

COMMUNITY OF SAINT PAUL – 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

The Community of Saint Paul (CSP) is a Public Association of the Faithful of the Catholic Church, composed of priests and laity, men and women. The members of the CSP come from Bolivia, Colombia, Spain, the United States, Guatemala, India, Kenya and the Dominican Republic. We have our main headquarters in Milwaukee, (Wisconsin, USA), and are also present in Mexico City (Mexico), San Juan de la Maguana (Dominican Republic), Cochabamba (Bolivia), Bogotá (Colombia) and Meki (Ethiopia).

Community Life

In 2021 the Community of Saint Paul continued to be present in the different countries and dioceses in which it has been working over the last years. The distribution of its members in these places was as follows: seven people in the United States; three in Mexico; six in the Dominican Republic; two in Colombia; three in Bolivia; five in Spain and two in Ethiopia.

Community Activities

In most of the countries in which the CSP is present, the year 2021 meant a gradual return to normal after the effects and restrictions that were experienced in 2020 due to the pandemic. Even so, for the sake of prevention and safety, the CSP held its General Assembly in October virtually. However, it was possible for some members to make smaller scale visits to communities in other countries, as well as to their families. It was also possible to maintain contact with benefactors and supporters in the different countries in which we work.

Milwaukee (Wisconsin, United States)

The CSP is headquartered in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee (Wisconsin, United States). Its members live in the city of Racine, where the community's main house is located, as well as in the town of Whitewater. All of the priests of the CSP are diocesan clergy of Milwaukee, with five in different parishes of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, one in the Archdiocese of Mexico, one in the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana and two in the Archdiocese of Bogotá. In addition, Dennis Beltré and Denny Jacob, members of the CSP, continue their formation for the priesthood at the diocesan seminary in Milwaukee, *Saint Francis de Sales*. On November 13, the auxiliary bishop of Milwaukee, James Schuerman, presided over the Eucharist in which both, along with ten other seminarians, received the ministry of Acolyte.

The CSP priests in Milwaukee worked in the following parishes:

- In the pastoral cluster formed by three parishes: Saint Patrick, Saint Richard and Saint Edward, located in Racine. Saint Patrick is bilingual with a Spanish-speaking majority. These three parishes are made up of about 2,600 families. Juan Manuel Camacho was the administrator and José Mario Nieto the associate.
- At Sacred Heart Parish in Racine, where Ricardo Martín was pastor while also serving as vice chancellor of the Archdiocese. The parish has 570 families.
- At St. John Paul II in the southside of the city of Milwaukee, where Esteve Redolad was the associate. It is also majority Spanish speaking and serves 1,800 families.
- At St. Patrick Parish in Whitewater. Antony Thomas was appointed administrator of this parish which is located 53 miles east of Racine and has 660 registered families.

The parishes of St. Patrick, Saint Richard and Saint Edward and St. John Paul II, have a twinning relationship and a commitment to collaborate with *La Sagrada Familia* parish in the Dominican Republic, which is under the pastoral care of the CSP. In turn, Sacred Heart Parish has a committed partnership with the *Casa San José* of the CSP in Cochabamba.

In October, Bishop Tomás Alejo Concepción, bishop of San Juan de la Maguana in the Dominican Republic, visited Milwaukee on the occasion of the inaugural celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the twinning partnership between the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and *La Sagrada Familia* parish.

Regarding academic studies, Dennis Beltré and Denny Jacob continued their studies and formation at the Saint Francis de Sales Seminary. José Mario Nieto, apart from his pastoral work, continued with his doctoral studies in Sacred Scripture at the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C.

In Milwaukee, social restrictions to combat the coronavirus remained in place throughout 2021: social distancing, seating capacity, mask use and the use of hand sanitizer. Even with these measures, pastoral activities became significantly normalized compared to the previous year:

- *Broadcast of Sunday and daily Eucharist* through digital platforms.
- *Workshops and parish talks.*
- *Catechesis for First Communion and Confirmation.*
- *Celebration of First Communions and Confirmations*, following safety protocols.

- *Food pantry services.*
- Parochial schools: at St. John Paul II in Milwaukee and at parishes in Racine.

