



Annual Report 2024

Community Life

In 2024, the CSP continued its presence in the various countries and dioceses where it has been working in recent years.

On May 18, Denny Jacob, a CSP member born in India, was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

In the days following Denny Jacob's priestly ordination, the CSP General Assembly took place in Racine, Wisconsin.

In 2024, two young men began their formation process with the CSP to discern their vocation to serve the Church through our community: a woman in the Dominican Republic and a man in Bogotá.

In terms of intellectual production, in 2024, Pablo Cirujeda, a priest and member of the CSP, published the books *En camino hacia la libertad* and *Con sabor a Evangelio*, both published by Editorial San Pablo in Madrid. Martí Colom, also a priest and member of the CSP, published *Elogio espiritual de la generosidad*, also with Editorial San Pablo in Spain.

Introduction

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



MILWAUKEE, U.S.A.



The CSP has its main headquarters in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee (Wisconsin, USA). CSP priests are diocesan priests of this Archdiocese. In 2024, they were distributed as follows: six in different parishes of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, one in the Archdiocese of Mexico City, one in the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana, and one in the Archdiocese of Bogota.

CSP members in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee live in the city of Racine, where the Community's main headquarters is located, and in the city of Whitewater.

WORK IN PARISHES AND OTHER DIOCESAN RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRIESTS:

- *Pastoral unit consisting of eight parishes in the city of Racine:* Saint Patrick, Saint Richard, Saint Edward, Sacred Heart, Saint Lucy, Saint Sebastian, Saint Joseph, and Saint John Nepomuk, all located in Racine, with Juan Manuel Camacho as pastor. José Mario Nieto, also a member of the CSP, is one of three vicars who served in these eight parishes in 2024.

Saint Patrick has a strong presence of Spanish-speaking parishioners.



These parishes comprise approximately 14,000 people. Juan Manuel Camacho is also the Vicar for Hispanic Ministry for the Archdiocese.

- Saint Adalbert Parish in Milwaukee. Ricardo Martín is the pastor of this community, located in Milwaukee. It is a predominantly Hispanic parish (one of the largest in the archdiocese in this ministry). It has more than 6,000 registered parishioners. In 2024, Ricardo Martín continued to serve in his other capacities, including vice chancellor of the archdiocese, member of the college of consultors, and vicar general for Racine, Kenosha, and Walworth County areas.

- Saint Patrick Parish in Whitewater. Antony Thomas is the pastor of this bilingual parish located 53 miles east of Racine. He is also the chaplain of the Catholic Ministry Center at the city's public university.

PRIESTLY ORDINATION

On May 18, 2024, Denny Jacob, a member of the CSP, was ordained a priest in the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Milwaukee, along with other classmates from the diocesan seminary. After his ordination, he was appointed associate pastor at St. James Parish in Mukwonago, St. Peter Parish in East Troy, and St. Theresa Parish in Eagle (rural communities located in the western part of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee).

CSP GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN RACINE

In the days following Denny's ordination, CSP members gathered at the Siena Center retreat house in Racine for their General Assembly. One evening, they were joined by the Archbishop of Milwaukee, Msgr. Jerome ListECKi, who presided over the Eucharist and visited the community.

MISSIONARY AWARENESS:

CSP members conducted missionary awareness and fundraised for missions. Saint Patrick Parish in Racine is twinned with La Sagrada Familia Parish in the Dominican Republic, which is run by the CSP. And the other three parishes, also under the direction of the CSP, collaborated with various projects in Bolivia.

Missionary outreach efforts were held to raise funds for various missionary groups in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee during the months of June, July, and August, in different dioceses across the country.



La Sagrada Familia (Holy Family) parish of Sabana Yegua, in the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana, serves a population of 28,000 people and has been under the direction of the CSP since 2003. This parish is twinned with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, which provides funding for staff and basic infrastructure.

