



IMPACT

REPORT 2018



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Asociación SERES is a Guatemalan registered not-for-profit organization that operates in Guatemala and El Salvador. SERES Global is a US registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that operates in the US.

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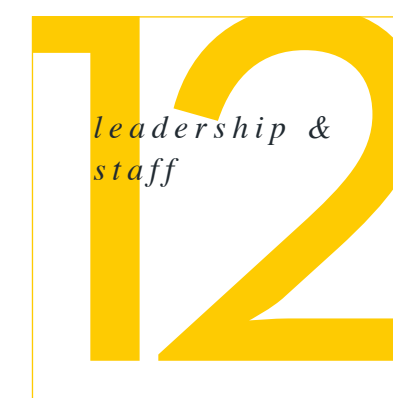
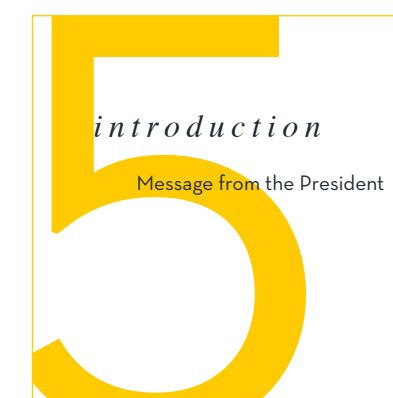
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Design by Christa Ponce.

i n d e x





*message from
the president*

Dear SERES Investors and Friends,

What a year we have had! Most notably, the eruption of Volcan Fuego on June 3rd was a catalyst for change within SERES as well the communities we serve. I am so proud and humbled by our team and the many ways they showed up then and are continuing to show up now. Today we have three main “legs” on our SERES stool.

First, in Guatemala we have adapted our leadership curriculum to include serving youth in temporary camps/refugee camps here as part of a larger vision to reach other refugee camps around the world. These curriculums invite survivors to grieve what they have lost, take stock of what they have, awaken hope, and hold space for them to create the kind of new, resilient communities that are more vital than ever.

Second, strategically we are shifting from a centralized learning center on our land near Fuego, to developing instead local centers we are calling “Hubs”, launching the pilots in two communities in Guatemala and one in El Salvador. At these Hubs our youth will lead the design, implementation and ongoing administration to support their communities. The Hubs will offer a safe space for youth to build the SERES network as well as physical space for our leadership programs. This organic extension of our programs will allow us to better collaborate with local governments and other non-profits to reach shared goals, expand available resources and increase our impact across Guatemala and El Salvador.

And finally, on the land itself, we are building out a wilderness base camp for youth workshops and trainings, and perhaps more exciting, developing an agro-ecology pilot program with 25 families who lost their land in the eruption. This cooperative venture will provide land to grow their basic crops, like corn and beans on as well as crops that can enhance their diet and have potential commercial market value. This strategic development of the land provides space for our youth, and the opportunity to create a working finca, producing sustainable incomes for the communities impacted by the Fuego eruptions.

We have the funds for our Hubs, programing and the base camp and we are ready to initiate the agroecology program—what we need to wrap it up is funding to for a well that carries a \$30,000 investment cost. We invite you to help us drill this well, and continue to share your resources to support the other two legs of this incredibly utilitarian SERES stool at the bigger world table joining others to realize the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Together, we can create the change we wish to see in the world!

Dr. Sherry Miller
President
SERES Global

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stories of

IMPACT

SERES is one of the leading organizations addressing issues of youth opportunity, education and sustainable development amongst at-risk and marginalized communities in Central America. Together with our funders, partners and youth leaders, over the past 10 years SERES has trained more than 5,000 young leaders, 90 multi-lingual youth trainers and supported over youth-led community action plans that are taking local steps towards addressing some of our most pressing global challenges.

The action planning component of the congress gives trainees the opportunity to translate their visions and change strategies into tangible goals. This component exposes trainees for the first time to project planning, using a simple yet effective methodology to identify goals, milestones, resources and other elements necessary for a successful initiative.

In 2018 the *Community Action Plans* included:

TYPE OF PLAN	# OF CAPS IMPLEMENTED	# OF PARTICIPANTS	# OF PEOPLE IMPACTED	IMPACT	AMOUNT
biodiversity	3	18	8	trees planted	800
				nursery created	1
				workshops facilitated	18
environmental education	17	428	2,475	events coordinated	6
				meetings held	8
				awareness signs placed	46
				trees planted	100
				community forums organized	8
civic participation	19	248	10,345	events coordinated	15
				art festivals	2
				organizations involved	18
				trash bags collected	205
recycling and waste management	16	930	5,018	cleaning campaigns	24
				garbage cans installed	22
				events coordinated	9
				schools involved	4
				trees planted	205
reforestation	9	234	1,767	reforestation campaigns	205
				events coordinated	5
				nursery created	1
TOTAL	64	1,858	19,613		

“One of the most important ways to have impact in the municipality is to be able to generate processes where youth are recognized by the local government and other civil society organizations. These processes have provided the opportunity for many more young people to meet, generate changes, discuss important issues and organize ourselves”.



497

young people

passed through SERES' training programs in 2018. SERES has a commitment to supporting vulnerable, economically marginalized groups and frontline communities. We give special attention to youth in select geographic regions

of Guatemala and El Salvador - those facing the day-to-day challenges of poverty, crime and social disintegration alongside escalating levels of violence, a rapidly changing climate, political fragmentation and deeply entrenched corruption.

