



Impact Report



2025

"We are native seeds, sowing hope for a shared heritage."



History

The Qachuu Aloom Association began its work in 2003 in the communities of Baja Verapaz. It currently works with more than 682 families in the municipalities of San Miguel Chicaj, Rabinal, and Cubulco Baja Verapaz.

It is primarily a female Maya Achi' organization. Qachuu Aloom not only translates as Mother Earth but is also a name that brings together the sense of belonging and the meaning of the work of a women's organization that, for many years, has focused its life and work on the conservation of native and Creole seeds as the basis for its own development.

The diverse expressions of its members come together to harmonize and build a dream, to strengthen an organization that looks after the well-being of its own people, especially women and their families.



Mission

Respect Mother Earth with gender equality, promoting agroecology, protection and recuperation of native seeds in order to build food sovereignty and good living (Buen Vivir) for families in the Achí region.

Vision

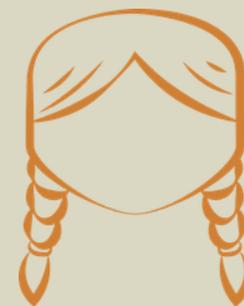
To achieve organizational sustainability by reviving ancestral knowledge around the care of native seeds for the material and spiritual well-being of families in communities, so that they can produce their own food and generate income in harmony with Mother Earth.

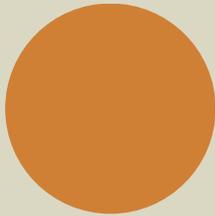
Our values

- Respect for Mother Earth
- Holistic health
- Solidarity economy
- Equity
- Perseverance
- Spirituality
- Cultural preservation



3,410 beneficiaries, 682 direct families
from 33 villages





Program:

Agroecology

Agricultural promoters support families in organic production. They teach families how to improve and transition their land away from conventional agriculture, using agroecological practices. They implement model gardens, conserve native and creole seeds, practice soil conservation, prepare compost and organic fertilizers with the aim of increasing productivity and food sovereignty.





225 Home Gardens
115 are Model Gardens





138 Milpa System

Corn, beans, and squash are the main crops in this system, but other species are also important in the Milpas. Edible greens like macuy, chipilín, wild Amaranths and cover crops like canavalia, macuna, and gandul are also part of the Milpas.



12 School Gardens



School gardens were implemented with the participation of children with the goal of teaching them how to grow crops organically.

Also, healthy eating workshops were held using the “farm to table” methodology. They prepared nutritious dishes using the crops harvested from the gardens.





120 Seed Producers

We purchase native and creole seeds from local farmers. This practice not only strengthens their economy but also helps conserve our seeds. It also enables seed growers to share their seeds and knowledge with other communities participating in the program.





Seeds Banks in Communities

We currently have four community seed banks. Two are located in the villages of Patzocom and Laguna Patzijon in Cubulco. The others are in Panacal, and Nimacabaj villages in Rabinal.



Main Seed Bank “Oj chajine’el re ija”

+50 varieties of native and creole seeds stored in the main seed bank of Qachuu Aloom





Poultry projects

Ten chicks were distributed to 106 families across various communities with the purpose of enhancing their household economies, improving nutrition, and encouraging small productive initiatives that support the well-being of their families.



Biofabric QA

As part of the implementation of the biofactory, workshops on the production and use of mountain microorganisms were provided to 138 members of Qachuu Aloom who have milpa system plots and home gardens. Participants came from the villages of San Miguel, Rabinal, and Cubulco, Baja Verapaz.

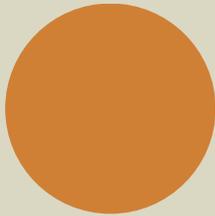


Amaranth plot



Fifty amaranth plots were planted, yielding different varieties and strengthening local production, crop diversification, and the availability of nutritious food for families.





Program

Holistic Health

health promoters work in communities to restore the physical, emotional, and spiritual health of families through training workshops on nutritious recipes, the use and management of medicinal plants, and alternative therapies.

Qachuu Aloom's primary objective is to achieve comprehensive health and well-being for families and their communities through a continuous process of training.



- 239 women, 19 men, 129 girls, and 112 boys participated directly in workshops on healthy eating
- They also made tinctures, syrups, and ointments using medicinal plants





17 mother guides empowered in:

- Healthy eating practices
- Use and preparation of medicinal plants
- Community leadership and local participation
- 141 workshops in 17 communities to promote comprehensive health.

Elaboration of medicinal plant products

Twelve midwives participated in entrepreneurial medicinal plants workshops learning to make soaps from medicinal plants



**JABONES DE
APAZOTE
Y 7 MONTES**



Hecho con tradición y orgullo por mujeres achi



502+ 42606999

Program: Community Economies



We processed 2,437 pounds of Amaranth bringing income to families and our Association, while providing healthy food options for community.

