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# Mission & Strategies

MADRE partners with women who have survived human rights violations and resolved to rebuild their lives and communities. Using a human rights framework, MADRE works to meet urgent needs and, ultimately, change conditions that give rise to human rights abuses.

## Strategies

### **Movement-Building for Social Change**

MADRE partners with community-based women's organizations that share our vision of a world where all people enjoy the full range of human rights. MADRE works with our sister organizations to meet urgent needs in their communities and enhance women's capacity to create positive social change.

### **Meeting Immediate Needs**

Women cannot develop long-term solutions to the crises they face when they are struggling to ensure their family's daily survival. MADRE therefore works to meet urgent needs as a necessary component of creating social change.

### **Advocating for Human Rights**

The international human rights framework is a powerful, but under-utilized tool for creating positive social change. MADRE aims to apply human rights to social change initiatives, advance and improve the human rights framework and make international law relevant and accountable to the people it is meant to serve.

### **Educating the Public**

A cogent understanding of the social, economic, and political conditions that confront us is critical to creating positive change. MADRE works to communicate the impacts of policies of governments, international financial institutions, and other centers of power on women and their communities worldwide and to formulate and press for alternatives to destructive policies. MADRE enables people to come together and see their own struggles in a broader context and in relation to other peoples' struggles.

Since we began in 1983, MADRE has provided direct services, human rights trainings, capacity-building, technical assistance and other forms of support to 88 community-based women's organizations in over 25 countries, directly impacting the lives of approximately 450,000 people.

# Program Areas

MADRE's international work is implemented through three programs: Economic & Environmental Justice, Women's Health/Combating Violence Against Women and Peace Building. Through these programs, MADRE researches, develops and implements innovative social and political strategies that deliver resources and support to women and families, educate and inspire people to action and use human rights advocacy to promote social justice.

## **Economic & Environmental Justice**

More and more people are realizing that we cannot continue to live outside the laws of nature and that we have the capability to reinvent our economies and habitats on a sustainable basis and in ways that safeguard human rights. Around the world, strong public consciousness is spreading about the inter-relationships between the problems that threaten our communities and the ecosystems on which we depend. Increasingly, people are focused on creating concrete, realizable solutions that are both local and systemic.

## **Women's Health/Combating Violence Against Women**

We tend to think of health mainly as a function of biology, but the strongest determinants of health are actually the social, political and economic forces in our lives. Health is not only the absence of disease or infirmity, but also a state of physical, mental and social well-being. How healthy we are depends enormously on our access to nutritious food, clean water and medical care; on the levels of violence and stress in our lives; on how much and under what conditions we work and on the opportunities we have for love, pleasure and fulfillment. Health, then, is inextricably linked to human rights. In fact, social and economic inequality, both between men and women and among different groups of women, is the biggest obstacle to good health for women around the world.

## **Peace Building**

MADRE recognizes the many different ways that war impacts women's human rights and gender relations. Conflict-related abuses such as the exploitation of child soldiers, the use of rape as a weapon of war, and the forced displacement of women and families leave lasting scars on individuals and communities. MADRE therefore works to strengthen women's capacity to create and participate in processes aimed at ending armed conflict and rebuilding their communities and countries.

In 2009, MADRE's blog featured 118 posts, with messages from our sister organizations, videos, analysis and commentary. The blog can be found at <http://madreblogs.typepad.com/>.



# Economic and Environmental Justice

**KENYA:** MADRE provided eight bicycles to our sister organization in Kenya, the Indigenous Information Network (IIN), as a simple and powerful solution for the economic insecurity they face. These bicycles are load-carrying bicycles specifically designed to carry extra passengers and heavy jugs of water. IIN consulted with community leaders to ensure that the vehicles would be shared equitably to address community needs. They will allow women to get drinking water for their families more quickly, transport sick and elderly community members to the nearest health clinic and earn income by offering taxi services. As seen in the photo below, one community identified transportation for young school children as a priority need that could be addressed by having access to a vehicle.



© 2009 Brit. Willey

**“My children are eating everyday and my daughter is laughing again. It is the best sound in the world.”**

**- Patricia, Nicaragua**



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**NICARAGUA:** MADRE and Wangki Tangni provided organic watermelon, cabbage, squash, tomato and cucumber seeds to 90 women for family gardens and to 35 communal gardens. Seeds were distributed in Kisalaya, Miguel Bikan, Bawisa, Ulwas, Cuenca Libre and Waspam, as well as smaller communities along the Coco River. We also established a collective farm plot serving 14 small communities. Each community is represented by eight women, who make decisions about planting and distribution. This plot of land serves 200 women and their families. MADRE and Wangki Tangni continued to train women to maximize the output of the seeds they received. We also coordinated four farmers' markets, where 30 women sold surplus produce and exchanged information with other farmers. In December, 470 women and families gathered to celebrate a bountiful harvest.