Bogotá (Colombia)

The CSP in Bogotá works in the *La Resurrección* Parish, which includes the neighborhoods of La Resurrección, Granjas de San Pablo and El Pesebre, within the locality of Rafael Uribe Uribe in the southern part of the city. The parish has a population of 20,000 people (about 5,000 families). These neighborhoods are lower-working class, and most of their inhabitants live day-to-day, without savings, and many with informal jobs (street vendors in the city center, temporary jobs, etc.). Despite the progressive lifting of the restrictions imposed last year due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, in 2021 there were still many vulnerable households in situations of extreme poverty and need.

For most of 2021 the community of the CSP in Bogotá was formed by Martí Colom and Michael Wolfe, both diocesan priests of Milwaukee and members of the CSP.

Pastoral Work

Some of the most notable pastoral activities were the following:

- *Preparation for First Communion*, with the participation of 130 children.
- *Preparation for Confirmation*, with the participation of 60 adolescents and young people.
- *Youth groups*, with the participation of 35 young people.
- *Adult preparation for Confirmation*, with the participation of 10 adults.
- *Family ministry*, with the participation of 20 people.
- *Bible workshops*, with the participation of 20 people.

Social Outreach

- *Health Ministry:*
 - **Care for the sick:** the parish nurse visits low-income sick people weekly in their homes. The parish also manages a small parish pharmacy through which medicines are given to people in need. During 2021 she regularly cared for around 70 people with various chronic illnesses (diabetes, hypertension, etc.). Pharmacy medications are mostly donated.
 - **Psychological counseling:** two psychologists hired by the CSP were able to continue offering accompaniment to people who requested it, one in “Casa Garavito Community Center” and another on the premises of *La Resurrección* parish. During 2021 they served about 80 people.
 - **Dental office:** In October 2021 we inaugurated a dental office in the *El Pesebre* neighborhood, offering dental care to low-income people in the neighborhood. It was open two mornings a week.
- *Monthly delivery of food* to 65 vulnerable families, with the help of the Food Bank of the Archdiocese of Bogotá, and through other donations and the purchase of basic foodstuffs.
- *Rent assistance* for 15 families in especially vulnerable situations.

- *Services to immigrants* from Venezuela, individuals and families arriving in Colombia who were trapped in a situation of extreme vulnerability by the pandemic and were forced to leave their country. They are helped with food and aid so that they can pay rent and avoid being evicted.
- *"Ruta del aguapanela"*: A monthly tour of the neighborhood offering a sandwich and a hot sugar cane drink to people who suffer from various addictions and live on the streets of the neighborhood.
- *Activities at the Casa Garavito Community Development Center:*
 - *Sewing courses for women:* now well-established, the courses had the participation of 60 women, distributed in eight groups.
 - *Tutoring classes:* a teacher taught tutoring classes at Casa Garavito with the participation of 20 boys and girls between 8 and 14 years old.
 - *English, guitar and drawing classes,* with the participation of 40 children.
- *University Scholarship Program:* in 2021, 30 young people were supported, who from March to November (the academic year in Colombia) were able to continue their respective academic careers thanks to the help of the CSP.

Cochabamba (Bolivia)

Montserrat Madrid, Gemma Regales and Aniceto Arroyo are in charge of the various programs that take place in the Archdiocese of Cochabamba.

Social Outreach

The development projects of the CSP in the department of Cochabamba focuses in the rural areas of Independencia and Vacas, and also within the city of Cochabamba.

AREAS OF INDEPENDENCIA AND VACAS

Independencia is located in the Andes Mountain range. The population is mostly of Quechua origin and they have preserved their characteristic, ancestral organization of their community. There are no paved roads in the municipality which leads to a high level of dispersion, isolation, and difficulty for communication. The inhabitants of the area are farmers who raise a diversity of livestock on a small scale. Their agricultural economy is based on production for self-consumption with only small part for sale in the community. Because the circulation of currency is quite limited, bartering of goods is still common. The homes are precarious, built of adobe, wood, and stone, with thatched roofs and dirt floors.

In 2021, although in many ways things were returning to “normal,” the area continued to suffer the economic consequences of the pandemic.