Inter-community markets

Inter-community markets are spaces designed to encourage women producers to become entrepreneurs by drawing on ancestral knowledge of gastronomy to prepare different dishes.

Twenty-three small markets have been held in the three municipalities of San Miguel, Rabinal, and Cubulco Baja Verapaz.



Agroecological market coordinated by the Maya Achi Agroecological Network (RAMA)



Three agroecological markets were organized by RAMA, creating spaces for more than 180 women producers from different communities. They sold herbs, medicinal plants, traditional dishes, and more, strengthening the local economy and community production.

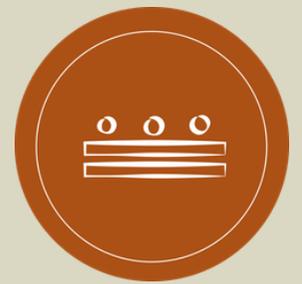




Healthy Stores

We have 11 healthy stores in different communities, offering products at affordable prices so that women can sell and generate income for their households. They are also given workshops so that they can make and sell other products such as soaps, natural , cookies, and other products.





QA Youth

We seek to promote entrepreneurship among young people in rural areas, for their economic, social, and productive development, with a focus on gender equity and cultural identity.

We currently have 69 youth participating in various workshops and entrepreneurial ventures.



Jewelry Making

Twelve young people are participating in the art of making bracelets, earrings, neclaces, and key chains, developing creative and craft skills, promoting entrepreneurship, and generating opportunities for handmade products.





Bakery

Fifteen youth are participating in the production of bread made from amaranth flour. As young entrepreneurs, they develop and create delicious products through the art of baking.



Agroecological plots



The communities of Chixolop, Sauce, and Chilajón developed agroecological plots with the participation of 26 youth.

These plots promote natural practices, land stewardship, and the production of healthy food, contributing to food security and well-being.



Youth communicators

Five young women and six young men are raising awareness about the communities' way of life, acting as spokespersons through photographs and videos.



ORGANIZATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

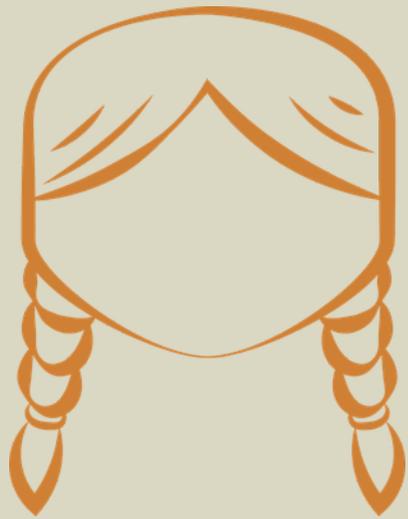


Increase in families integrated into communities: a total of 682 families in 33 communities



PRODUCTIVE PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY WOMEN FROM DIFFERENT MAYA ACHÍ COMMUNITIES

A group of women were trained to be state suppliers, by providing food to the school for the children in the community of Panacal.



Production Projects



Implementation of three productive garden plots, aimed at producing a variety of herbs and applying agroecological practices, in the communities of Pichec, Concul, and Conculito. These plots contribute to improving family nutrition.



Poultry farms implemented



Three farms were set up in the communities of Pichec, Panacal, and Chuategua, with the aim of strengthening local production, supporting 23 beneficiary families in improving their economy, and creating spaces where they can develop sustainable practices for the well-being of their households.



Access to education



Currently, seven women and two men from different communities are participating thanks to the support of scholarships.



PARTICIPATION IN NETWORKS

-  RED DE DERIVACIÓN DE RABINAL
-  REDSAG
-  RED DE AMARANTO
-  RED KOMONIL
-  RED DE ARTESANOS MAYA ACHÍ
-  RED AGROECOLOGICA MAYA ACHÍ
-  RED GROUNDSWELL INTERNATIONAL

Funding partners 2025



GROUNDSWELL FOUNDATION

<https://www.groundswellinternational.org>

VIBRANT

<https://www.vibrantvillage.org>

JUSTICIA ALIMENTARIA

<https://justiciaalimentaria.org/>

DIPUTACIÓN FORAL DE BIZKAIA

<https://www.bizkaia.eus/es/>

COMUNIDAD DE MADRID

<https://asociacionicid.org>

Fundación "la Caixa"

<https://fundacionlacaixa.org/es/>

Castilla de la mancha

<https://www.castillalamancha.es>

GARDEN'S EDGE

<https://gardensedge.org>