Educating the Public About Economic and Environmental Justice

Indigenous Peoples' Global Summit on Climate Change (April 2009 Blog)

Climate Change and Women's Human Rights: The MADRE Model (December 2009 Article)



# Economic and Environmental Justice

**GUATEMALA:** *Farming for the Future* establishes pig farming as a source of food security and microenterprise for Indigenous Ixil women in El Quiché department in the Guatemalan highlands. Working with our local partner, Muixil, MADRE has installed two communally-owned pens, provided pigs and feed and trained women in animal husbandry, business management and human rights. These activities provide a source of protein for communities threatened by hunger and malnutrition, and a sustainable source of income as pigs are sold in local and national markets.

In August 2009, MADRE staff traveled to Guatemala to discuss the progress of the project. We provided an additional breed of pigs to enable more women to take part in the project and build the overall sustainability of pig farming in El Quiché. We also discussed the possibilities of expanding the project by incorporating chicken farming. After the meeting, participants launched a pilot chicken farming initiative with 135 women.



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**KENYA:** Over the course of several weeks in April 2009, MADRE and the Indigenous Information Network worked with community members in an Emayian Maasai community of Southwest Kenya to construct a barrier to protect a water source from erosion and contamination by livestock. The barrier has outlets to allow water to flow freely downstream and be carried by pipes to the community collection point and watering trough. Project participants also constructed a new water collection point that is easily accessible to women in the community who are responsible for collecting water and a large watering trough for livestock.

**NICARAGUA:** MADRE is working with Wangki Tangni to provide a clean drinking supply to Indigenous communities on the North Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua. During the summer of 2009, we conducted a pilot filtration project in three communities serving 700 people that has generated community brainstorming about water rights. MADRE and Wangki Tangni have launched a new project that will serve 3,600 people. Access to clean water will save lives and eliminate the risk of waterborne diseases such as cholera, typhoid and dysentery, and give women the opportunity to develop leadership skills and improve their status in the community by ensuring a healthy drinking supply for themselves and their families.

**Educating the Public about Economic and Environmental Justice**

[Day of Indigenous Resistance \(October 2009 Blog\)](#)

[Declaration of Indigenous Peoples for Food Sovereignty \(November 2009 Article\)](#)

# Women's Health

## SPOTLIGHT ON AFGHANISTAN:

MADRE launched the Afghan Women's Survival Fund to enable women who are threatened with violence to escape to safety. The Fund supports an underground rescue network of women committed to providing shelter and secret transport to women who have been targeted because they dare to speak out for human rights. Through the Fund, MADRE is able to activate a global network of women's human rights defenders to launch advocacy campaigns on behalf of women who are publicly threatened by the Taliban or other ultra-conservatives. In October, MADRE hosted a screening of *Rethink Afghanistan*, a documentary by Brave New Films. The film exposes the fallacies behind many popular arguments for the war on Afghanistan--including the notion that it is a war in the service of women's rights. After the film, we held a panel discussion featuring the film's director, Robert Greenwald, and the Gender Program Manager of UNDP-Afghanistan, Indai Sajor.



**“In Afghanistan, killing a woman is like killing a bird. We remain caged, without access to justice, and still ruled by women-hating criminals.”**

**- Malalai Joya, Parliament member**

Thanks to the Afghan Women's Survival Fund, a woman named Naseema is making her final preparations to escape a husband who has threatened her life. After reporting her husband to the authorities for murdering someone, Naseema and her children fled from shelter to shelter, unable to find safety. MADRE has been able to cover the costs of temporary emergency housing, transportation and passport fees for Naseema and the children. MADRE is now working with our partners and two different United Nations agencies to get Naseema and her family resettled in Pakistan. From there, they will apply for refugee status so they can settle in another country.

Several of our donors have come together in The Founders Circle, a group of people committed to raising support for the Fund and helping to ensure that more people hear about this urgently-needed, concrete way to respond to an atrocity that we cannot ignore. The Founders Circle works to raise the profile of the Survival Fund through activities such as writing letters, hosting gatherings and organizing fundraising events.

**Educating the Public about Women's Health**  
The Nicaraguan Abortion Ban Tortures Women (July 2009 Blog)  
Afghan Women Speak Out (May 2009 Article)



# Women's Health

**GUATEMALA:** Thanks to MADRE members' support, Executive Director Vivian Stromberg was able to deliver toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, mouthwash and learning kits to children in the Barcenas community during her recent worktrip to Guatemala. The Women Workers' Committee, MADRE's partner in Barcenas, was able to conduct a health fair about oral hygiene techniques using the materials sent by MADRE. Each participant went home with a bag of toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss and toy teeth for children.