“I describe my leadership as participative...when I have an idea I share it with others and we discuss it to come to an agreement. I see myself as a facilitator within the role of a leader.”



programmatic summary

497

participants
375 of whom are new to SERES this year

19,794

indirect beneficiaries

23

multi-day programs

13

new youth trainers



JUNE 3RD 2018

the eruption of FUEGO VOLCANO

Around noon on June 3rd, 2018 when most people were having lunch, a catastrophic eruption of Volcan de Fuego in Guatemala left over a million affected, over 200 dead and maybe hundreds more missing all buried by the 200+ mph pyroclastic lava flows.. for most there was no time to escape.

SERES was one of the few organizations with a working history in the communities impacted. People fled for their lives, many of our youth and community leaders amongst the 12,000 people forced to evacuate their homes and sadly several members of our SERES community did not survive and those that did lost many loved ones.

This intimate knowledge of the communities and community leaders placed our team in the center of the evacuation and disaster relief efforts. For SERES at least it is clear – a commitment to work with the survivors of the Fuego disaster to help them not just to bounce back, but to bounce forward into a future that is stronger, fairer and more resilient.

Our Pathways to Resilience initiative came about in the months following the eruption as we saw much of the aid and support raised for the survivors begin to dry up, and yet their future remain very much uncertain. As we worked to stabilize an uncertain situation, promising our friends that we were not going anywhere, we asked ourselves:

How can we leverage our assets to help those impacted to bounce forward?

How can we use disaster as a catalyst for dignity, agency and human goodness, creating an opportunity to transform lives and livelihoods?

Over the last half of 2018, working with the community, watching, and listening for answers we came up with three key interventions as part of our Pathways to Resilience initiative. The first of these is working with young leaders living in refugee shelters to help them overcome the trauma, and take a key role in rebuilding their future.

The second and third components take place on SERES' farm – 25 acres located about 5km from the refugee shelters. Here, in partnership with youth and surviving farmers SERES will be implementing an Agro-Ecology Project.

Visit our website www.seres.org for the latest news and what support is needed.



This is Steven, a SERES Ambassador that survived the eruption. Steven survived by jumping from the roof of a house where he had taken shelter.



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*“SERES believed in me...
it has given me the opportunity
to grow and believe in myself.
I am comfortable with who I am
and to be a part of SERES!”*



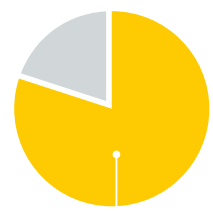
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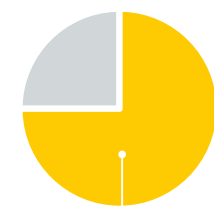
LEADERSHIP & STAFF

As an organization, SERES is committed to a culture of inclusion that fosters diversity and encourages everyone to strive towards leadership opportunities. As a result, we have strong female and local participation at all levels of the organization.

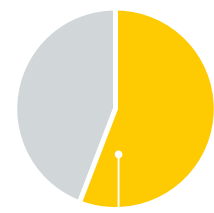
Closing the GENDER GAP



80%
of staff positions

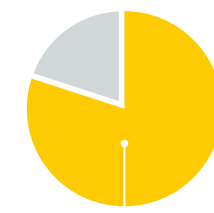


75%
of our leadership team

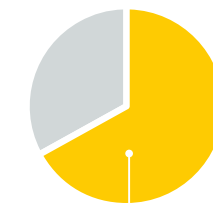


56%
of our Board of Directors

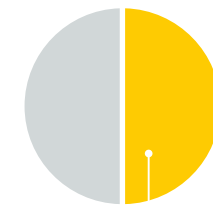
Local, YOUTH-LED



80%
of SERES' staff are local



67%
<35 yrs



50%
Board Members are SERES Alumni

FINANCIALS*

*audited

REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT (USD)

	FY 2017	FY 2018
Foundation Grants	\$120,073	\$226,597
SERES Global Grants	\$60,377	\$60,430
Individual Contributions	\$4,958	\$7,049
Fee-for-Service	\$58,149	\$64,153
Other Income (interests)	\$371	\$522
Total	\$243,928	\$358,751

EXPENSES

	FY 2017 (Guatemala only)	FY 2018 (Guatemala only)
Training Programs (Central America)	\$115,820	\$153,560
Training Programs (International)	\$0	\$984
Leadership Center	\$45,631	\$43,241
Grants	\$6,330	\$9,882
Operating Costs	\$16,923	\$13,200
Development	\$12,664	\$14,838
Management and General	\$17,897	\$25,286
Total	\$215,266	\$260,991
Net assets at beginning of year	\$102,740	\$131,398
Net assets at end of year	\$131,398	\$229,868

For Guatemalan-based operations for fiscal year ending December 31, 2018.
* Asociación SERES finances were audited by an independent auditor for the period October, 2017 to October, 2018.



the leadership JAM

The Leadership JAM conducted by the YES organization was a meeting of 25 leaders from different organizations and social entrepreneurs from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Argentina and the United States.

The JAM was a space of deep dialogues that connected to a community of people in an impressively deep way, besides being a space that allowed the diversity of people, thoughts and opinions in the broadest level that could be had within a process formative.

“Participating in the JAM was an impressive experience. I feel that society needs spaces to talk and where people feel that they are being heard. There are so many people with so many stories and experiences that break your heart, not only for having happened those stories or experiences but because they can not share them and carry the pain in silence. The JAM allowed me to talk about things that I have never shared with anyone before, knowing that I was heard and that people cared a lot about my words.”





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