



Fostering Community Initiatives in Coffee Regions (FomCafé)

FomCafé works with coffee-growing communities in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico. Project coordinators help families initiate and implement projects in edible mushroom production, microcredit and savings, family gardens, organic honey production and health awareness. FomCafé has been a Coffee Kids partner since 2000.

Community Need

The communities served by FomCafé confront poverty, inadequate access to health care and education, and geographic isolation. As in many Latin American countries, women in these communities lack opportunities to develop organizational and entrepreneurial skills. Once given the chance to create and implement small development projects, they excel, but the women's groups require ongoing support and a safe environment in which to develop their skills and share their struggles, doubts and successes.

Coffee Kids and FomCafé

Over the past year, Fomcafe organized microcredit and saving groups in seven new communities and helped the participants consolidate business activities in their towns. Microcredit and savings groups allow participants, primarily women, to pool their resources and help each other start or expand small businesses with small, low-interest loans. Loans are also made in special circumstances to pay for medical expenses and other emergencies.

2009 Results

- Seven new microcredit and saving groups were established for a total of eight groups and 64 participants (56 women and eight men).
- All groups received financial planning lessons supervised by FomCafé.
- The eight groups distributed \$5,057 USD in low-interest loans to members to invest in small businesses.



FomCafé's organic gardening project is helping local families confront the food crisis affecting families worldwide.