthening Communities

Since 2021, our Community & Development Program, Proyecto Faro, has aimed to contribute to the improvement and positive development of children, youth and young adults in Tapachula and our surrounding communities. It does so through free educational and community programs that provide skills for life, school support and work opportunities. However, in a context like the one experienced in the south of Mexico, where problems become increasingly visible, it is necessary always to adapt to the new realities that are experienced every day, which is why since its creation two years ago, Proyecto Faro has tried to improve its action plans and strengthen the work done for the benefit of vulnerable populations, especially girls, adolescents and young people.

For this reason, the Proyecto Faro team set the following objectives for the year 2023:

- Expand the number of programs that make up the project's operations plan.
- Double the population served.
- Improve and strengthen the programs that were already in operation.

- Desireé Rosales,
Community Programs
and Development Manager





85

85 YOUTH ARE REGISTERED IN OUR FREE COMMUNITY ENGLISH CLASSES.

122

122 YOUTH ENTERED FORMAL EDUCATION OR EMPLOYMENT THROUGH THE JOVENES CON RUMBO PROGRAM CONDUCTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUTHBUILD MEXICO.

11,200

11,200 FREE MEALS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES ON THE MOVE THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY KITCHENS.

289

289 COOKING AND NUTRITION CLASSES WERE DELIVERED ACROSS OUR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

12,322

IN 2023, PROYECTO FARO SUPPORTED 12,322 INDIVIDUALS IN TAPACHULA AND IT'S SURROUNDING AREAS, 70% OF WHOM WERE WOMEN, GIRLS, AND BABIES.

100

OUR COMMUNITY LITERACY PROGRAM HELPED 100 YOUTH WITH BASIC LITERACY INSTRUCTION, READING SKILLS SUPPORT, AND ACADEMIC PROGRESS.

700

700 YOUTH VISITED OUR COMMUNITY CENTERS, WITH 372 OF THEM ENGAGING IN WEEKLY PROGRAMS, WORKSHOPS, AND RECEIVING SUPPORT.

Jóvenes con Rumbo - Young People with Direction

As part of a significant expansion, we fostered strong collaborations with external organisations, YouthBuild and UNICEF, to deliver a new community program, Jovenes con Rumbo. This collaborative effort, which involved the support of our stakeholders, has successfully supported 122 youth across four different locations.

The program provided socio-emotional education and workshops for young people between 15 and 29 years old who were not in school or work. Our team of educators worked to improve life and work skills with the aim of reintegrating young people into studies, work training programs or stable work opportunities. The program motivated both local youth and young people in transit to pursue their life goals, reducing the risk of negative consequences such as poverty, discrimination, and involvement in organised crime. We successfully saw 22 young people access their first job and 100 who resumed their studies or obtained their essential education certificates (primary or secondary).



100 of 122 youth returned to their studies or obtained their basic education certificates (primary or secondary).





Madres Jóvenes – Young Mothers Program

In July 2023, we piloted our Young Mothers Program, which was created to address the needs of single or young mothers in Tapachula who face limitations in various areas, such as continuing their education, finding stable and professional employment, maintaining mental and physical well-being, and developing positive parenting skills. The program provided support to fifteen young mothers aged between 17 and 24 years old, including eleven Mexican residents and four from Honduras and Guatemala. The program also supports children aged between 0 and 3 years old. Workshops and activities include job readiness training, financial literacy classes, parenting education, mother-baby swim lessons, and stress management techniques. We give special thanks to Guzman y Gomez, our sponsors of Madres Jóvenes.



Tapachula Community Center

During 2023, Proyecto Faro expanded our Tapachula Community Centre, offering new weekly activities and welcoming 700 youth through the door. Our Community Centre is designed to be a place of free and open access for all youth and young people in the community. The centre provides access to computer equipment, the internet, a reading room, food, games and entertainment space. All youth who attend have access to free workshops and classes in cooking, English language, music, literacy and summer vacation courses.



English Program:

Our free community English program expanded to 85 children, adolescents, and young adults by providing them with basic and advanced tools to learn a second language. The program's objective is to improve the academic and work skills of our participants. In addition to helping the local community, the program also provides free classes for children and young adults in transit or victims of forced displacement.