The actions that the CSP, with the help of five people working on the project, were the following:

Healthcare and Environmental Health

- *Health promotion and primary care:* in eight rural communities in the municipality of Independencia. There was a nurse to serve 586 people. In addition, the following actions were carried out:
 - Basic hygiene and nutrition workshops in homes including the delivery of basic hygiene kits.
 - Vision screening with the delivery of prescription lenses to 23 people.
 - Referral to specialized centers in Cochabamba for medical care.
- *Environmental sanitation project through the construction of suitable bathrooms* in three rural communities in the municipality of Independencia. With the help of a community leader and a mason, 58 single-family bathrooms with toilets and showers (with hot water) were built, along with some in the public school of Chillamani, benefitting 319 people. The community leader placed a lot of emphasis during home visits on personal hygiene and care for the bathroom and greater environment.
- *Providing additional drinking-water systems, addressing the right to potable water* in the rural communities of Rodeo, Chullpani and Kantu Suyu of the Municipality of Independence. This project consisted of constructing three gravity-driven water systems that continuously supply the entire current and future populations of these three communities with drinkable water. The

projects, carried out by a mason and two assistants, consisted of building a network for water collection from the upper area of the communities and channeling it through a conduction line to the storage tanks, and from there is distributed to home connections, benefitting 1,432 people.

Advancement of Women

- *Project for the empowerment of women in rural areas*: this project benefited 82 women from 14 rural communities of Independencia and Vacas. The following actions were carried out:
 - Training for artisanal textile production
 - Gender equity training and orientation workshop
 - Training workshop in rural business management

A group of seven trained women used their advanced level of artisanal textile skills to continue the production and sale of quality alpaca wool garments, in order to generate personal income.

Outreach to Children

- *Project to promote the rights of children in rural areas* to strengthen the social, educational and cultural integration of boys, girls and adolescents, and especially those with disabilities, in five rural communities in the municipality of Independencia. It was held at the Community Center in Totorani, and benefited 43 children and adolescents (between 1 and 13 years old) and 17 parents. The project, coordinated by an educator, consists of creating an open and welcoming community meeting space in which the following educational and recreational services are offered:
 - Educational reinforcement: individualized assistance for children with difficulties to perform at grade level.
 - Study hall and support for school assignments.
 - An area for play and recreation that stimulates their abilities to learn, socialize and grow in values.

Environment

- *Project for the reforestation of pine trees and the planting of fruit trees* in 18 rural communities in the Municipality of Vacas and 12 rural communities in the Municipality of Independencia, benefitting 212 families. The project consisted of the following actions:
 - Nursery management of pines and fruit trees.
 - Adaptation of the seedlings to the height and climate at which they are grown (approximately 180,000).
 - Planting of pine trees on the land of the beneficiary families (approximately 160,000 pine saplings).
 - Production and planting of fruit plants (papaya, avocado, custard apple, apple, banana passionfruit, watermelon and melon) on family properties (approximately 20,000 fruit trees).

Animal Husbandry

- *Improvement of indigenous sheep* in 11 rural communities in the Municipality of Vacas and 12 in the Municipality of Independencia where veterinary technical advice was shared and 50 specimens of improved sheep were introduced. 116 families benefited.

CITY OF COCHABAMBA

Attention to Children and Youth, Restoration of Families:

In Cochabamba, the CSP works in Casa San José with boys and adolescents aged 5 to 14 years at risk of living in the streets and/or already in a “street situation” (indigence). They have cut ties with their family and those admitted have a relative short-term exposure to this type of life (a maximum of six months). Also, in exceptional cases, children under 5 years of age are welcomed, when their siblings are hosted at Casa San José, so as not to break the bond between them.

These children and adolescents suffer from having their basic needs unmet and this situation has caused them significant damage; physically, psychologically, cognitively and/or socially. As a result, their development is seriously compromised, and requires intensive specialized treatment to resolve their problems.

Casa San José temporarily welcomes these children and adolescents at risk and seeks solutions to their problems with the goal being to reintegrate them with their families. In 2021, 61 children and adolescents, between 5 and 14 years old, were welcomed and 112 of their relatives participated in the reintegration program. The professional team consists of 5 educators, 1 psychologist, 1 social worker, 1 secretary and 1 accountant. Thanks to the lifting of restrictions that were imposed last year due to the pandemic, we were able to resume visits by the families to the children and adolescents. Coordination with other institutions was also restored.

