

Annual Report 2020

Responding to the
COVID-19 Pandemic by
Supporting Indigenous
Leadership and
Grassroots Efforts



¡ Cultural Survival Defiende
los Derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas
y Apoya la Autodeterminación, Cultura
y Resistencia de los Pueblos Indígenas
Desde 1972 !

Cultural  Survival



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Cultural Survival Community,

2020 proved to be a difficult year for so many, and we also experienced many challenges at Cultural Survival too. Despite navigating the hardships that come with a global pandemic, our team was able to accomplish so much! Our success is intertwined with the commitment, generosity, and deep love that you, our community, shows us.

2020 has caused unprecedented health, political, and economic crises across the globe, and the pandemic has deeply affected many Indigenous communities, causing an immediate threat to our well being and survival. Cultural Survival, without missing a beat, pivoted to supporting our partner communities and their self-determined responses to the virus.

We are fortunate to have 28 staff members based in 10 countries and have deep connections to Indigenous communities across the world, so transitioning to this virtual world was smooth. I am extremely proud of the work our team has accomplished. In addition to our COVID-19 response work, we started an inclusive and participatory strategic planning process and hosted our first virtual Bazaar and launched an e-commerce site to help facilitate the sales of our Indigenous artisans. It hasn't been easy, though. Our team has experienced personal challenges, with some staff addressing childcare and partners' loss of income, while others directly battled COVID-19 and suffered the loss of loved ones.

This pandemic has taught us many lessons, and through deep inquiry, introspection, deep listening, grief, adaptation, analysis, and making proactive choices, we remain strong and resilient. In addition to our regular programming, our COVID-19 response features a holistic, multilayered approach including redistributing financial resources and developing, distributing, and translating life saving information.

- We made 47 impactful grants to 30 communities and 21 radio stations in 16 countries.
- We helped bridge the digital divide by developing and sharing nearly 500 informative and life saving materials in over 130 Indigenous languages, keeping Indigenous communities healthy and safe.

Our accomplishment is a function of our community. We are able to do this work thanks to all the people who believe in us, support our work, and uphold our vision. However, the need in Indigenous communities persists, and more needs to be done. We hope we can count on you to join us in the second phase of our COVID-19 response. We need our allies, our relatives, to stand with us more than ever. Indigenous rights are being threatened under the cover of the pandemic. Our Indigenous leaders are being murdered for protecting their lands and resources that keep communities safe and healthy.

While so much remains uncertain during a global pandemic, we remain committed to advocating for Indigenous rights and supporting Indigenous communities' self-determination, cultures, and political resilience. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and look forward to another great year ahead!



In Solidarity and Gratitude,
Galina Angarova (Buryat)
Executive Director



Our COVID-19 response features a holistic, multi-layered approach, including:

▶ *Redistributing Financial Resources*

- Our **Keepers of the Earth Fund** has launched an emergency grantmaking process that provides small, direct grants for urgent, community-centered projects that help our Indigenous partners respond to the crisis in their local communities using Indigenous, place-based solutions. As of March 2020, 30 grants have been made to help ensure that our partners' communities in 16 countries remain healthy and strong during this pandemic. Through these grants, our partners are mobilizing, building on existing initiatives and networks, and establishing new projects in pursuit of food sovereignty, water security, locally developed communications strategies, mutual aid, and healthy communities.
- Our **Community Media Grants Project** recently provided grants to 21 radio stations that are urgently creating and distributing radio programs about COVID-19 prevention, food sovereignty, community health, social aid, economy, and entrepreneurship. The radio program topics addressing COVID-19 and related topics were selected by the radioes themselves and were bilingual (Indigenous language and settler's language).





► Developing, Distributing, and Translating Life Saving Information and Materials

- Through our Indigenous Rights Radio program we have sourced, produced, disseminated, and translated 433 **Public Service Announcements** for preventative measures against COVID-19 into more than 130 Indigenous languages and distributed through more than 1,200 radio stations globally.
- We launched a **Prevention Manual** and Emergency Response Toolkit to support the essential activities of radio stations, including general guidelines for good communication that goes beyond prevention. Currently, it is available in English, Portuguese, Spanish, and 86 Indigenous languages.

► Mapping

- Curation of the first global monitoring system for COVID-19 for Indigenous communities using **Google Maps technology** to document COVID-19 cases and related human rights violations. Public health data focuses on cities and majority groups, not rural Indigenous communities. Increasing Indigenous Peoples access to resources will support and empower them to respond accordingly. This technology will also enable Indigenous Peoples to share their own data, rather than it being suppressed and controlled by governments and other institutions, and bring awareness to the human rights violations occurring with concerning frequency amid the global pandemic.