Cooking Classes:

Our cooking and nutrition classes, which are free of charge, have been gaining popularity. Previously, we offered these classes once every two weeks. However, starting from 2023, we have expanded the classes to be held on a weekly basis. This change has allowed more youth to participate freely in cooking courses where they learn about healthy eating habits and reflect on gender roles in youth.

Literacy and Reading Program:

In 2023, we launched our Community Literacy Program, which reached out to over 100 children in the communities of Tapachula, Puerto Madero, and La Trinidad. The program was designed to perform three essential activities:

1. Initial literacy: teaching reading and writing to children and youth who struggle to access primary education or suffer from educational lag.
2. Reading mediation: improving reading and writing skills and promoting critical thinking among the children and youth.
3. Academic regularisation: reinforcing reading and writing skills to prevent or address school dropouts among the participants.



Community Kitchen:

In 2022, we launched our first community kitchen to deliver food to vulnerable individuals experiencing homelessness, extreme poverty, malnutrition, and living in informal camps or marginalised communities. In 2023, we increased the food delivery from 50 plates to 250 plates every month.

In addition, we formed new collaborations and partnerships with local organisations and other civil and non-governmental organisations, including Cafecito pal Corazoncito, to provide night food deliveries and community outreach. These actions are focused on addressing the humanitarian emergency faced by those seeking refuge in Tapachula and its surroundings.

IN 2023, PROYECTO FARO PROVIDED FOOD AND AID TO APPROXIMATELY 7,000 PEOPLE AFFECTED BY MIGRATION AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT.

La Trinidad Community:

A new collaboration was formed with a group of local female volunteers in the La Trinidad community, located in the mountainous region of Chiapas that suffers from high malnutrition and mortality rates in children. We set the challenging goal of providing free nutritious and healthy meals three times a week to 50 children and vulnerable community members. From June to December 2023, we successfully provided 4,200 plates of food.



FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2023, WE SUCCESSFULLY PROVIDED 4,200 PLATES OF FOOD IN LA TRINIDAD COMMUNITY.



Part 6:

MISIÓN SURF



Our Social Impact Hotel

In 2023, Mision Surf made significant strides in extending its impact within the community, marking a small milestone in our journey of community empowerment.

In response to our community's needs, we reduced our hotel operating hours to four days a week. We used our space to expand our Proyecto Faro Community Centre to three days a week. All the profits generated by the hotel are reinvested to cover the costs of the community programs. From educational workshops to swim and surf lessons to skill-building sessions, these free community classes served as platforms for empowerment, education, and community bonding, attracting over 50 children and youth from our local beach community every week.



Surfing transcends mere sport; it serves as a tool for empowerment for our youth and community. In 2023, we expanded our surf, swimming and water safety lessons, reaching deeper into the community and making the joy of surfing accessible to more youth.

By broadening our horizons, we aspire to create a lasting impact that extends beyond surfing, resonating in the hearts and lives of all community members. Looking ahead, we are committed to further expanding our community-focused initiatives, ushering in a sea of positive transformation.

Sal-cal-en-La.
de vida
el día más
importante
de mi
vida.
alguien más.
Otras personas.



Part 7:

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS



Foundation Costs

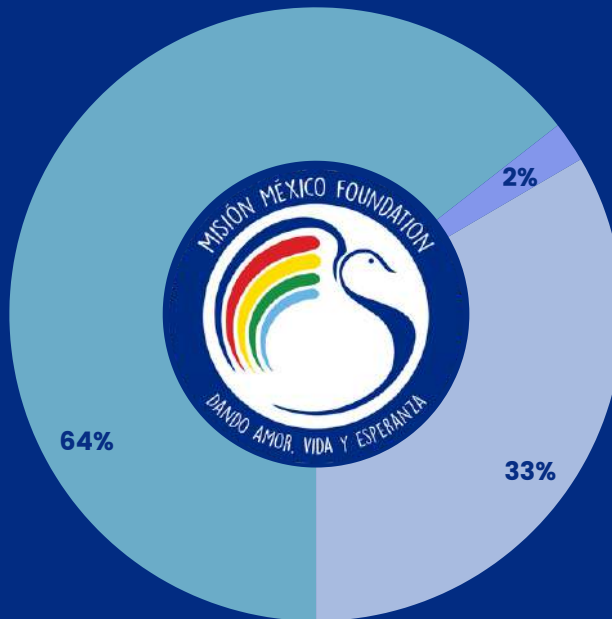
As part of our commitment to transparency and accountability, we are pleased to provide you with a breakdown of our costs for the year of January- December 2023.