The CSP members living in the Dominican Republic are: Perla Abreu, Indhira Bautista, Yomaira Cordero, Javier Guativa, and Dolores Puértolas. In 2024, Father Rafael Rodríguez, a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, lived with the community. He arrived mid-year to collaborate with the parish's pastoral and sacramental work.

PASTORAL WORK

The following pastoral activities were carried out in 2024:

- First Communion catechesis: 42 boys and girls.
- Confirmation catechism: 72 young people.
- Baptisms: 154 boys and girls.
- In September, a day of Bible training for young people was held, with the participation of 89 young people from the various communities that make up the parish.





SOCIAL WORK

The development projects carried out by La Sagrada Familia Parish are as follows:

Health Ministries

Health Center: In 2024, two nurses, a general practitioner, a gynecologist, and a bioanalyst joined the health center team as part of a collaboration agreement with the State. The current permanent team consists of ten people, plus specialists who provide consultations once or twice a week. In 2024, the following activities were provided:

- Dental consultations
- Gynecology consultations
- Internal medicine consultations
- Optometry services

- Sonography services
- Laboratory
- Sale of affordable medications at the center's pharmacy.
- In October, a medical campaign was held for 356 people from Haiti who reside in our parish.

Educational Programs

-Literacy and Math Classroom Program, which benefited 140 children. The program's objective is to bring children in third and fourth grades up to the same level as other students their age. During 2024, seven literacy classes were open, with two teachers in each class.

-University Scholarship Program: The program assisted 81 low-income students pursuing various degrees. Several of them graduated in 2024.

-Sewing and beauty classes at the

Nazareth Job Training Center. The classes were attended by a total of 80 students.

Early Childhood Programs

San Agustín, Divina Misericordia, and Nuestra Señora del Carmen Childcare Centers, located in Sabana Yegua, Alto del Ganadero, and Los Negros, respectively. The team that runs these centers is made up of fifteen people, including educators, cooks, and a doctor. They carry out the following activities:

- Preschool education for 180 children ages 2 to 5.
- Nutritional services: daily breakfast and lunch.
- Monitoring the growth and development of children, as well as medical visits.

Other projects

- Plastic recycling program: In 2024, the program expanded in Sabana Yegua with the installation of plastic waste bins at several key points in the town. The project is consolidated, and an educational program continues to be carried out in schools and with other groups. Currently, more than 1,000 families are recycling.
- Housing improvement program: In 2024, three houses were built, thanks to donations from parishes of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Repairs were also made to 32 houses. The revolving housing improvement fund continued in the communities of Kilometer 7 and Kilometer 8, benefiting 19 families.

- Altos de la Caobita Eco-Hotel and Retreat House Social Project. The project, located in the community of Barrera (one of the most isolated and disadvantaged in the area), promotes community development by promoting tourism, providing employment, and benefiting the community with professional training. For the fourth consecutive year, it included young interns from a Spanish business school (ESADE SUD). A collaboration was also initiated with the School of Agronomy at the Polytechnic University of Catalonia, with a visit from two professors and the creation of an agricultural work plan.
- Social Assistance: The parish offered social assistance services to the most vulnerable population in the area. These efforts consisted of:
- A social assistance office, providing personal care and guidance to people experiencing some type of need.
- The Patronato San José, through which 115 neglected elderly people are assisted with monthly food parcels, basic medical care, and celebrations and events on special occasions.

Volunteers and Visitors

Six seminarians from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee spent two months in the Dominican Republic on a missionary

experience and learning Spanish. In October and December, parishioners from two parishes in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee (Holy Apostles and Saint Charles) visited La Sagrada Familia.



MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

In Mexico City, the CSP works in two different neighborhoods. First, in the Jardines de San Juan Ajusco in the Tlalpan area, and second, in the parochial territory of the Nuestra Señora del Rosario Rectory, located in the Álvaro Obregón district. The CSP members present in Mexico in 2024 were Pablo Cirujeda, María Ángeles Fornaguera, and Sarah Oduor.