FROM OUR PARTNERS:

“ People were unaware of the Forest Rights Act completely. Through Cultural Survival’s support, we could reach the ground level community to provoke them to think and become awakened to their land rights.”

— Sobha Madhan, secretary, Gudalur Block NPVTG Federation, India.
With a Keepers of the Earth Fund grant, NPVTG Federation is conducting an awareness-raising campaign about the Forest Rights Act to secure community forest rights of 10 Adivasi villages.

“ The support provided by Cultural Survival has been very important to continue our work of gathering knowledge within my territory. I am also grateful to meet youth from different places and learn about how they are defending and protecting their knowledge.”

— Carolina Trayen Rain Ancan (Mapuche), Chile, Indigenous Community Media Youth Fellow

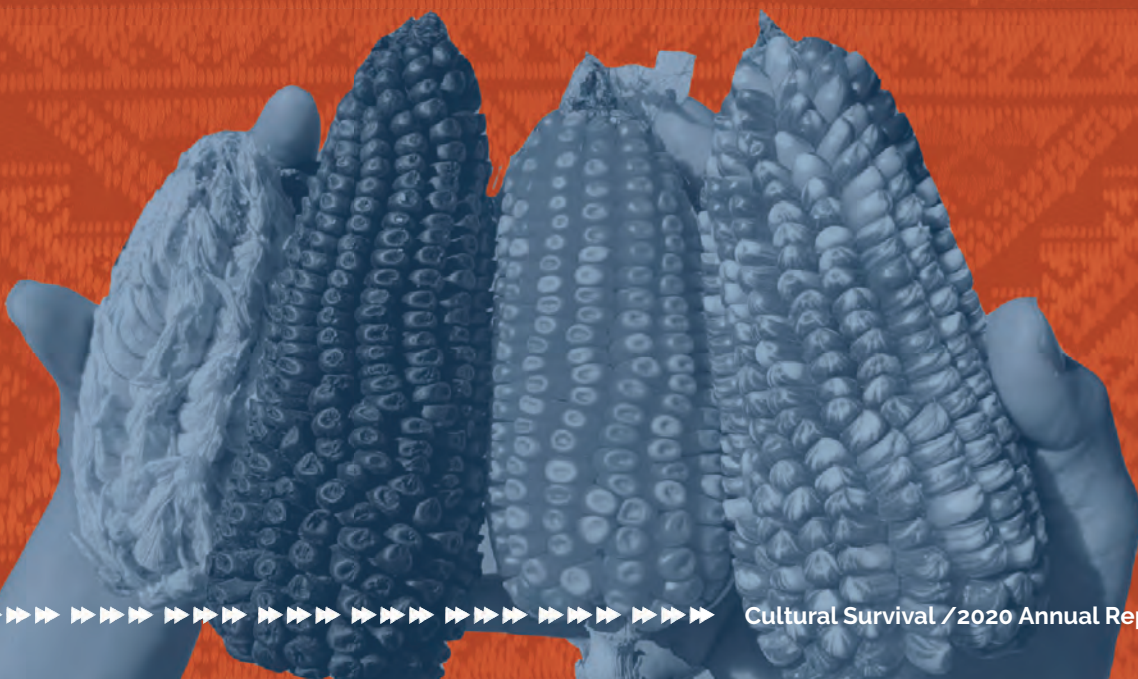


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— Radio Naköj Council, Santo Domingo Xenacoj, Sacatepéquez, Guatemala, Indigenous Community
Media Fund grant partner

“

- Center for Environmental and Human Development (CENDAH), Panama. Keepers of the Earth Fund supported CENDAH in their project on the cultivation of food and medicinal plants.



2020 IN NUMBERS



35 community media projects funded in **8** countries totalling **\$214,000**



8 Webinars hosted, reaching over **15,000** people



11 Youth Fellows supported in community media



46 Indigenous women trained in radio production and journalism

Submitted **8** reports to UN Treaty Bodies on human rights issues

Supported **31** communities in **16** countries in their self-determined COVID-19 responses

Supported **21** radio stations in **8** countries in their COVID-19 response in Indigenous languages



Released **433+** radio programs on COVID-19 prevention in **130+** Indigenous languages



