



ANNUAL REPORT **2019**
celebrating our **10th YEAR**
of **cultivating resilience**



groundswell
international

www.groundswellinternational.org



Dear Friends,

Groundswell International is celebrating 10 years of successful work, strengthening communities to build healthy farming and food systems from the ground up. We are looking to the future to build upon what is working best, adjust what can be improved, and grow our impact. Even as we celebrate the past and look forward, we are all now confronted with the unprecedented impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This crisis reminds us that we are one human family and community. We can build on the best that humanity has to offer to confront challenges locally and globally, and to generate real solutions. It also reminds us of the urgent need to act boldly to create farming and food systems that are regenerative and healthy for people and the planet.

The communities that Groundswell works with around the world have taught us much. They are, unfortunately, 'experts' in living through crisis. We have seen it over and over again, when mountainside farms in Central America are denuded of their trees and soil; when conventional farming practices in West Africa undermine the land's potential to grow food; and when earthquakes, droughts and climate change devastate Haiti, Nepal and other countries where we work. Then people pull together in solidarity, rethink what they are doing, solve problems, and regenerate their land, lives and communities. This is the best of humanity and it inspires us to redouble our efforts.

Groundswell is a network of local partner organizations, which in turn strengthen wider networks of community-led action. This allows us to adapt and respond to the immediate crisis, while continuing to scale lasting alternatives from the ground up. We look forward to working with you in the months and years ahead to make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

Steve Brescia

REAL SOLUTIONS FOR REAL PROBLEMS = RESILIENCE



Five years ago, Groundswell's local partner *Association Nourrir Sans Détruire* worked with women in the village of Tigba, Burkina Faso, to establish a savings and credit group. In 2018, 48 women from this group pooled their resources to purchase vegetable seeds to plant a large community garden. Using agroecological farming methods and water from a hand-dug well, women in Tigba have extended crop production into the dry season, allowing them to provide nutritious food for their families all year long. Women's solidarity groups and vegetable gardens are a critical element in improving food security and resilience in ecologically fragile regions like the West African Sahel.



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BY THE NUMBERS

1

global network

of 10 local partners

collaborating in 10 countries

working together for 10 years

**with over 50,000 farmers
each year to apply agroecology**

**to regenerate over 150,000 acres
of degraded farmland**

**and improve the lives of
500,000 people...**



local markets • HONDURAS

In 2019, Yesenia Hernández and four other women from the Honduran village of San Antonio de las Guarumas created a small business that makes plantain chips. Today, they sell chips to five nearby villages, earning extra income to buy healthy food for their families and to pay for other priorities, such as school fees for their children.

We support partners and communities to rebuild local food systems in Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, and Mexico.

Groundswell International is a global network of farmers and local organizations that support them. Together, we strengthen communities to build healthy farming and food systems from the ground up by:



Working with farmer leaders to test and adopt agroecological methods and spread them to more people through farmer-to-farmer training, allowing these farmers to produce more healthy food and restore hundreds of thousands of acres of degraded land.



Empowering women farmers to participate in savings and credit groups, improve ecological production, gain access to productive assets, and diversify their livelihoods, which in turn improves their families' food security, incomes and resilience.



GROWING RESILIENCE



Building local markets and increasing farmers' incomes through savings and credit groups and community-based agricultural enterprises that add value to locally grown crops.



Nourishing vulnerable families by explicitly integrating gender equity and nutrition into agricultural programs. Our holistic approach links agroecological farming to family nutrition.



Creating enabling local policies and producing influential case studies, policy briefs, and reports to facilitate sharing across our networks and with other stakeholders to expedite the necessary transition to agroecology.



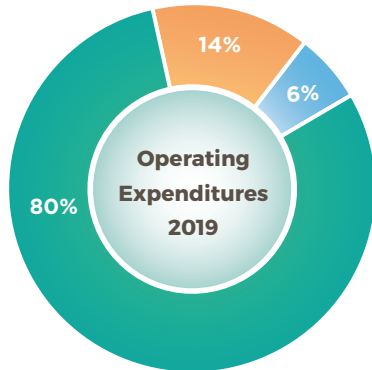


agroecology • MALI

Ténin Damarius Sanou, a farmer leader from the village of Bokuy-Mankoina in central Mali, used agroecological techniques to regenerate native trees on her five-acre peanut field, which in turn has dramatically improved soil fertility and increased productivity. Ténin has also embraced agroecology to improve her family's nutrition. She cultivates baobab and moringa shrubs on her farm year-round and grows vegetables with her women's savings and credit group during the dry season. With the \$40 a week she earns from selling surplus produce, Ténin pays school fees for her three children and supports her disabled husband. In West Africa, Groundswell has facilitated the spread of effective agroecological approaches, farmer-to-farmer, to tens of thousands of farmers like Ténin.