JARDINES DE SAN JUAN AJUSCO

Jardines de San Juan Ajusco is an irregular neighborhood located south of Mexico City, on the slopes of the Ajusco volcano. It covers an area of 31 hectares divided into 900 lots and distributed among families. The community lacks

basic services such as electricity, running water, or sewage disposal, and the streets are unpaved.

Many of the men work in urban areas of Mexico City, where they spend the night during the week, with precarious jobs and very low wages. Most of the women do not have stable jobs because they must care for their children. The educational level among women is low; many of them have not completed primary school. Young men and women frequently drop out of secondary school.

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



Àngels Fornaguera and Sarah Oduor were in charge of the work carried out in the Jardines neighborhood of San Juan Ajusco.

SAN JOSÉ COMMUNITY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The CSP runs the San José Community Child Development Center in the Jardines de San Juan neighborhood. Its mission is to provide comprehensive development services to children ages 1 to 6 in this irregular neighborhood, who are at risk of social exclusion. They are offered preschool education and receive three meals a day in addition to supplementing their nutrition.

During 2024, 111 children were enrolled at the Center. The center's team consists of sixteen educators and support staff (cooks, cleaners, drivers, and secretaries) who carried out the following activities:

- Comprehensive care for 111 children. The children are distributed among four classrooms (nursery and preschool 1, 2, and 3) from Monday to Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Each classroom is led by a community educator, who implements the pedagogical objectives corresponding to each level. Children are assessed quarterly to monitor their cognitive and psychomotor development. The services provided were as follows:
- Cafeteria service. Children received breakfast and lunch, plus a mid-morning snack.
- Psychological treatment and early stimulation. Twenty-six children with behavioral problems (aggression, apathy, language delays, etc.) were provided in collaboration with their parents to tailor their education to their specific needs.
- Growth and development of children was monitored three times a year through weight and height measurements. The results were reviewed by a nurse, a member of the team, to facilitate interventions in cases of growth delay. At the end of the year, no cases of malnutrition were identified.
- Meetings with parents. Throughout the school year, meetings were held quarterly with parents of students at each of the four educational levels. The goal was to support them in getting to know, understand, and accompany their children in their learning and development process. These meetings also aimed to encourage educators to engage with parents to share experiences, clarify doubts, and give and receive suggestions.
- Bazaar. The bazaar continued, offering the community all kinds of donated items, such as clothing, shoes, toys, kitchen utensils, furniture, books, decorative objects, etc. The goal was to make these materials available and,



in turn, raise funds to improve the infrastructure and cover the operating costs of the San José Center.

- Collaboration with other institutions and volunteers. The San José Center has partnerships with various organizations and relies on the support of students who perform community service for the project. Also, from groups of volunteers who carry out solidarity events with the children at the center.

RECTORY OF NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL ROSARIO

The Rectory of Nuestra Señora del Rosario serves approximately 18,000 people in five low-income neighborhoods, with high population density, overcrowded conditions, and limited economic resources, marked by precarious living conditions, violence, and a lack of opportunities for development.

In 2024, the parish's pastoral work continued, especially family ministry, catechesis, ministry to the sick, and charitable social work. These efforts seek to respond to the challenges facing the population of this part of Mexico City, particularly family instability, high alcohol and drug use, educational backwardness among children, neglect of older adults, and limited access to health and pharmacy services.

PASTORAL AND SOCIAL WORK

Pablo Cirujeda is the parish priest of Nuestra Señora del Rosario, and various initiatives are being carried out there to respond to the current situation:

- Sacramental assistance through three Sunday Masses, baptisms, care for the sick, and support for families in the event of the death of a member of the household.
- Children's and youth catechism: with the participation of 45 children, parenting school, and the annual

celebration of first communions and confirmations.