Mexico City (Mexico)

The CSP worked in two different neighborhoods in Mexico City: Jardines de San Juan Ajusco in the “delegation” of Tlalpan; and in the territory that includes the Rectoría de Nuestra Señora del Rosario, located in the delegation of Álvaro Obregón.

The members of the CSP present in Mexico in 2021 were Pablo Cirujeda, María Ángeles Fornaguera and Sarah Oduor.

RECTORÍA DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL ROSARIO

The Rectoría de Nuestra Señora del Rosario serves some 22,000 people from five working-class, densely-populated neighborhoods. They face overcrowding and scarce economic resources, marked by precariousness, family instability, violence and the lack of opportunities for personal and communal development.

Due to the limitations imposed by the authorities, the first half of 2021 had limited in-person activities. The pastoral situation was normalized in the second half of the year when the previous restrictions were lifted. It was then possible to return to in-person activities with greater freedom, although the situation remained tenuous, and the lack of means and services (health, education, social support, etc.) for a large part of the population of the area persisted.

Pastoral and Social Outreach Carried Out in Nuestra Señora del Rosario

Pablo Cirujeda is the rector of the Rectoría de Nuestra Señora del Rosario, where the following initiatives were carried out:

- *A Sunday Mass* broadcast on Facebook during the first half of the year, and then in-person during the second half.
- *Baptisms*.
- *Sacramental assistance to the sick* and accompaniment to families at the time of the death of a household member.
- *Catechesis*: with the participation of 70 children.
- *Food assistance for families at risk*: Throughout 2021, thanks to several donors, it was possible to support an average of 80 families on a monthly basis with packages of food. These families suffered from especially serious scarcity due to socio-economic situation.
- *Meal program* for people living on the street: Throughout the year 2021, thanks to a large team of volunteers and donors, the parish was able to offer a hot meal every Tuesday and Thursday for an average of 400 people who were living on the street or in vulnerable situations due to unemployment, illness, etc. They were also provided with donated clothing, footwear and free medical assistance.
- *Medicine bank and medical services*: coordinated by Pablo Cirujeda and in cooperation with several parishes in the area, it was possible to serve 4,000 people with prescriptions and / or medical consultations, including about 600 patients sick with Covid-19.
- *Tutoring for children*: In response to the dropout rate of a significant number of school children due to the closure of schools (which lasted during much of 2021), and the impossibility of accessing distance learning, the parish created a educational space that was attended by an average of 30 children from Monday to Friday from 4 to 6 in the afternoon.

COLONIA DE JARDINES DE SAN JUAN AJUSCO

Jardines de San Juan Ajusco is an unofficial, slum-type neighborhood located south of Mexico City, on the slope of the Ajusco volcano. It has an area of 77 acres divided into 900 lots and distributed among families. The community lacks basic services such as electricity, running water or drainage, and the streets are unpaved.

Many of the men work in the urban area of Mexico City, where they spend the night during the week, with precarious jobs and very low wages. Most women do not have stable jobs because they must take care of their young children. The level of education among women is low, and many of them have not

completed their primary education. It is very common for youth to drop out of school at the secondary level.

Among the most frequent social problems in the area are overcrowding, domestic violence, alcoholism and teenage pregnancies.

In 2005, the "San José" Community Child Development Center was built and launched in the neighborhood on a property provided by the community. It aims to especially serve children aged 1-6 years. Since it was opened, we have developed a comprehensive preschool care program from which today 118 children benefit directly. It indirectly benefits the 3,000 people who make up the community of Jardines de San Juan Ajusco.