Since 2009, Groundswell International has invested over \$15 million in strengthening rural communities in 10 countries to build healthy farming and food systems from the ground up.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES 2019



Programs	80%	\$ 1,720,104
Fundraising	14%	\$ 309,882
Management & General	6%	\$ 118,176
Total Expenditures		\$ 2,148,162

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and Equivalents	\$ 646,812
Grants Receivable	297,463
Contributions Receivable	26,082
Prepaid Expenses	9,179
Deposits	1,725

Total Current Assets \$ 981,261

Long-Term Assets

Investments	2,786
Endowment	25,350
Property and Equipment, Net	-----

Total Long-Term Assets \$ 28,136

Total Assets \$1,009,397

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 23,079
Partner Grants Payable	85,655
Accrued Vacation	15,118

Total Current Liabilities \$123,852

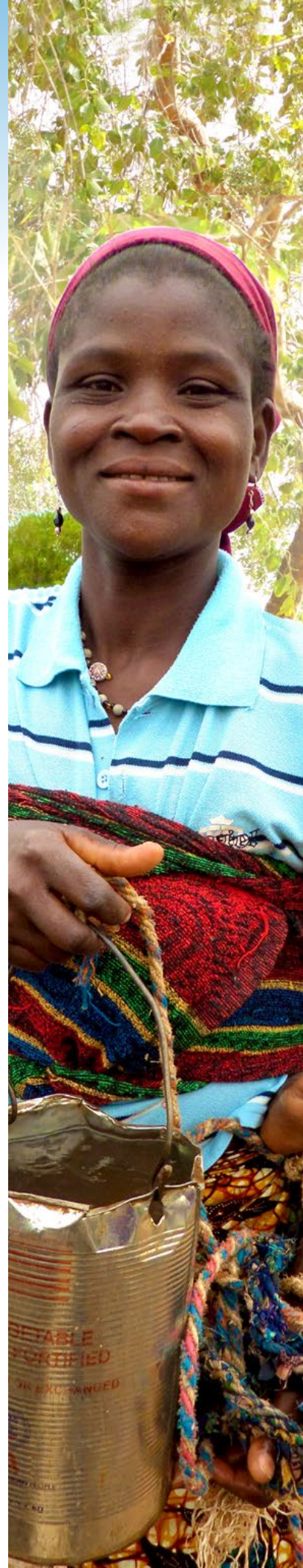
Net Assets

Unrestricted-Undesignated	\$ 23,954
Board Designated Reserve	40,000
Board Designated Endowment	24,750
Total Unrestricted	\$ 88,704

Temporarily Restricted	\$ 796,241
Permanently Restricted	600

Total Net Assets \$885,545

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$1,009,397





Staff

Steve Brescia,
Executive Director

Christopher Sacco,
Deputy Director

Rhonda Devan,
Director of Finance
and Administration

Tsuamba Bourgou,
Regional Coordinator
for West Africa

Edwin Escoto,
Regional Coordinator
for Latin America and the
Caribbean

Peter Gubbels,
Director of Action Learning
and Advocacy for West Africa

Anna Pollock,
Development Manager

Gaylord Chambers,
Operations Consultant

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Elizabeth Kucinich, Board Member

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(International Council)

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Jeannette Tramhel, Board Member

Muthusami Kumaran, Board Member

Margaret (Peg) Malloy, Board Member

Tim LaSalle, Board Member



GET INVOLVED

Thank you for joining Groundswell International in empowering family farmers to create real and lasting solutions from the ground up.

There are many ways you can get involved.



Spread the Word

Wish more people knew about Groundswell?
Share the latest updates with your friends on
social media.



Cultivate the Movement

Interested in hosting an event to
benefit Groundswell? Contact us to
receive tools for a successful fundraiser.



Grow Real Solutions

We are grateful for all donations!
Become a monthly donor to sustain and
grow Groundswell's impact.