2023 TOTAL EXPENDITURE:

\$8,689,441 (MXN)

Programs & Projects

We are proud to direct the majority of our costs to our life-changing youth programs and community projects.



Fundraising & Events

Fundraising, marketing and events are essential for sustaining our mission and expanding our impact. We aim to keep these costs at a minimum, with a high return on investment.

General & Administrative

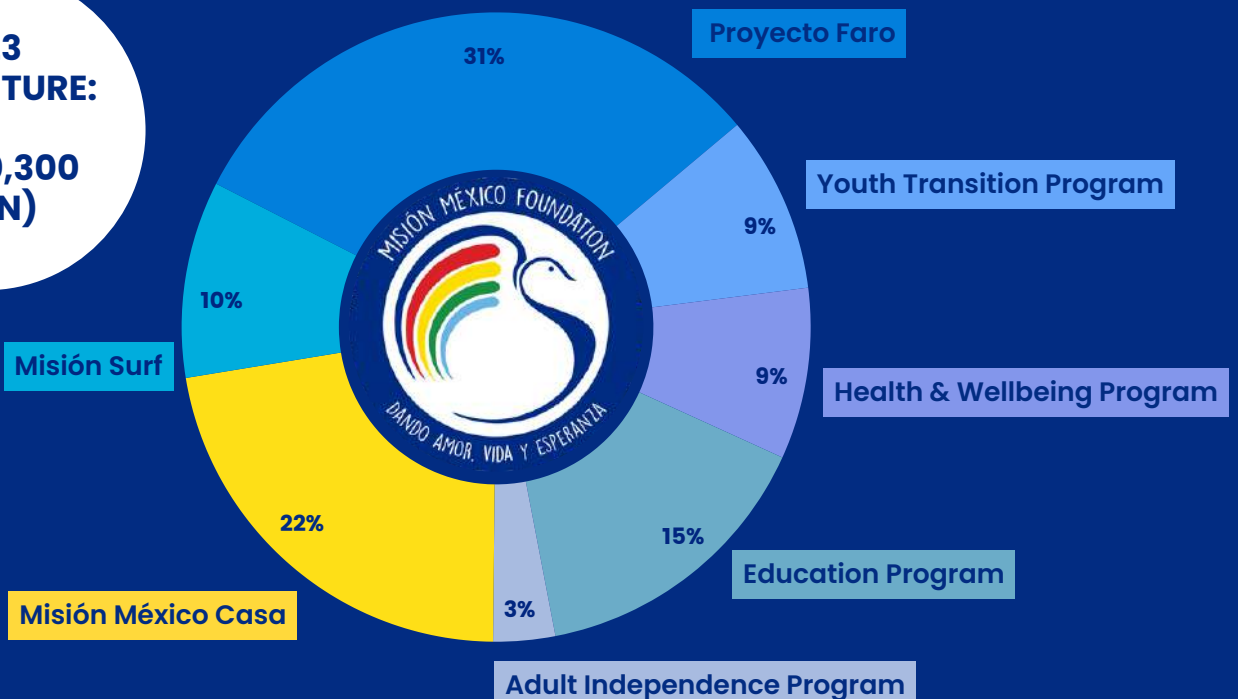
A portion of our foundational costs is allocated to general and administrative expenses, which include staff salaries, training and development, and property and maintenance costs.

Youth Development Programs & Projects; Cost Analysis

The heart of our foundation lies in our life-changing youth programs and community projects. The majority of our budget, 64%, is dedicated to empowering and uplifting children, youth, and communities through our impactful youth programs and community projects.

