



## OVERVIEW OF **Mexico**

### Overview of Mexico



### **Language** Spanish

**Under-five Mortality Rate:** 17 per 1,000 live births. Mexico ranks 113 in the world.

**23.2 Million:** Population older than 15 without elementary education

**Human Development Index (HDI)** for 2011: 0.770 (ranked 57 out of 187, indicating high human development).

**28 Million:** Population with limited access to food

### Brief History of ChildFund in Mexico

**ChildFund came to Mexico:** 1948

**Number of states/districts etc.:** 31 states & 1 federal district—ChildFund programs in 7 states

**Number of enrolled children (FY12):** 27,043

**Number of beneficiaries (FY12):** 535,697

In the late 1940's ChildFund came to Mexico to work with low income children, and became fully established as an organization in 1973. During the 1980's our local partners, most of them community based organizations, were recognized as either a Civil Association or a Private Assistance Institution, all of them led by parents of enrolled children. After 39 years of work, ChildFund Mexico has been leveraging best practices, strategies on the field, talking to experts in community and child development and taking employees and donors into account, to best reach the most vulnerable children. Nowadays, ChildFund Mexico supports children, families and communities in the most impoverished areas through a local and international sponsorship program, and strong alliances with the private sector.

# Brief Program Overview



ChildFund interventions reach children, families and communities through 39 local partners in the states of Chiapas, Hidalgo, México, Michoacán, Oaxaca, Puebla and Veracruz and are based on the following eight programmatic areas:

- 1. Early stimulation.** Promotes children's development of capacities in order for them to have a strong mental structure.
- 2. Nutrition.** Encourages vulnerable children and their families to maintain a healthy diet in order to avoid malnutrition and achieve the best possible development.
- 3. Prevention of violence and abuse.** Protects children from physical or mental violence or abuse, exploitation and especially sexual abuse.
- 4. Development of mental skills.** Children acquire new mental skills for better analysis, problem solving and decision making in both life and school.
- 5. Technology literacy.** Fresh new teaching model for children and youth to acquire new skills on literacy, critical thinking and teamwork.
- 6. Reading to transform.** Develops cognitive skills to help lessen the causes of educational gaps.
- 7. Productive projects.** Promote self-employment initiatives through specific training in order for youth to fit in, in their communities and generate income.
- 8. Reproductive health.** Through a friendly approach, help youth fully exercise their sexual rights in a safe and responsible manner.



# 2012 Program Achievements

**Infants.** Some of ChildFund Mexico's main achievements in this age group include: the expansion of the *Early Stimulation* program reached 2,490 children; the *Nutrition* program benefited 3,154 children; and the *Reading to Transform* program began implementation with 255 children, helping them improve their cognitive skills and be better prepared to begin school.

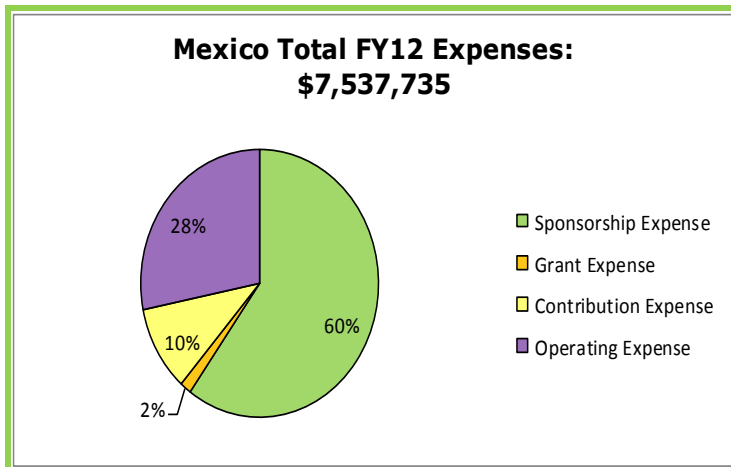
**Children.** The programs that achieved the most impact and positive changes in school age children were: The *Nutrition* program benefited 7,702 children and included education on healthy eating habits; the *Prevention of Violence and Abuse* program influenced 5,695 children and their families; and the *Technology Literacy* program made access to computers and training possible for 739 children living in deprived and vulnerable communities.

**Youth.** In this age group, ChildFund Mexico increased the coverage of its *Prevention of Violence and Abuse* program to reach 1,608 youth. In addition, the *Development of Mental Skills* program was implemented successfully to reach 803 young boys and girls and the *Reproductive Health* program benefited 920 youth that now can make more informed decisions regarding their sexual rights.