**PALESTINE:** The Safe Birth Center has continued to serve as a provider of vital reproductive health services as well as a place of education for new and expectant mothers. Staff provided low cost delivery services for approximately 700 women in 2009. Furthermore, the community of Maythaloun benefited by having an opportunity to assume responsibility for the birthing center at the end of 2009. MADRE will continue to provide technical assistance as needed to enable the birthing center to flourish. Women's access to family planning has also expanded. A MADRE delivery of 15,000 condoms has been distributed by midwives who offer workshops on preventing unwanted and high-risk pregnancies.



© 2009 Palestinian Medical Relief Society



© 2009 Palestinian Medical Relief Society

**IRAQ:** MADRE operates a network of women's shelters in Iraq in collaboration with the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI). Working with over 100 volunteers in communities throughout Iraq, MADRE and OWFI provided safe transportation and a secure home to dozens of women escaping "honor killing" and other threats of gender-based violence. In Fall 2009, OWFI launched Al Mousawat ("Equality") Radio to strengthen women's abilities to claim rights and play a positive role in rebuilding their country. MADRE is working with OWFI to create programming designed to relate to women's everyday struggles against sexual violence and discrimination, and create an alternative to negative portrayals of women in mainstream media.

## Educating the Public about Women's Health

African Women Leaders Fight the HIV/AIDS Epidemic (March 2009 Blog)

Unengaging Women's Human Rights (February 2009 Article)



# Peace Building

## SPOTLIGHT ON COLOMBIA:

In Colombia, MADRE provides critical services for former child soldiers and children who are at high-risk for being recruited by armed groups, giving them the social and psychological support they need to create alternatives to a life of violence. Through our local partner, Taller de Vida, MADRE provides trauma counseling, art therapy and recreational programs to young people in Bogota who have been uprooted from their homes by war and poverty. This year, we provided services for 250 young people who had been involved in armed conflict, and reached approximately 3,000 children with prevention-based activities. In February, we also hosted Yina, an 18 year-old former child soldier who works with Taller de Vida and was in New York as part of the Red Hand Campaign.



© 2009 Miguel Macias



© 2009 Maya Puglantz



© 2009 Secretary-General of the UN, Ban Ki-moon and Yina

In July 2009, Miguel Macias, a MADRE volunteer and youth media producer, returned to Bogota to conduct workshops at Taller de Vida. For two weeks, Miguel worked with 15 students on writing for the web, photography, journalism, video, radio and Drupal (an internet content management system). The first week was mainly instructional, while the second focused on the writing and shooting/recording of the students' stories. All of the content produced will be posted on Youth Radio, a youth media organization with bureaus across the US and internationally. Many of the workshop participants were former child soldiers who had escaped from paramilitary groups and found Taller de Vida. Now, as teens and young adults, many are reluctant to discuss their ordeals. The workshops give them the means to express and begin to overcome traumatic past experiences. Many participants wrote stories exploring their pasts, often as portraits of themselves or someone they know.

### Educating the Public about Peace Building

MADRE Denounces Peruvian Police Crackdown on Indigenous Protesters (June 2009 Article)

Raising the Stakes on the Election in Afghanistan (August 2009 Blog)



# Peace Building

**PERU:** In Ayacucho, Indigenous young people who have been displaced by political violence in Peru have a means to overcome the trauma of displacement and learn to express themselves through art. MADRE and our Peruvian sister organization CHIRAPAQ coordinated sculpting classes for 18 young people six days a week for four weeks. Participants received instruction on how to draw designs, handle tools, choose stones and implement their artistic visions. Participants created 36 sculptures which were displayed at a public showing attended by nearly 100 people. A new component of the project this year was a public art initiative in which young people worked to beautify a local park with their sculptures.



© 2009 CHIRAPAQ



© 2009 CHIRAPAQ

**BOLIVIA:** MADRE is partnering with the International Indigenous Women's Forum (better known by its Spanish acronym, FIMI) to equip women leaders in Bolivia with the skills they need to succeed in politics. The project brings Indigenous women leaders from around Latin America to conduct trainings with Indigenous Bolivian women who want to run for public office. The topics of training include running a successful political campaign, building consensus across political and ethnic divides and addressing the needs of communities through the legislative process. As a result of our efforts, the number of women elected to parliamentary positions in December 2009 rose from 14% to 28%. Six Indigenous women who had participated in the workshops were elected to parliament.