Social Outreach

Àngels Fornaguera and Sarah Oduor oversee the work carried out in the Colonia de Jardines de San Juan Ajusco:

San José Community Child Development Center

The CSP runs the San José Community Child Development Center in Colonia de Jardines de San Juan, Tlalpan. During 2021 there were 118 children in the Center. The Center team is formed by 16 people including educators, support staff (cooks, laborers, driver, secretary) who carried out the following initiatives:

- *Comprehensive care* for 118 children from 1 to 6 years old, attending in shifts of 30% in observance health-related prevention measures. The boys and girls were distributed in four classrooms according to age and grade and attended every week from Monday to Thursday from 9 am to 3 pm. Each classroom had a community educator who implemented the corresponding pedagogical objectives at each level, and the children were evaluated on a quarterly basis to monitor their cognitive and psychomotor development. The services provided were as follows:
 - **Preschool education** for 118 children in-person, in smaller groups as was possible in the context of the pandemic.
 - **Food service** (breakfast, snack and lunch).
 - **Psychological treatment and early stimulation.** We worked with 27 children with behavioral problems (aggressiveness, apathy, language, etc.) in a joint effort with their parents, to adapt their child-raising skills to fit the specific needs of their children.
 - **Monitoring the growth and development** of the children, three times a year by measuring weight and height, with the results reviewed by a nurse, a member of the team, to be able to intervene in cases of growth delay. At the end of the year, no cases of malnutrition were identified despite the irregular attendance of the children.
- *Distribution of groceries:* Many families are still suffering the economic consequences of the pandemic and in 2021 it was necessary to continue this support aimed at the families of the 118 children in the center and 65 sick elderly people in the neighborhood who live in a situation of vulnerability.
- *Variety store:* the small store continued to function in which all kinds of donated items such as clothes, shoes, toys, kitchen utensils, furniture, books, decorative objects, etc. were offered daily

to the community, to both make items available to the community at a low cost and of raising funds for the improvement of the facility and the operating expenses of the San José Center.

- *Community education for the prevention of Covid-19:* The staff of the San José Center carried out education for the community for the prevention of Covid-19, by sharing available information and the promotion of proper hygiene practices: how to wash hands, maintain a healthy distance and the importance of wearing a mask.
- *Collaboration with other institutions and volunteers:* Since the beginning of the pandemic, numerous groups of volunteers and institutions collaborated with the collection of food products and basic cleaning supplies to benefit families in the community of Jardines de San Juan, due to the crisis generated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Alliances were formed with various organizations; there was the support of students supported the project as part of their required social service and also groups of volunteers who developed “solidarity days” with the children of the center.

San Juan de la Maguana (Dominican Republic)

The parish of La Sagrada Familia in Sabana Yegua, in the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana, serves a population of 30,000 people and is overseen by members of the CSP. This parish is twinned with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, which provides funding and staff.

The members of the CSP living in the Dominican Republic are: Perla Abreu, Hugo Alquejay, Indhira Bautista, Yomaira Cordero, Javier Guativa and Dolores Puértolas.

Also living with the community is Fr. Thomas Naidu of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, who collaborates with pastoral and sacramental work.

Pastoral Outreach

In 2021, the following pastoral activities were carried out:

- *Preparation for First Communion*: 123 boys and girls.
- *Preparation for Confirmation*: 92 young people.
- *Baptisms*: 308 boys and girls.
- In September, a *Biblical Olympics* for young people was held with the participation of 38 young people from the different communities that are part of the parish.
- Re-inauguration of the chapel of San Antonio in the community of Km. 8. It was in very bad condition and had to be practically demolished and rebuilt.

Social Outreach

The development projects carried out in the parish of *La Sagrada Familia* are the following:

Healthcare and Environment

To carry out the healthcare and environmental activities there is a team of seven people. The actions have been the following:

- *Health Center*: La Sagrada Familia Health Center offers its services of medical consultations, laboratory, pharmacy, dentistry, gynecology, and a program of ten mini-pharmacies in the most remote areas. The optometry consultation was incorporated every other week and work began in December to recondition some areas of the Health Center.
- *Dental campaign* in the Km. 15 prison (located within the parish territory). Dentists from Miami and Santo Domingo participated, providing dental consultations and care to the prisoners.
- *Recycling program*: this program was carried out thanks to three volunteers arriving from Spain, five drivers and two educators. The plastic recycling project was strengthened and expanded by carrying out the following activities:
 - **Environmental education** in schools and different community groups, with the participation of 700 people.
 - **Collection of plastic** from homes by bicycle-carts and its subsequent recycling and resale. 600 families participated.
 - **Extension** of the project to the Proyecto 4 community.

