2017 was an impactful year in promoting positive social change throughout Baja California Sur. Thank you to our team, partners, and donors for giving their resources and heart in supporting the wellbeing and development of women, youth, and migrant workers.
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Our activity in 2017 impacted individuals living across the state. Take a peek at what we've been up to and the widespread communities we were able to reach.

- **5** Youth Program Locations
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We believe in ensuring the rights of all are protected. To do so in 2017, PROACI worked with justice professionals and educators on their responsibility in implementing new and important violence protection legislation and incorporating a gender-based perspective in the court room.

Forming and building capacities of education professionals on their obligations in reporting and addressing cases of abuse, PROEX (Expeditied Protection Program), implemented workshops in

5 LOCATIONS ACROSS THE STATE

197 EDUCATIONS PROFESSIONALS

71 SCHOOLS

22 CITIES

In addition to learning the new legal norms and regulations, workshop participants challenged themselves to confront personal resistances, preconceived notions, and barriers in meeting their obligations. Workshop dialogue and feedback confirmed the urgent need of such awareness and commitment to violence protection in their line of work.

“What I learned is that we have obligations in the things that we must protect and defend, especially in sexual abuse against children... I will take what I learned in the workshops to the doors of our leadership.”

– Blanca, participant in PROEX workshop in Ciudad Constitución
Our violence protection effort extended beyond the professional realm in 2017 as PROACI launched a multimedia public awareness campaign statewide. In mid-2016, after 18 months of efforts, PROACI’s legal initiative authorizing immediate protection orders for victims of violence was passed unanimously by the state’s congress.

This year as a follow up effort, PROACI installed

26 billboards throughout 6 cities and 480 radio spots aired statewide between 2 stations.

This campaign both informs women and encourages them to exercise their legal rights, specifically in obtaining the immediate protection orders.
Alongside PROEX, HER (Health Education and Reproductive Justice) programming ensured that rights of women are protected in the justice system.

40 state judges representing 7 cities throughout BCS participated in HER workshops led by PROACI.

Women arrive at the judicial process having suffered a wide array of disadvantages and social injustices, often facing many obstacles to even have their cases brought forth in a courtroom. Having previously worked with the justice sector, PROACI leveraged its relationship to propose a comprehensive approach for implementing the new penal system with a gender perspective, advancing rights for women.
Prevention, outreach, and advocacy is the primary mission for us at PROACI. However, when a community need presents itself, and the resources are available, we address it. This year, PROACI proudly responded to the immediate needs of migrant workers and natural disaster victims in BCS.

Tropical storm Lidia struck Los Cabos in August of 2017, with devastating floods throughout the region. Community leaders from PROACI’s PROMESA program identified needs and organized relief efforts. With available resources from generous community donations throughout the year, PROACI was able to respond with food and hygiene packages, clothing, and tarps.

PROACI is one of the few organizations in the state with access to seasonal migrants who live on the ranches where they work. Nearly 30,000 workers and family members arrive to the state each growing season, working excessively long hours for low wages and often struggling to make ends meet. For the last eleven years, PROACI has distributed monthly food packages in partnership with the Dr. Simi Foundation. In addition to this support, PROACI uses this access to distribute educational materials and lead workshops on health and human rights, reproductive rights, and violence prevention. In 2017, activity included administration of rapid HIV tests, encouraging women on the ranch to be proactive with their reproductive and sexual health.
Educating youth and encouraging them to take an active role in building healthy relationships and taking responsibility for their sexual health was a meaningful pillar of PROACI’s work in 2017.

2017 was an exciting year for our long standing, youth driven, teen pregnancy and youth violence prevention program, Jóvenes en Acción (JEA). Approximately 4,200 students were reached and provided with access to contraceptives, condom demonstrations, and sexual health and rights education, through a lens of peer leadership. Participating schools continue to observe a considerable drop in teen pregnancy rates, fewer cases of gender-based violence, and increased leadership skills of youth as they serve as agents of change in their communities.
“At the beginning, Jóvenes en Acción was just part of my social service requirements. But then I realized that the topics really interest me. Before I came to the training, I had a lot of doubt about what are effective safe sex methods, why we should use them, what’s the real purpose. Throughout the workshop, the instructors gave us simple explanations, so we understand better.”
Ivonne del Angel, Student, COBACH 11

“The Jóvenes en Acción program is well received by youth in my school. Students are improving their level of autonomy and enhancing their ability to make decisions. Youth leaders have emerged and guide their peers in understanding their sexual and reproductive rights along with the ways in which violence can take shape and its prevention. The success of this program has been constant and permanent throughout the 6 years of its implementation.”
Gabriela Fernandez, School Counselor, Cobach 11

“I feel comfortable in this training because it’s helped me in my daily life to lead other people and feel more confident in different life situations. I learned how to respect others and help other young people exercise their rights.”
Jorge López, Student, CETMAR
Our weekly radio program, DEJUVE (Derechos de la Juventud), aired statewide throughout 2017. Content and topics are youth driven and inform listeners of their human rights, providing them with next steps for taking action. Frequent listener call ins serve as a testament to the impact of the content aired.