**Societies.** The Productive projects, oriented to promote self-sustainability and income generation through self-employment initiatives and vocational training, benefited a total of 2,212 families in Mexico during FY12.



# Financial Report



## Mexico FY12

Sponsorship Expense	4,518,389	60%
Grant Expense	116,045	2%
Contribution Expense	780,288	10%
Operating Expense	2,123,014	28%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>7,537,736</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Challenges

Mexico is a country that is characterized by its richness in natural resources. However, its development has been limited as a result of economic, political and social problems.

In the economic aspect, Mexico has gone through several crises, caused by the lack of international reserves in 1994, which resulted in the devaluation of the Mexican peso and the increase in the rate of unemployment. Subsequently, in 2008 the international economic crisis generated the increase in the rates of poverty primarily because of reductions in real income and access to food.

Today 51.9 million people live in poverty and 11.7 million in extreme poverty.

In the political context, in spite of the transition and change of party in power, the institutions in general lack credibility and there are serious problems of corruption and access to justice.

The population has been seriously affected by insecurity. Over the past six years, 140,000 people have died in the struggle undertaken by the authorities to combat organized crime.

In addition, the health and education services, although they have increased in coverage, remain of very poor quality.

All of these factors have had a negative impact on Mexican children and pose a risk to their overall development.

In addition to the above challenges, several areas of Mexico are vulnerable to catastrophic events, including hurricanes, earthquakes and flooding that increase the vulnerability of children and their communities and tend to affect the implementation of programs especially in some of the isolated communities where ChildFund works.





# Why Sponsorship is Important

When Xochitl was little, she couldn't stand up without stumbling over everything around her. She suffered from severe strabismus, a visual problem in which the eyes are not aligned properly and point in different directions. Through ChildFund Mexico, Sergio Torres decided to sponsor Xochitl. When he was about to celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, he had a brilliant idea and planned a huge party, but instead of asking for presents he asked for money for his sponsored child, Xochitl. She needed eye surgery and her family couldn't afford the procedure. The sponsor made the arrangements, and thanks to the surgery and the kind heart of so many people like Mr. Torres and his friends, Xochitl's life changed completely.

Now Xochitl goes to school normally and plays with other children without fear of falling down. She is very active and participates in several programs ChildFund Mexico carries out in her community through its local partners, especially in reading and educational support activities.



Fifteen years ago, Noemi was enrolled in ChildFund's "Colonias Unidas de Oaxaca" program located in Oaxaca, Mexico. At that time, Noemi was 6 years old and she had the good fortune from that moment to be sponsored by a Daniel Tearpock, a sponsor from Texas, USA, who is still supporting her.

After all these years of sponsorship, Noemi mentions, *"I think that the relationship I have had with my sponsor Dan is very good. He hasn't stopped writing letters to me since I was 6 years old. He has supported me and my family in many aspects."*

This has allowed Noemi and her sponsor Dan to develop a strong bond. Through the correspondence they talk about everything: family, health, hobbies, school, job, their countries, their culture and the most important thing, their dreams.

Mr. Tearpock has always encouraged Noemi through the letters he sent her, to study hard, telling her how important it is to have good professional training, in order to reach higher goals in life. He was aware that on July of 2010, she



## Why Sponsorship is Important (continued)

would finish high school and that she wanted to obtain a degree in teaching foreign languages.

Noemi wanted to pursue a degree in foreign language because through the time she has been exchanging letters with her sponsor, he told her about interesting things concerning his travel for his job. Noemi wanted to know more about other cultures, to speak other languages, and to teach them to others, especially to be able to communicate with her sponsor in his own language.

Unfortunately, during that year, Oaxaca was on a public teacher's strike and Noemi was not able to join the public university. Her sponsor put all his effort into arranging with Child-Fund to investigate other college options for Noemi to study and follow her dream.

Thanks to the support of her sponsor, Noemi was able to join a private university and pursue the degree she wanted. *"Please don't worry. I was saving some money for you to study. But it will not be easy, remember that important things require an extra effort,"* wrote Mr. Tearpock in a letter to Noemi, that she proudly shows and remembers.

Noemi is now 21 years old and enrolled in the fifth semester of her university degree. Noemi knows that dreams can come true. She is writing letters to her sponsor in English and her family is very proud of her because thanks to her sponsor's encouragement, she was able to reach one of her most important goals and completely transform her life.