2023 EXPENDITURE:

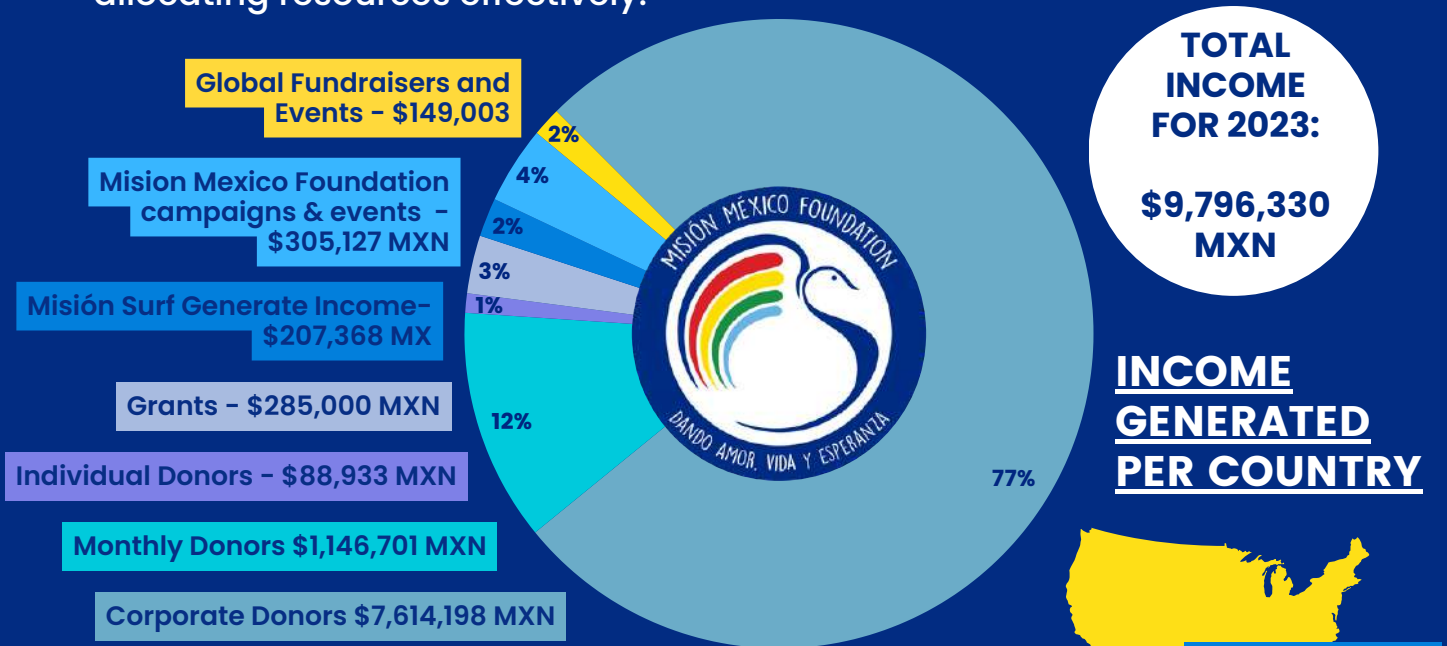
\$5,600,300 (MXN)