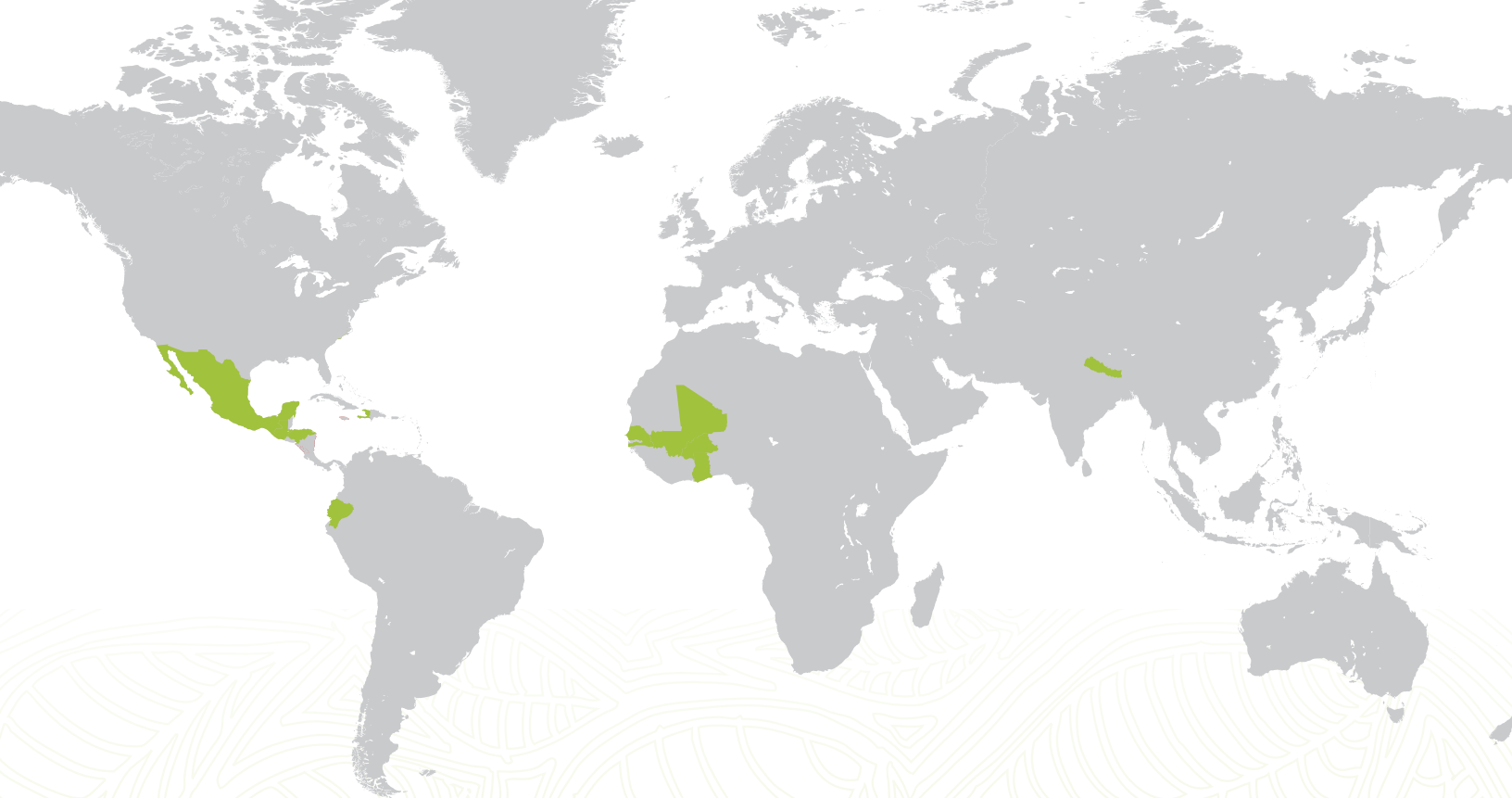


Leave Your Legacy

Want to make a legacy gift that will
continue to bear fruit for years to come?
Please reach out to learn more.

Call 202.832.9352 or contact us at support@groundswellinternational.org.

**Stay up to date with the latest from Groundswell International.
Sign up for our e-newsletter at www.groundswellinternational.org/enews.**



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Questions?

Call 202.832.9352 or contact us at support@groundswellinternational.org.

Groundswell International is a 501c3 nonprofit and a member of the Guidestar Exchange.
Donations are secure and tax deductible in accordance with the law.