“I became a faithful listener of DEJUVE after I heard a program about health rights. DEJUVE had a guest from Seguro Popular and she explained how I could get free health insurance as a college student. That was a big thing for me, because I have asthma that can sometimes be severe. Now when I need help I can go to the doctor or hospital without worry. I listen every week because the program has helped me and informs me of my rights!”

María Fernanda, 19 years old, student, Instituto Tecnológico de la Paz
Centro Mujeres remains committed to promoting efficient and effective business practices and continuously improving our service and impact through innovation and networking with likeminded organizations.

In 2017, Centro Mujeres served as a REPEM (Red de Educacion Popular entre Mujeres) delegate at the United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development as part of the Women’s Major Group. As a delegate in the Women’s Major Group, Centro Mujeres worked to strategize and advocate for women’s human rights and gender equality in relation to the 2017 annual theme, Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a changing world. This experience in collaboration with our peers on the global stage allowed us to learn together as we collectively work to push forward the human rights agenda.
Our work would not be possible without the support of our donors, volunteers, funders, and partners. We are thankful for their contributions and guidance in 2017 and look forward to future partnership in promoting positive social change.

**Program Allocation**

- Jóvenes en Acción: 30%
- DEJUVE: 17%
- Administration: 15%
- PROMESA: 12%
- ProAct: 8%
- PROEX: 5%
- Restricted fund for 2018: 5%
- HER: 6%
- Institutional Strengthening: 2%

**Income Sources**

- Foundations: 85%
- Embassy: 2%
- Individual Donations: 1%
- In-Kind contributions: 12%

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“*When I met Teresa and Monica 15 years ago and learned about Centro Mujeres and what they are doing for the people of the Baja, I made my first donation and have been giving ever since. I have many choices on where I can invest my resources and choose this organization because I have seen how my contributions can shift the lives of individuals in need in my community and aid Centro Mujeres in meeting their goal of lasting social change.*”

— Gurnee Munn III

“*This organization is all about educating, assisting, and improving the lives of the people of Baja. Compassionate, intelligent, strong activism for the rights of women, children, and every human. That is Centro Mujeres. Supporting them is easy.*”

— Jamie Kaplin

“*I choose to donate to Centro Mujeres on a continuous basis, have done so since their inception in 1994, and encourage friends and family members to contribute as well. Centro Mujeres collaborates in regional, national, and international research efforts and symposia and thereby builds and leverages the data and analysis that are generated and the connections that are made to further its impact.*”

— Angela Moscow

“*Centro Mujeres does crucial work to empower women, adolescent and young girls to take charge of their lives in terms of sexual, reproductive and human rights. I give because they provide respectful support for women in need and advocate for policy changes at the local and national levels to further the human rights agenda.*”

— Victoria Griffith
Continuing to innovate our approach to fundraising and institutional development, Centro Mujeres participated for the first time in the Giving Tuesday global movement. This exercise proved beneficial in strategizing social media techniques and utilizing the power of crowd funding to support our vital social change programming.

Our team at Centro Mujeres is unlike any other and in 2017 we celebrate Carla Alvizo who has been with us for 18 years. She diligently works behind the scenes to ensure our financial transactions are efficient, effective, and transparent. Her tireless dedication ensures that our practices stay ahead of the curve amongst frequent and swift federal fiscal policy reforms. Her dedication proves she believes in the Centro Mujeres mission.

Congratulations Carla
Thank you for taking the time to read about our work in 2017. After over 20 years of dedication towards achieving justice and social change in Baja California Sur, we remain impressed by all that has been accomplished and motivated to forge ahead. Growth and adapting our approach means understanding, appreciating, and evaluating where we’ve been. This perspective allows us to identify solutions that are effective and responsive to the needs of the community we love. We’ve seen our impact in individuals as well as entire families and communities. We see that our strengths are in preventative community-based programming that create agency in participants.

We anticipate great strides in 2018 towards our mission to create lasting social change. Efforts are underway to launch a massive outreach campaign informing citizens of their reproductive rights in cases of rape and sexual abuse. We also look forward to leveraging our existing relationships with the education and justice sectors to build upon our activity in 2017 and continue awareness efforts on human rights and the gender perspective.

We invite you to join us and serve as an agent of change. Your support helps us continue to ensure systematic justice is guaranteed for all. Your support means our community is equipped with the tools to take action. Your support means human rights are protected and advanced. Your support means young people are cultivated. Your support means our community prospers. Your support transforms lives and advances social justice.

In partnership,

Monica Iasis & Teresa Shields
Co-Directors