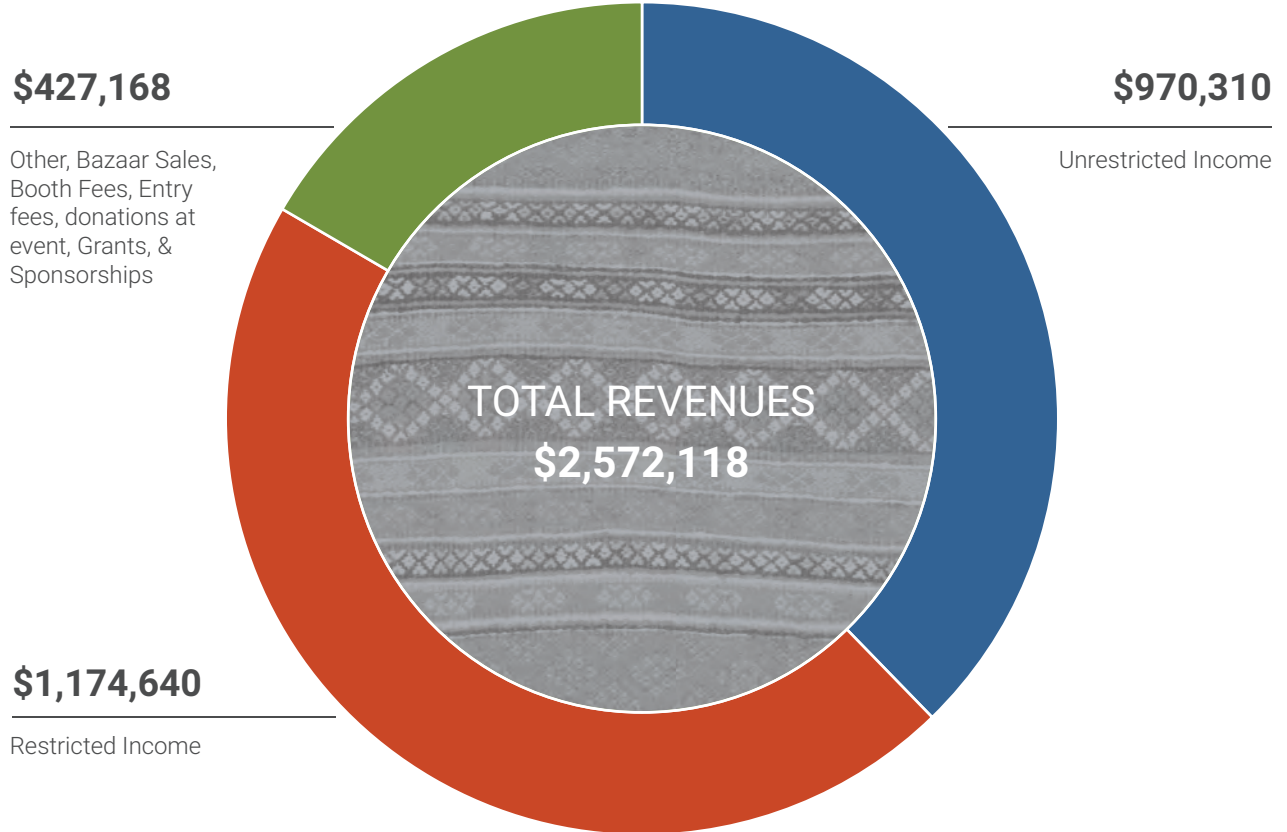
Supported **33** Indigenous artists through our virtual Cultural Survival Bazaars



