

## **Project: Social responsibility to strengthen local food systems**

In Colombia, in both rural and urban settings, effects of the pandemic are more severe because of the vulnerability of social and economical conditions of people living in specific neighborhoods. This is the case of the Siloe neighborhood located in the city of Cali, where around 100,000 people live. It is a neighborhood known for its high rates of unemployment, violence, drug trafficking and school dropouts. However at the same time Siloe is recognized as a place where many individuals, local organizations and private enterprises have come together to improve the living conditions of its people.

For the past two years, FUNDAEC has been collaborating with a local NGO in Siloé called “Créalo” in the training of 100 youth as promoters of community well-being, with a high participation of women. Since the majority of the inhabitants of Siloé work in the informal sector, the pandemic affected severely basic access to food of thousands of families. With the support of the promoters of community wellbeing, Créalo and a well recognized supermarket chain distributed more than 2,300 packages of basic food products, especially among families with pregnant mothers, children and older people.

The local NGO “Créalo” has also been implementing a community kitchen during a period of 4 years with the support of the Mayor’s office and the Catholic Church. This community kitchen has prepared lunch rations for people in need. During the pandemic around 9,600 lunch rations were prepared for families in Siloé. Along this endeavour, mothers participating in a textile manufacturing workshop organized by this organization also decided to offer help to produce more than 1,000 masks that were distributed among families in the neighborhood.

At the same time the promoters of community well-being, with the support of FUNDAEC, have been working very hard to help families think in the long term about the implications of this pandemic and motivating them to start initiatives to strengthen the local food system in Siloé by the establishment of home gardens, the cultivation of larger plots and the creation of alternative chains of distribution and commercialization of food.

The supermarket chain mentioned above has expressed its desire to continue to help Créalo because of its success in establishing good relationships with families in Siloé. However, Créalo feels they need the support of more people, since their time is not enough to meet the needs, and the strengthening of their infrastructure to continue with the distribution of food. Promoters of community well-being also need support to continue their work as families need access to more seeds, fertilizer, improved soil and basic infrastructure to improve their home gardens and plots. FUNDAEC also needs support to continue the training of the promoters and the families involved in this initiative.

This collaboration between institutions of civil society, the government and a private enterprise can have a significant impact not only on the people of Siloe but also in similar neighborhoods in the city of Cali. This is not a one time donation but it is an initial connection with families that starts with the provision of basic food products and continues to build a culture where everyone feels that it’s possible to make a contribution to the strengthening of local food systems.

## **Objectives:**

This one year Project will have the following objectives:

1. Provide financial support to 100 small production initiatives with seed funds and some infrastructure and develop and implement food marketing and exchange models.
2. Design four training workshops on the following topics and offer them to 100 participants: (i) Introductory concepts: Food security and sovereignty, health and nutrition, leadership; (ii) Organic fertilizers; (iii) Small-scale production; (iv) Marketing.
3. Strengthen Créalo infrastructure in Siloé neighborhood to provide 1,500 packages of basic food products to lactating and pregnant mothers, 30,000 lunch rations to 150 families and built a nursery to distribute seedlings among the production initiatives.

## **Budget (in Euros):**

1. Training workshops	3,000
2. Infrastructure and inputs of production	4,000
3. Personnel	2,000
4. Administration	1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,000</b>