- An **alliance** was signed with the City Council of Sabana Yegua to collaborate with the project.
- *Latrine Construction and Housing Improvement Program*: 9 latrines and 8 houses were built in 2021, thanks to donations from parishes in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The revolving fund for housing improvements continued in the communities of Kilómetro 7 and Kilómetro 8, benefiting 17 families.
- The inauguration of a social project: the Altos de la Caobita Eco-hotel and Retreat House. The project, located in the community of Barrera (one of the most isolated and needy in the area), promotes local development by promoting sustainable domestic tourism. It offers employment and benefits the community with professional training.

Education

- *Tutoring in Reading and Writing, and Mathematics*, from which 140 children benefited. The courses were in-person for part of the year, following the regulations of the Ministry of Education for opening schools, and alternating classes during the week, as the program was carried out in school facilities. During 2021 there were 6 reading and writing tutoring groups with 2 educators in each.
- *Scholarship program for university students*: the program helped 69 low-income students who are pursuing different careers. Classes were mostly virtual. Laptops were provided for 3 students.
- *Sewing and beauty courses* at the Nazareth Job Training Center. Courses resumed in September 2021 with moderate attendance due to the pandemic.

Outreach to Children

- *San Agustín, Divina Misericordia and Nuestra Señora del Carmen Children's Centers*, located in Sabana Yegua, Alto Ganadero and Los Negros. The team that runs these centers is made up of 18 people, including educators, cooks and a medical doctor. In these three children's centers, the following activities were carried out:
 - **Preschool education** for 160 boys and girls from 2 to 5 years old. In February, in-person classes began nationwide, but attendance was irregular as some parents decided not to send their children to the centers during the pandemic.
 - **Dining service** (breakfast, snack, and lunch).
 - **Monitoring of children's growth and development and medical visits.**

Social Outreach

From the parish, social outreach services were offered to the most vulnerable population in the area. This work was carried out through:

- *The Social Outreach office*, where guidance and support is offered to people who suffer from some type of need.
- *“Patronato” San José*, through which 100 neglected elderly people are helped with monthly groceries and basic medical assistance. Also, important events are celebrated with and for them. During 2021, emergency food was distributed from January to May on a biweekly basis. Beginning in June, as things opened up, it returned to a monthly distribution.

Agriculture and Livestock

- *Construction of a reservoir:* in 2021 a water reservoir for agriculture and livestock was built in the town of Mordán, with a capacity of 1,250 m³ (330,000 gallons).

Volunteers and Visitors

- Eight seminarians from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee spent two months in the Dominican Republic, volunteering and learning Spanish.
- Seven candidates for the permanent diaconate of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee visited for a week to learn about the work being done in the parish.

Meki (Ethiopia)

In Ethiopia, the CSP works in the Dugda District, specifically in the city of Meki and its surroundings. Meki has approximately 43,000 inhabitants and is located 130 km south of Addis Ababa. Administrative, energy sector and technological services are very unreliable, as are health and educational services.

The year 2021 was a complicated year, due to the armed conflicts that began in November 2020 in the Tigray region (North of the country), causing much suffering and economic and political instability throughout Ethiopia. At the end of the year, a process of dialogue was launched to resume distribution of humanitarian aid, resolve the conflict and restore peace.

Political instability, coupled with drought, locust infestations and the effects of the pandemic, worsened the living conditions of the population throughout the country due to shortages of food and basic necessities, constantly rising prices, ethnic conflicts, lack of work and youth unemployment.

Two members of the CSP, María José Morales and Mònica Redolad, lived in Meki in 2021 carried out the projects detailed below.