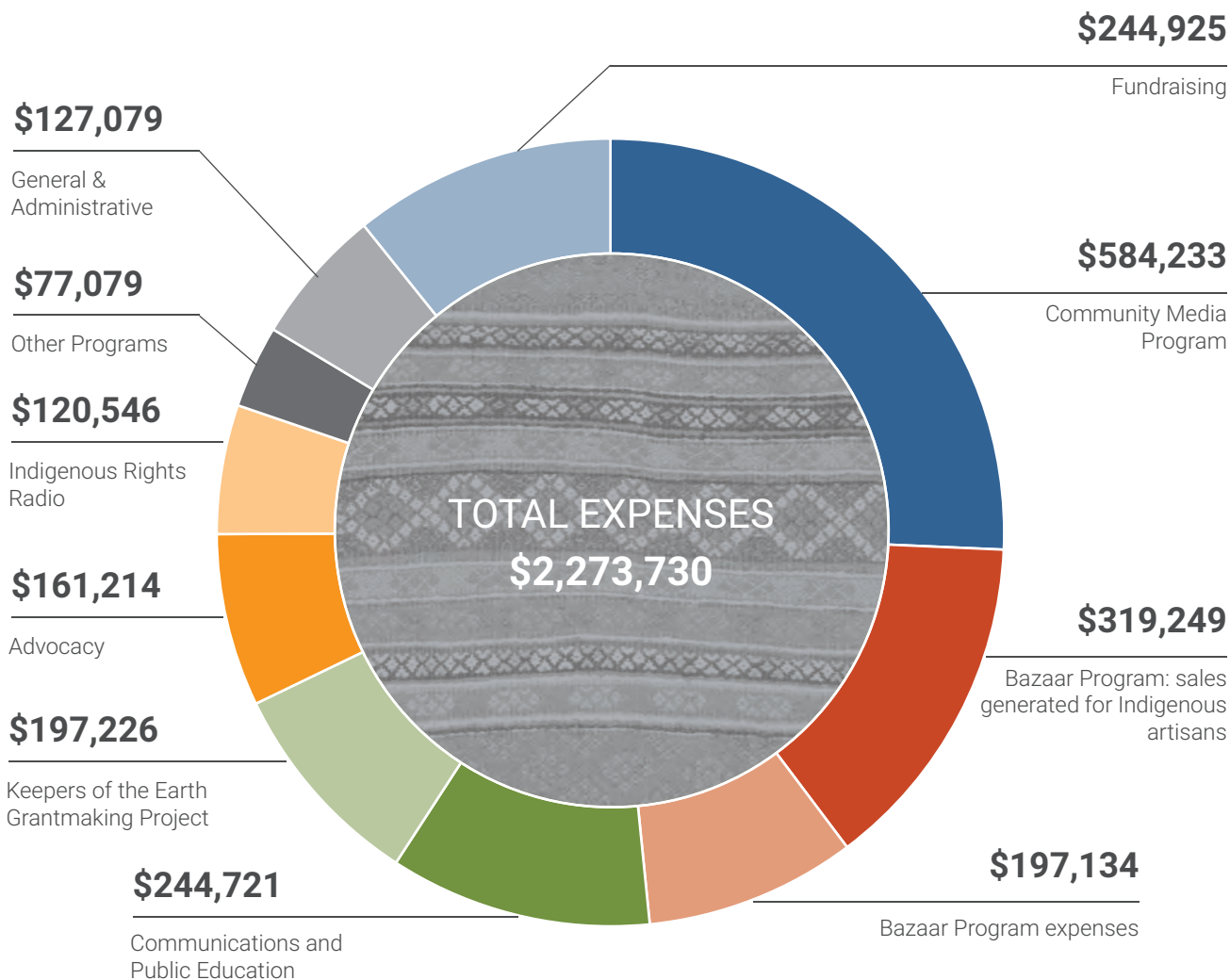


2020 FINANCIALS

Income



Expenses



Note: Audited financials from fiscal year 2020. September 1st, 2019 to August 31st, 2020.

OUR TEAM

Staff

Galina Angarova (Buryat), Executive Director

Mark Camp, Deputy Executive Director

Daisee Francour (Oneida), Director of Strategic Partnerships and Communications

Yesmi Ajanel (*Maya K'iche'*), Program Assistant (through March 2021)

Jessie Cherofsky, Bazaar Program Manager

Avexnim Cojti (Maya K'iche'), Community Media Program Manager

Danielle DeLuca, Advocacy and Development Manager

Shaldon Ferris (KhoiSan), Indigenous Rights Radio Coordinator

Sofia Flynn, Accounting and Office Manager

Nati Garcia (Maya Mam), Indigenous Youth Community Media Fellowship Coordinator

Cesar Gomez (Maya Pocomam), Community Media Program Coordinator

Adriana Hernández, (Maya K'iche'), Executive Assistant

Dev Kumar Sunuwar (Koĩts-Sunuwar), Community Media Grants Project Assistant

Danae Laura, Bazaar Program Manager

Bia'ni Madsa' Juárez López (*Mixe/Ayuuk ja'ay and Zapotec/Binnizá*), Keepers of the Earth Fund
Project Manager

Jamie Malcolm-Brown, Communications and Information Technology Manager

Teresita Orozco Mendoza, Community Media Training Coordinator

Cat Monzón (Maya K'iche'), Executive Assistant

Diana Pastor, (Maya K'iche'), Central América Media Coordinator

Agnes Portalewska, Communications Manager

Angelica Rao, Human Resources Coordinator

María del Rosario “Rosy” Sul González (*Kaqchiquel Maya*), Indigenous Rights Radio Coordinator

Sócrates Vásquez García (*Ayuuik Jääy, Pueblo Ayuuik*), Community Media Grants Coordinator

Miranda Vitello, Development Associate

Interns and Volunteers

Arianna Adirim-Lanza
Erica Belfi
Eileen Calub
Alexandra Carraher-Kang
Pablo Cordon
Augusta Davis
Samantha Freedman
Jonathan Gomez-Pereira
Kiara Hernandez
Jacklyn Janeksela
Somaya Jimenez-Haham
Karianne Laird
Elisabeth Lualdi

Kiara Maher
Dejah Morales
Laura Navitsky
Jesús Nazario
Ariel Iannone Román
Phillippa Pitts
Mariana Sanborn
Laura Simpson Reeves
Carolyn Smith-Morris
Tristan Suarez
Milagro Ventura
Laura Xu

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Stella Tamang (Tamang)



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