- Food support for families at risk: Throughout 2024, thanks to several donors, we were able to continue providing monthly support to an average of 12 families facing serious hardship with food pantries.
- Community soup kitchen for homeless people: Throughout 2024, the parish, thanks to a large team of volunteers and donors, continued to offer a hot meal service every Thursday to an average of 300 homeless people or those vulnerable due to unemployment, older adults, disabilities, or other causes. They were also assisted with donations of clothing, footwear, and free medical care.
- A medicine bank and medical services: Coordinated by Pablo Cirujeda, who is also a medical doctor, and in cooperation with several local parishes, 3,600 people were served with medication and/or medical consultations. Many patients come from various parts of Mexico City due to the chronic shortage of medications in the public health sector.
- Children's tutoring: During 2024, in response to the situation of a significant number of children falling behind in school due to the two years of school closures (due to the pandemic), the parish continued to provide tutoring, attended by an average of fifteen students from Monday to Friday from 4 to 6 p.m.



In Bogotá the CSP works in La Resurrección parish, which includes the neighborhoods of La Resurrección, Granjas de San Pablo and El Pesebre, located in the Rafael Uribe section of the Southside of the Colombian capital. The parish has a population of around 5,000 families (approximately 20,000 people). The neighborhoods that form the parish are popular, working class, and most of their inhabitants live without savings, day to day, and many with informal jobs (such as street vending on the city center, temporary employments, etc.). There are many homes in situations of extreme poverty and need. Together with the lack of opportunities, the main problems in this area of the city are crime, insecurity, and the large amount of young people who use drugs and who have fallen into the micro-traffic networks.

During the first half of 2024 Martí Colom and Michael Wolfe were the members of the CSP living in Colombia, as in previous years. In June 2024 Michael Wolfe went back to the USA to take on a new pastoral assignment there, in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

PASTORAL WORK

Some of the most significant pastoral activities carried out in La Resurrección parish in 2024 were the following:

- Christian Formation to prepare children for First Communion, with the participation of 170 boys and girls.





- Christian Formation to prepare young people for Confirmation, with the participation of 60 teenagers and youth.
- Youth groups, with the participation of 40 young people.
- Confirmation Catechism for adults, with the participation of 10 people.
- Family Ministries, with the participation of 20 people.
- A weekly Bible Workshop, with the participation of 20 people.
- A parish Theological School, with 25 people attending the classes.

SOCIAL WORK

Since the CSP began its work in this area of Bogotá, in 2016, gradually established a number of different programs to help the needy. In 2024 the following actions took place:

Educational programs

Casa Garavito Community Development Center. In this formational center, established by the CSP in 2018, the following activities take place:

- A sewing center with tailoring courses being offered, mostly for women: In 2024, 60 women distributed into eight groups, participated in these classes.
- Manicure courses, with the participation of 40 people, mostly women.
- After-school classes: a teacher taught after-school lessons to children who needed them, in Casa Garavito, all throughout the year, four days every week, with the participation of 25 boys and girls aged 7 to 15.
- English, guitar, dancing and art classes, with the participation of 40 boys and girls. These classes take place on Saturdays.

- College scholarship program
- In 2024, 25 young people from low-income families were helped, so that they could go to college to pursue their University Degrees.
- Support to the primary school Centro Educativo Las Colinas. Since 2021 the CSP has been offering support to this small Catholic school, located near the parish. The CSP helps financially, as well as promoting the school's mission. In addition, the members of the CSP are present in the school's activities throughout the year.

Health ministries

- The parish nurse performs weekly home visits to low-income people who are sick. Likewise, she manages a small Parish Pharmacy through which medicines are given to people in need. During 2024 she treated an average of 30 people a month, with various diseases (diabetes, hypertension, etc.). The pharmacy's drugs are mostly donated.
- Psychological support: two psychologists hired by the CSP were able to continue offering weekly support to people who requested it, one in Casa Garavito and another in the offices of the La Resurrección parish. During 2024 they were able to treat around 100 people.