Social Outreach

Advancement of Women

- *"Kidist Mariam" Women's Job Training Center*: founded in 2016 offering vocational training courses. The students are mostly young women who did not finish their studies or emigrants returned from Arab countries. In 2021, 219 women received training, and most of them found work after completing their training. The courses offered and the number of students were as follows:
 - **Cooking course**, 28 students.
 - **Hairdressing course**, 109 students.
 - **Sewing and tailoring course**, 82 students.
- *Activities to generate income* for the maintenance of the Center:
 - The cooking courses have a **dining service and a cafeteria**:
 - *A la carte* menus and meals are offered to an average of 60 people a day, Monday through Friday.
 - Local spices are prepared and sold.
 - Cooking students organize meals and snacks when there are continuing education courses for team members, or job training for women.
 - Sale of artisanal-made goat cheese that is produced in another of our projects in the countryside.
 - Maintenance of a vegetable garden for the supply of both the cooking course and the dining and cafeteria services.
 - The **sewing cooperative** of the Kidist Mariam center is made up of 14 students graduated from the sewing and tailoring courses. The income-generating activities they were able to carry out were as follows:
 - Production of washable sanitary masks.
 - Lab coats for health personnel and for the teachers at several schools.

- Sewing of 3,700 school uniforms.
- *Community savings groups*: A total of 1,950 women participate in the 65 community savings groups that we coordinate from the Kidist Mariam center, both in the urban area of Meki and in rural areas. Each group is made up of 30 women who meet every other week. In 2021, the following initiatives were carried out in these groups:
 - **Training in the management of the community's monies.**
 - **Development of a savings account** with the contributions of each participant.
 - **Making loans** among the members of each group, in order to start small businesses that allow them to generate new income.
 - Some groups, after 12 months of operation, distributed the money they had been saving, plus interest, proportionally. After this disbursement, they started a new savings plan.
- *Dairy goat farming in rural areas*: A total of 317 women from the rural areas of Korke Adi and Dembel are part of this project. With them, the following activities were carried out:
 - **Training courses on the care** required for the type of goats.
 - **Distribution of two goats to each participant.** At the present time there are a total of 902 dairy goats in the project, a total of 93 goats have been sold in the local market of Meki, and 295 goats give milk daily for family consumption and for community sale.
- *Permaculture project*: 210 women members of the savings groups in rural areas are part of the permaculture project. In this project, the following activities were carried out:
 - **Training to make fertilizer** and improve the fertilization of the land and the production of vegetables.
 - **Training to optimize** rainwater harvesting.
 - **Distribution of cultivation tools**, vegetable seeds and 1,680 seedlings of fruit trees (mangoes, avocados, papaya, moringa and neem) grown in the Kidist Mariam center, 8 trees to each woman, which they planted on their land.
 - As part of the project, six acres of land were rented in two community fields where the 210 women organized themselves into 13 different groups to produce vegetables and sell them in the local market.
- *Workload reduction project with donkeys and transport carts*: The objective of this project is to facilitate the transport of people and goods, reduce the work overload to which women members of the project are exposed, and generate income with it. During 2021, 90 women from rural areas participated, with whom the following activities were carried out:
 - **Training on the care and use of donkeys** as pack animals so that they can perform well for as many years as possible.
 - After their training, **90 donkeys and 90 carts were distributed** to them. Three donkeys have had offspring that were distributed to other women members of the project so that it can be sustainable.
- *Empowerment of 600 women* in the urban area of Meki: In January 2021 this new project was launched to reduce the level of extreme poverty in which 600 women in the urban area of Meki live as a result of the loss of work and family resources aggravated by the pandemic and the great political instability of the country. The activities carried out in this project were the following:
 - **Selection of women** and creation of 20 savings groups that met periodically every 15 days.
 - Periodic home visits in which they **were taught care for** personal and home hygiene, for the prevention of diseases and Covid-19.

- Talks to raise awareness about the damages and **harmful consequences that certain traditional practices have on health**.
- Aid for the **schooling of their sons and daughters**, and for medical assistance.
- Two of the participating women were able to build **a new house** with local materials.

Outreach to Children

- *Classrooms for Health and Classrooms for Equality Project:* Two nurses are responsible for this project in three primary schools in the rural areas of Melka Oda, Graba Filla and Meja Lalu, where a total of 2,200 students attend. Nurses conducted first-aid care services, gave health and disease prevention talks in all grades, and conducted activities to raise awareness of the prejudices and social traditions that adversely, and especially, affect women.
- *Construction and equipping of new classrooms in the rural school of Wayo Gabriel:* In November 2021, the construction of four new classrooms began at the rural school of Wayo Gabriel to be able to offer secondary education, which will allow young people from the rural area to study without having to move to Meki, whose three secondary schools are overcrowded with students.