**IRAQ:** In Iraq, MADRE works with our partner, the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI), to implement a range of projects including Art Action for Peace, a project bringing together hundreds of Sunni and Shiite youth at public performance spaces to share their creative work and demand peace. Since the inception of this project, the size of Freedom Space gatherings has grown from a few dozen to 1,400 audience members.

## Educating the Public about Peace Building

Afghan Democracy is Flat-lining - And Only Women Can Save It (August 2009 Article)

A Step Towards a New and Powerful Voice for Women at the UN (September 2009 Blog)



# Humanitarian Aid

One of MADRE's strengths is our ability to meet the urgent needs of women and families as we work towards a long-term vision of social justice. MADRE's Emergency and Disaster Relief Fund enables us to act immediately and effectively when disasters strike, bringing resources directly to the women and families most in need. We compliment our emergency efforts with Helping Hands, a program that sends material necessities to our sister organizations.

**PALESTINE:** Just days after the Israeli airstrikes against Gaza began, MADRE was working to facilitate an emergency response to the crisis. Relying on a well-established partnership with the Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS), MADRE was able to channel support from our members into areas in Gaza where it was most needed. In the weeks following the Israeli offensive, PMRS increased its clinic activities throughout Gaza, bringing hundreds of volunteers to join a team of 70 medical professionals. Volunteers distributed hundreds of tanks of water, first aid kits, mattresses and blankets to those who lost their homes. PMRS also trained five teams of twenty people each to provide first-aid in remote areas that lacked health and emergency services.



© 2009 Humanitarian Aid



© 2009 Humanitarian Aid



© 2009 PMRS

**INTERNATIONAL:** In 2009, MADRE sent shipments valued at over \$1,000,000 to our sister organizations CADPI and Wangki Tangni in Nicaragua, the Barcenas Women's Workers Committee in Guatemala, Zenab for Women in Development in Sudan and the Indigenous Information Network in Kenya. The shipments included a wide range of items such as over-the-counter medications, medical supplies, nebulizers to treat respiratory conditions, wheelchairs, crutches, health information pamphlets, eyeglasses and contact lenses, children's clothing and shoes, school supplies, toys, mattresses and blankets, household appliances, fabric and sewing supplies, electronics, computer supplies and exercise equipment. In May, MADRE also provided donated medical and hygiene supplies to various community representatives visiting New York for the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

In 2009, MADRE staff and partners shared information with hundreds of people at places such as Middlebury College, the University of Maryland and the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture.



# Summary of Audit

For the year ending December 31, 2009:

Support and Revenue: \$ 2,290,676

Expenses:

Peace Building \$ 335,674

Health and Violence Against Women \$ 609,909

Environmental and Economic Justice \$ 1,155,978

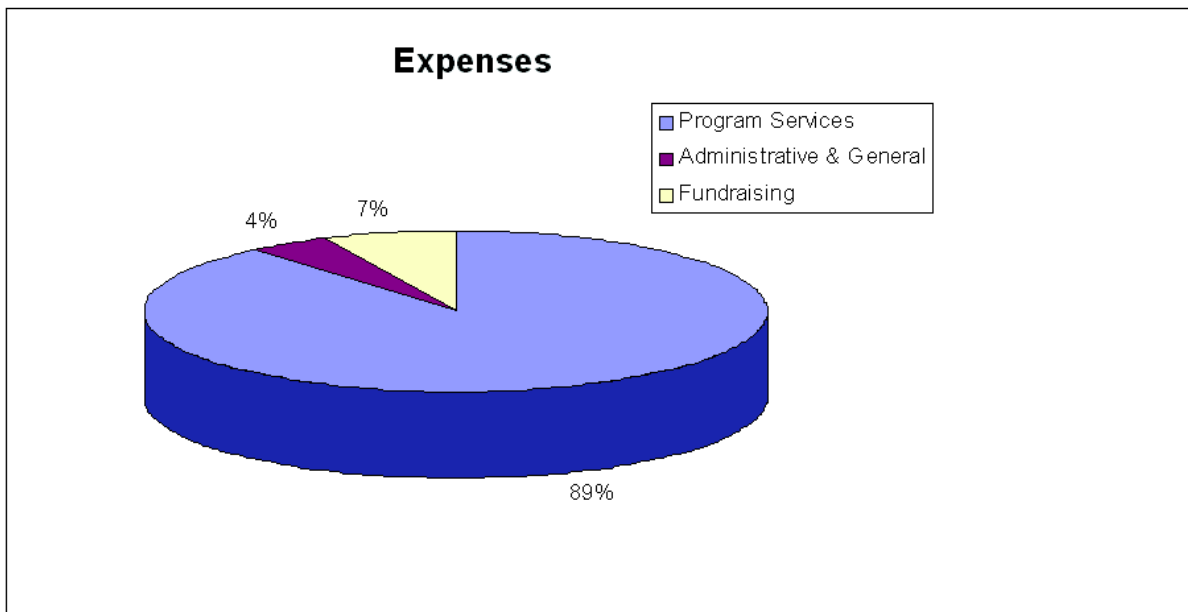
**Total Program Services \$2,101,561**

Administrative & General \$ 111,577

Fundraising \$ 157,404

**Total Supporting Services \$ 268,981**

Net Assets as of December 31, 2009: \$ 1,769,723



MADRE was audited by: Winnie Tam, 50 Broad St # 1837, New York, NY, 10004

A complete copy of the audited financial statements and MADRE's Form 990 IRS tax return are available upon request.

In 2009, MADRE programs directly served approximately 35,000 people.

# Institutional Support

Shana Alexander Charitable Foundation  
Isabel Allende Foundation  
Alpern Family Foundation  
Alternative Gifts International  
Anonymous (2)  
Anonymous Donor at the I Do Foundation  
Anonymous Donor at the  
McKenzie River Gathering Foundation  
Anonymous Donor at the Schwab Charitable Fund (2)  
Anonymous Donor at the Seattle Foundation  
Anonymous Donor at the Tides Foundation  
Berwick Degel Family Foundation  
Gertrude Bock Fund at the Philanthropic Ventures Fund  
Hal Brill and Joan Reisman Brill Charitable Account at the  
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
BSB and KSB Giving Fund at the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Bydale Foundation  
Campen Fund at the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Noam Chomsky Charitable Gift Fund at the  
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Judith Beth Cohen and Mark Schneider Fund at the  
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Community Progress Fund at the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Cottonwood Foundation  
Craigslist Charitable Foundation  
Jon and Catherine Dart Charitable Foundation  
Dickler Family Foundation  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America  
Scott Raymond Evans Foundation  
Food for All  
girls just wanna have funD at the Horizons Foundation  
Global Fund for Women  
Gunzenhauser-Chapin Fund  
Louise and Herb Horvitz Charitable Fund at the  
Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles  
International Foundation  
Klein-Rothchild Family Fund at the  
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Lashof Family Giving Account at the  
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund

LeFort-Martin Fund at the Chicago Community Trust  
Philip & Elsa Lichtenberg Charitable Fund at the  
U.S. Charitable Gift Trust  
Malcolm Gibbs Foundation  
Melling Family Foundation  
Mennonite Foundation  
JS & S Michaan Foundation  
Nararo Foundation  
Ruth and Sam Neff Fund at the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Newman's Own Foundation  
Lynn R. and Karl E. Prickett Fund  
Harold K. Raisler Foundation  
Rocking Moon Foundation  
Roseben Fund  
Benjamin J. Rosenthal Foundation  
Rosenthal Family Foundation  
Rust Bowl Fund of the Boston Foundation  
Robert M. Schiffman Foundation  
Sheilah's Fund of the Tides Foundation  
Sisters of Charity - Halifax  
Sisters of Providence  
Michael and Patricia Smith Family Fund at the  
California Community Foundation  
Sparrow-Tyson Fund at the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Sundance Pay It Forward Foundation  
Douglas and Dorothy Steere Fund at the  
Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program  
William B. Thomas Special Memorial Fund at the  
Jewish Communal Fund  
Titcomb Foundation  
Towards Sustainability Foundation  
United Methodist Church Women's Division  
Rachael and Ben Vaughan Foundation  
Raymond and Irene Wilborn Charitable Foundation  
Sam & Cass Williamson Fund at the  
Charlevoix County Community Foundation  
Wingeier Charitable Fund at the  
Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program  
Winky Foundation  
World Day of Prayer USA

In 2009, MADRE received 21% of its support from individuals, 64.5% from institutional funders, and 14.5% from other sources.



# Governance & Staff

## Board of Directors

Dr. Zala Highsmith-Taylor, Co-Chair

Anne Hess, Co-chair

Margaret Ratner-Kunstler, Vice-President

Linda Flores Rodriguez, Secretary/Treasurer

Laura Flanders, Member

Holly Maguigan, Member

Marie Saint Cyr, Member

Pam Spees, Member

## Executive Staff



**Vivian Stromberg**  
Executive Director



**Yifat Susskind**  
Policy & Communications  
Director

In 2009, MADRE published over 25 original articles on websites such as AlterNet, Feministing, Firedoglake, RH Reality Check, Salon, The Daily Beast, and The Huffington Post.