- Dental clinic: The dental clinic in the El Pesebre neighborhood opens two days a week offering care to low-income people from the area.

Help to vulnerable families

- Every month, 75 families in need are helped with a bag of food with basic products to ensure their proper nutrition.
- Financial aid is provided also to families in vulnerable situations to help them with the rent of their homes.
- Attention to immigrants from Venezuela, people and families arriving in Colombia in dire conditions. They are helped with food and financial aid so that they can pay the rent for their homes and avoid being evicted.

Outreach to homeless people and drug addicts

- *The Aguapanela Route:* It consists of making a monthly tour of the neighborhood, at night, during which we offer a sandwich and a hot sweet drink to people who suffer from various addictions and live poorly on the streets.
- The Solidarity Breakfast: In August 2024, we started a new program—a monthly breakfast in the parish for the homeless. In addition to the breakfast, they are given the opportunity to take a shower and change their clothes for clean ones.

COCHABAMBA, BOLIVIA



Montserrat Madrid, Gemma Regales and Aniceto Arroyo oversee the programs of the CSP carried out in the Archdiocese of Cochabamba.

SOCIAL WORK

The CSP development projects in the department of Cochabamba focus on two areas: first, in the rural areas of the municipality of Independencia and the municipality of Vacas; secondly, in the city of Cochabamba itself.

In 2024, the actions that the CSP carried out with the help of twenty-two local people working on the projects were as follows:

INDEPENDENCIA AND VACAS AREA

Both Independencia and Vacas are in the Andes Mountain range. The population is mostly of Quechua origin, and they have preserved their ancestral customs that have marked the community organization.



In the municipality of Independencia there are no paved roads, and they have a high level of dispersion, and isolation making communication difficult. The residents of both areas are farmers who practice extensive small-scale livestock farming. The economy is based on agricultural production for self-consumption and a small part for sale. The circulation of currency is quite limited, and the practice of barter is still common. Their homes are of precarious habitability, built of adobe, wood and stone, with thatched roofs and dirt floors.

Health, Water and Sanitation

- Health promotion and primary care project, which takes place in eleven rural communities in the municipality of Independencia. There was a community agent serving 1,816 people in the area. Additionally, the following actions were carried out:



- Basic hygiene and nutrition workshop in homes with delivery of basic hygiene kits.
- oEye Exams with delivery of prescription lenses.
- Environmental sanitation project through the construction of sanitary bathrooms in two rural communities in the municipality of Independencia. With the help of a community agent and two bricklayers, 39 single-family bathrooms with a toilet and a shower with hot water were built. 182 people benefited. The community agent, in the home visits, placed great emphasis on hygiene and bathroom and environmental care measures.
- Water program in Independencia. This project consisted of the development and installation of a gravity drinking water supply system, sized to meet the current and future demand of the population. The work, carried out by a bricklayer and two assistants, consisted of building a collection network from the upper area of the community and channeling it through a conduction line to the storage tank. And from there through a distribution network to home connections. 287 people (69 families) benefited.

Promotion of women

Project for the empowerment of women in rural areas: this project benefited 109 women from 15 rural communities of Independencia and Vacas. The following actions were carried out:

- oTraining in artisanal textile production
- oGender equity training and orientation workshop
- oRural business management training workshop

A group of 23 trained women with an advanced level of artisanal textile production continued to make quality alpaca wool garments for sale, generating economic income and thus improving the family economy. These women were very encouraged, since they saw how their effort produced benefits for them and their children. They called themselves "Andina Warmis" and little by little they have been receiving more orders.

- Mushroom production. During the rainy season, 43 families participated in the small cooperative that has been formed in mushroom production. Young women oversee collecting and processing them, thus helping them to have

financial resources for their studies and personal expenses. In 2024, they produced 93 kilos of dehydrated mushrooms (approximately two thousand kilos of fresh mushrooms) in the homemade drying rooms that each family has in their home.

