

## Indigenous leaders advance their rights



Young women prepare themselves to serve as mayors, councilwomen, leaders of community organizations, treasurers, union representatives, project specialists, entrepreneurs of microenterprises, judges, and midwives.

## Thanks to your support:

### Young women learn about their rights

36 young Indigenous women graduated from the Transformational Leadership School where **they learned about their rights and how to exercise them in ways to transform their future** and the future for other women in their communities. They also learned about the “Agreements for the Restitution of the Rights of Women,” the basis of the plan to assert these rights that women leaders in 5 municipalities in the Highlands of Chiapas have created.

This past year, the young women at the School organized around **35 gatherings in their communities to share with 1,233 other women what they learned in class**. Through these dynamic opportunities, they got to practice what they had learned, consolidating their knowledge, increasing their confidence about speaking in public, and facilitating a dialogue about women’s rights with older women in their communities.

Women leaders champion the rights of women to food, education, recreation, and political participation in their communities.



## Youth set their sights on positions of leadership

Of all the women participating in the Transformational Leadership School, **only 9 women were serving in formal leadership roles in their municipalities at the start of the Project.** For the rest, they faced big challenges in preparing for and achieving their goals to take on positions of representation and service in their communities. **All the young women created personal profiles in their bid for positions of territorial representation or traditional leadership.**

*Little by little, I have been growing as a leader in my community. I feel more empowered in public spaces and when we dialogue among women. We are several women leaders that support and walk with each other in the defense of our rights. People know I am part of the Transformational Leadership School, and this motivates women and girls to learn about and advance our rights."*

*Anastasia Pérez Díaz, Pantelhó community*



## Young men learn about positive masculinities

25 young men, who are leaders in community organizations, participated in 5 modular sessions in the School of Positive Masculinities. They increased their **awareness about patriarchal behaviors and explored ways they can modify their actions to contribute to more egalitarian relationships** with women and men at home and in their communities.

*"I am very young and I am a father. My first child was a girl and this was very disappointing to my community. This experience put me into direct conflict with my family and my community. I asked, why don't we value women and much as we do men? I have learned in the School of Positive Masculinities that if something isn't equal for men and women, then it isn't a right, but a privilege."*

*José Pérez, Chilón community*

Through discussions about emotional intelligence, gender justice, and a system that gives them privileges over women, **these men identified how they can be more self-aware and responsible for building new positive masculinities.**

After each training session, the young men organized gatherings with men and women in their communities to share what they learned in the School about gender equity and ways to express positive masculinities.