



Annual Report 2019

The following report of Fundación Acceso presents the results obtained during 2019. These results are thanks to the social commitment of its working team as well as the strategic orientation of its Administrative Board, the support of our donors and alliances, and the local, regional and international organizations and networks that have opened their doors for us to coordinate strategies and lines of work from our areas / programs: Integral Protection Alternatives and Digital Security.

1. Results regarding our working team

2019 was a year marked by the arduous work of accompanying defenders in Central America through the Shelter City Costa Rica initiative, a integral protection and temporary relocation organizational strategy.

Additionally, we managed to serve multiple human rights defenders and organizations in digital security through our alliance with Front Line Defenders, Open Society Foundation and Access Now.

During this year we participated in 8 international conferences and meetings: RightsCon Tunisia (Access Now), Retreat Barcelona Guidelines for the Wellbeing of Human Rights Defenders on Temporary International Relocation Initiatives (York University), Shelter City Network Meeting in The Hague, Holland; International meeting on good practices of initiatives and programs for the relocation of defenders organized by the Martin Roth Initiative and held in Berlin. We also participated in the Dublin Platform organized by Front Line Defenders, the XXI EU-NGO Human Rights Forum: Building a Fair Environmental Future "in Brussels, Belgium, the EUTRP Meeting in Barcelona and the Regional Meeting on Relocation in Mexico (PBI - IM Defenders).

At the end of 2019 we carried out our internal evaluation session, trying to understand more how our projects and areas / programs contribute to the 2018-2022 strategic plan. We also carried out an internal process between November and December of organizational support and psychosocial approach, which helped us to identify the network of roles and responsibilities and some issues that we had to collectively address.

Currently there are 81 people on the payroll¹, and 14² Central American consultants.

Projections for 2020

Assessing the management and fund-raising carried out during 2019 it is expected to increase the number of people on the payroll and permanent consultants in the region.

2. Results with respect to the areas / programs

Digital Security Area / Program

- During 2019, improvements were identified to the modular digital security system, as well as new services.
- 62 organizations from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua were supported in accompaniment and training in digital security. Of these 62 organizations, 27 defend the rights of women and the territory and the environment.
- From January to December 2019, we were able to assist 129 defenders from the region. Of these, 88 are women defenders and 1 trans-gender (69%).
- 15 digital incidents involving organizations and defenders were registered and analyzed through the Regional Observatory of Digital Security during 2019. In Nicaragua, 8 cases were reported, in Guatemala 5 and in Honduras 2.
- The II Central American Meeting on Digital Security was organized in which 41 digital defenders from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Brazil, Venezuela and the United States participated. During this meeting, the participants worked on topics such as: needs for psychosocial support, forensic analysis, free software for digital security, criminalization of digital defenders, and hack-labs were held to strengthen technical knowledge at the service of human rights. This meeting was also key in defining routes for the autonomy of the space and building collective identity.
- Three coordination visits were made to Central America to strengthen alliances and promote our projects and accompaniment in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

1 8 women.

2 8 women and 6 men. Honduras 2 people, Guatemala 3 people, Nicaragua 2 people, El Salvador 1 person, Mexico 1 person and Costa Rica 5 people.

Integral Protection Alternatives Area / Program

- We were able to accompany 20 human rights defenders and 13 family members between January and December 2019 through the Shelter City Costa Rica initiative.
- During 2019, we strengthened alliances with 57 organizations, networks, collectives and movements in Central America that resulted in mutual collaborations, exchanges and support during the stay and return of the defenders participating in Shelter.
- Two national meetings were held in Tegucigalpa and San José with 30 defenders from various organizations of Honduras and Nicaragua, in order to carry out an assessment of training needs in psychosocial support. This process is led by Acceso in alliance with ALUNA (Mexico) and ECAP (Guatemala) with the support of Brot für die Welt.
- The call and selection of the new coordinator of Shelter City Costa Rica was made, and she will begin in February 2020.
- A beautiful process of ludo-pedagogy for Nicaraguan exiles was concluded in December 2019, and it was led by a former participant of Shelter City Costa Rica through the support of the Martin Roth Initiative and Ifa. This process culminated in a Cultural Festival with the presence of artists in exile and Costa Rican artists in solidarity.

Projections for 2020

The 2020 projections are favorable in terms of diversify of strategies and financing sources. We hope to achieve through both areas of work:

- Continue to provide digital security assistance to human rights defenders inside and outside the Central American region.
- Accompany 32 defenders and their families through the Shelter City Costa Rica initiative.
- Strengthen the work of the country analysts of the Shelter City Costa Rica initiative in order to take better advantage of their knowledge of context and psychosocial support.
- Strengthen the rapid response teams for integral protection and accompany 13 organizations at risk in Nicaragua and Honduras, exchanging strategies and knowledge on security in the areas that they require.
- Build the educational training process on psychosocial approaches and support and start the modules with the participation of 30 people from Honduras and Nicaragua.

- Contribute to the strengthening of the Digital Security Network / Community in Latin America called COSIC, and support the organization of their third meeting.
- Hire a person to coordinate the Organizational Development area, and for the Digital Security area. Likewise, carry out the hiring of a technical person in digital security for El Salvador.

3. Results regarding financial management

During 2018-2019, 5 national and regional projects were formulated, which were fully approved. Proposals were presented to: Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Open Society Foundation, Swedish Embassy in Guatemala, Ayuda en Acción, Brot für die Welt and Access Now Grants.

Additionally, we will be supporting the administration of a project coordinated by our ally Peace Brigades International (PBI) that will begin in January 2020 in Costa Rica

We are also pleased with the news of the renewal of the consulting agreement with Front Line Defenders.

We were also able to manage emergency funds for several defenders at risk, who needed to prolong their relocation or who needed to strengthen protection actions in their own countries. We thank Front Line Defenders, Free Press Unlimited, People in Need, and Life Line.

Projections for 2020

During 2020 Acceso will place much of its energies to strengthening its alliances with international cooperation organizations and embassies, ensuring the sustainability of the proposed strategies. Likewise, it will focus on strengthening the relationship with the Ford Foundation which has been a fundamental actor in supporting human rights organizations in Mexico and Central America.

4. Alliances

We have strengthened alliances in the Central American region and internationally. During 2019, initiatives and processes were strengthened with various organizations that contribute to freedom of expression, alternative communication, and psychosocial support to defenders.

We have strengthened the alliance with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Open Society Foundation, Front Line Defenders, Access Now, Derechos Digitales, EFF, PBI, national networks of women human rights defenders and IM-Defenders, Ford Foundation,

Swedish Embassy, European Union Office in Costa Rica, Article 19, Protection International, Brot für die Welt, CEJIL, Digital Defenders Partnership, Oxfam, ProtectDefenders.eu, Shelter Cities Global Network, University of York, The Engine Room, Martin Roth Initiative, Free Press Unlimited, ALUNA, ECAP, Udefegua, Ayuda en Acción, Colectivo de DDHH Nicaragua Nunca Más, among many others.

Projections for 2020

Strengthen the coordination of regional efforts to protect people and organizations that defend human rights.

Participate and / or promote strategic local and international spaces in order to share our knowledge and innovations, as well as to strengthen significant alliances in the region.

We specifically hope to support the strengthening of the following spaces: CiviCert and Global Network of Shelter Cities.

5. Results regarding finances

At the end of our fiscal year (Oct 2018 and Dec 2019, 15 months) the income statements showed that the income received for the implementation of projects and consultancies reached the figure of US \$ 868,766.35 (between restricted and unrestricted funds).