Education

- Totorani Technological Center (Independencia): school recognized by the Bolivian Ministry of Education where three technical courses are taught: Motorcycle Mechanics, Handicraft Weaving, and Textile Manufacturing for young adults in the rural area of Independencia. In 2024, a total of 96 young people from 12 rural communities in Independencia attended.
- Scholarships for technical studies. Young people from rural communities in Bolivia have difficult access to vocational training because there are no centers in their areas and they must move to the city, which makes access extremely difficult for them. The majority cannot continue with their studies. In 2024, a total of 37 young people from various rural areas of Bolivia were supported to continue with higher technical studies in two boarding schools in Cochabamba.
- School transportation for students from 18 rural communities in the municipality of Vacas, where a safe and efficient school transportation service was implemented for 39 students from 18 rural communities in Vacas, overcoming distances of 10 km. The adaptation of a van with a metal structure and reinforced seats guaranteed regular attendance at classes, preventing dropouts and promoting educational inclusion.

Environment

- Project to reforest pine trees, family gardens and plant fruit trees in 20 rural communities in the municipality of Vacas and 18 rural communities in the municipality of Independencia that has benefited 206 families. The project consisted of the following actions:
- Nursery management of pine and fruit trees.
- Adaptation to the height and climate of the seedlings produced (approximately 200,000).
- Planting pine trees on the land of the participating families (approximately 140,000 pine plants).
- Production and planting of fruit plants (papaya, avocado, cherimoya, apple, tumbo, peach and pitahaya) on the families' land—4,100 fruit trees.
- Construction of 21 family greenhouses in the high areas of the Municipality of Independencia to plant vegetables for family consumption.
- Refraction and bringing water for irrigation (7.8 km) in 2 rural communities.

Cattle raising

- Project for the improvement of local sheep in 14 rural communities in the municipality of Independencia where technical veterinary training was provided, and 50 specimens of improved sheep were introduced. 156 families benefited.
- Project for the development of camelid livestock in 8 rural communities in the

municipality of Vacas where veterinary technical training was provided and 270 llamas were introduced. 93 families benefited.

CITY OF COCHABAMBA

Faced with the problem of the growing number of unprotected children and adolescents with their childhood rights violated in the city of Cochabamba, the CSP carries out an educational and therapeutic intervention for families and disadvantaged children and at social risk, to give them the opportunity to improve and restore their right to grow up and live as a family. This is done from the Casa San José temporary shelter center for boys and adolescent males from 5 to 14 years old.

Childhood and Family

- Child protection against the violation of children's rights, with the purpose of restoring the right to grow up and live as a family. The goal is that unprotected minors who live on the street and are at risk of being homeless can return to their nuclear or extended families. In 2024, 102 unprotected children and adolescents, aged between 2 and 14, were received and 47 of them were able to return to live with their families (family reintegration): 30 with the

nuclear family (father/mother) and 17 with extended family (grandparents, uncles, brothers, etc.). There were 28 children and adolescents who were transferred to other permanent reception centers in Cochabamba as there was no possibility of reunifying them with the family and 5 adolescents left (because they were unable to adapt to the rules of the institution). In total, we worked with 563 people from the family system: 280 adults and 283 minors (293 women and 269 men).

- Family reinforcement of disadvantaged families with minors at social risk, guaranteeing the well-being of the child population in the face of violations of their rights. We worked with 64 families to strengthen fathers, mothers or legal guardians through a specific and integrative intervention that allows the acquisition of guidelines and tools that compensate for the situation of social disadvantage that may directly or indirectly affect the development of children and guarantee their integrity and security in the family environment. In total, we worked with 205 people from the family system: 135 adults and 70 minors (107 women and 98 men).



MEKI, ETHIOPIA



The CSP works in the Apostolic Vicariate of Meki, Ethiopia, specifically in the city of Meki and in twelve surrounding rural areas. Meki has around 100,000 inhabitants and is in the Rift Valley, located 130 km south of Addis Ababa—the country's capital city.