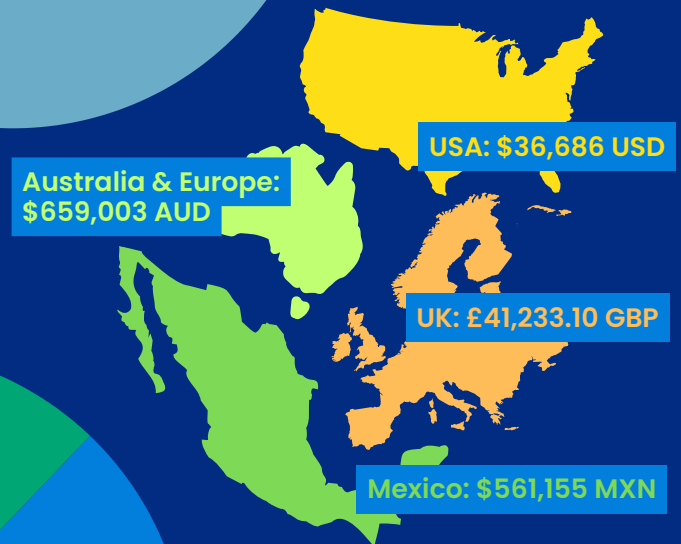


INCOME AND FUNDING

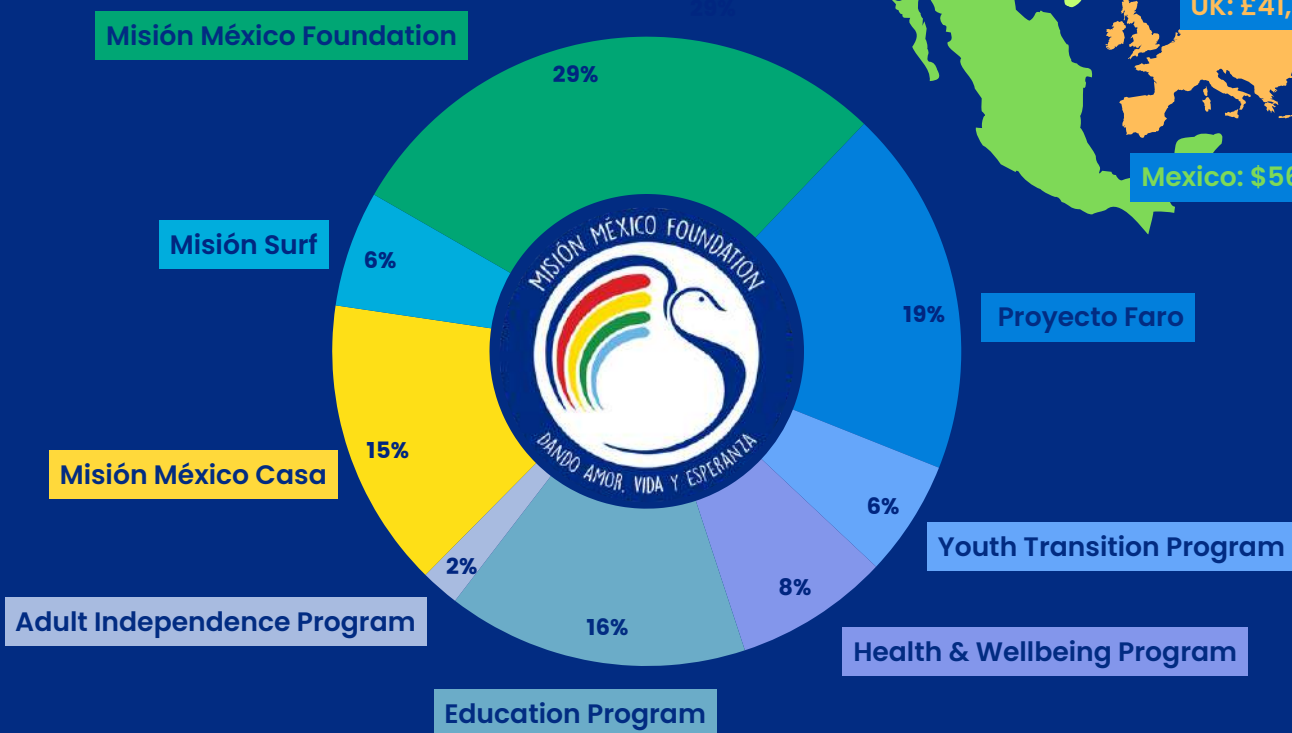
Income fuels our mission to transform lives through our diverse youth programs and community initiatives. Our income is derived from various sources, including monthly donors, fundraisers, grants, and corporate sponsorships. Below is a breakdown of income per program, reflecting our commitment to transparency and accountability in allocating resources effectively.



INCOME GENERATED PER COUNTRY



INCOME GENERATED PER PROGRAM





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[@misionmexicofoundation](https://www.facebook.com/misionmexicofoundation)



**MUCHAS
GRACIAS**