



CAMPO – Center of Support for the Popular Movement of Oaxaca

The Center of Support for the Popular Movement of Oaxaca (CAMPO) works with indigenous populations in Oaxaca, Mexico, to foster community involvement, sustainable agriculture and an understanding of human rights. Since 1996, Coffee Kids has supported CAMPO's work to increase economic resources available to indigenous populations through community-based business activities. CAMPO's projects also strengthen women's leadership skills and self-esteem.

Life in Oaxaca

The state of Oaxaca is home to 16 indigenous groups and has more speakers of indigenous languages than any other Mexican state. More than three quarters of Oaxaca's population is considered poor or extremely poor, and 40% live in homes with dirt floors.

In the coffee growing communities of the Sierra Mazateca, one of the regions where CAMPO works, most homes lack, not only flooring, but also running water, electricity, and proper drainage. Oaxaca's indigenous families – especially women – are confronted with poverty, discrimination, social marginalization, and geographic isolation.

Coffee Kids and CAMPO

Over the years, Coffee Kids helped CAMPO develop a wide range of projects. These include chicken-raising, organic honey production, worm-composting for organic fertilizer, and fruit and vegetable canning. CAMPO also helped participants construct wood-saving Lorena stoves, which reduce the respiratory illnesses caused by cooking over open fires indoors and use less wood.

This year Coffee Kids provided support for the construction of a training center to be completed next year. Many of the installations are already being used for research, community outreach, informational exchanges, and demonstration projects. The center is being constructed using local materials and an environmentally responsible compacted earth technique.

2008 Results

- Three more structures were completed for CAMPO's training center using the environmentally responsible compacted earth technique.
- Five demonstration projects at the training center were improved and expanded.
- Staff and directors of CAMPO attended four workshops to improve knowledge and skills.
- A total of 14 training courses and workshops were conducted, benefiting 797 participants.
- Two educational exchanges were conducted for producer's organizations associated with CAMPO.
- Twenty-one formal demonstrations of appropriate technologies were carried out for governmental entities, educational institutions and social organizations.
- Educational materials were created to support the workshops and presentations of projects currently offered by CAMPO.



CAMPO's partially-completed training center is already being used to train coffee-farming families in sustainable practices.