In the last three years, political instability, conflicts, insecurity, youth unemployment and drought caused by climate change have worsened the living conditions of the population. The shortage of food and the constant increase in prices of basic products have increased poverty in the area.

Promotion of women

- *“Kidist Mariam” Center for the Promotion of Women and Vocational Training:*
- This center offers vocational training courses for 450 young women, so that when they finish their studies, they have access to the labor market. Many of them were not able to finish their studies or are returned emigrants from Arab countries. The courses taught in 2024 were:
 - Cooking classes (65 students).
 - Hairdressing classes (173 students).



- Sewing and tailoring classes (158 students).
- Computer classes (54 students)
- Income generating activities: sewing cooperative, craft store, cafeteria service, restaurant, and hairdresser. The students consolidate their knowledge while generating income for the center.
- Employment office: In 2024, 95% of the graduating students found employment in companies in the area, or coordinated to establish cooperatives among them, with employment contracts and decent conditions.
- *Empowerment, food security and income generation projects with 2,792 women in rural areas:*
- Community Savings groups: In 2024 a total of 2,792 women participated in the 97 community savings groups that were coordinated from the Kidist Mariam center. In these groups the following activities were carried out:
 - Training in savings, management, delivery, and repayment of loans and interests.
 - Formation of savings with their contributions.
 - Self-application for loans to start or expand local businesses.
 - Distribution among the members of the group of the money that each one has been saving throughout the year, plus the benefits obtained with the interest generated with the repayment of the loans.
- **Dairy goat breeding in rural areas:**
 - First phase: 512 women from rural areas are part of this project. They carry out training courses. There are currently a total of 3,735 dairy goats in the project and 856 baby goats

have been sold at the local Meki market. Women who started with two goats now have a herd of more than 10. The consumption of goat milk is promoted.

- Second phase: in 2024 the project was expanded to six other rural areas with the participation of 1,560 more women.
- Permaculture project: 480 women are part of this project. The following activities were carried out:
 - Training in making fertilizer and improving land fertilization and vegetable production.
 - Training to optimize rainwater collection.
 - Distribution of farming tools, vegetable seeds and fruit tree seedlings.
 - Vegetable cultivation on 2 community plots of two and a half hectares each, by 13 groups of women. They sell the production in the local market, dividing the profits between them equally.
- Workload reduction project with donkeys and transport carts to facilitate the transportation of people and goods, to reduce the work overload of women and to generate income. A total of 180 women participated in this project through the following activities:
 - Training and monitoring on the care and use of donkeys as pack animals.
 - Delivery of 180 donkeys and 180 carts to each of the women. A total of 37 donkeys have had offspring that have been distributed to other women.
 - *Empowerment project for 600 women in extreme poverty in the urban area of Meki*, to promote their economic and social development. The following activities were carried out:
 - Formation of 20 savings groups.
 - Home visits and visits to businesses to advise on their operation and possibilities for improvement.
 - Entrepreneurship courses to create a business plan.
 - Granting seed capital of 8,000 ETB (140 USD) to expand and improve their entrepreneurial projects.
 - Construction of adequate houses for 10 women.
 - Training through health and education talks, medical care and educational kits and school uniforms for their children.

Childhood

- *Health and equality in the classroom project*: Three nurses and a social worker are responsible for this project in four primary schools in the rural areas of Meki, where a total of 4,392 students attended. In this project the following activities took place:
 - Girl's clubs or teenagers' groups, where they became aware of the problems that directly affect girls in rural areas (child marriage, genital cutting, lack of rights for women and girls...). 1,350 washable sanitary pads were distributed to them to encourage adolescent girls to continue attending their classes regularly when they menstruate.
 - Awareness was raised about prejudices and social traditions that negatively affect their communities, most especially women.
- First aid care, with weekly talks on health and disease prevention in each class.





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