

Who are we?

We are a non-governmental organization (NGO) officially named Proyecto Impacto Consultores which was founded in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, México in June of 2012. Impacto was created in order to reduce poverty and inequality in Mexico beginning with the state of Chiapas. Our main focus is to increase incomes for people living in the communities of Los Altos de Chiapas, and, more recently, in the state of Oaxaca. We work in economic sectors that are relevant to the local economy, as well as in priority areas like education and gender equality, in order to improve quality of life of the people living in these communities. Impacto creates the links between those who produce the goods and conscientious consumers, thus generating sustainable development in the state of Chiapas.

¿What do we do?

WE EXCHANGE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

We empower individuals through participatory workshops on innovation, development of new products, marketing, leadership, health, education, and women's rights in order to improve livelihoods in communities in a holistic manner.

WE INNOVATE

We use the principles of social enterprise and the value chain during trainings to generate economic autonomy.

WE CONNECT

We connect the talent in local communities with the global market in order to create opportunities for collaboration. We use donations and other financial sources to invest in people with innovative ideas that can have a positive impact on communities, without disrupting their ancestral traditions and cultural heritage. We also offer a workspace for talented people who want to make a difference in our region and in our country.

Mission

We seek to decrease the gap in economic equality by building an innovative platform of integral development as an engine for change. Our initial efforts have been in the state of Chiapas, **focusing on vulnerable groups in indigenous communities** of Los Altos de Chiapas. We exchange knowledge, generate strategies, create opportunities and connect people in order to generate economic and social wealth for everyone involved in value chains.

Vision

To be a **Latin American role model** in combating social and economic inequality, recognized globally.



Impacto Textile

Impacto Textile, a sectoral program within Impacto, is known for its labor towards the empowerment and dignification of indigenous craftswomen. It promotes the appreciation of textile handicrafts, as well as the strengthening and positioning of the ethical textile craft sector. We want to improve the standard of living of women artisans of Los Altos de Chiapas, assisting them so that their craftsmanship can be a means of development and personal growth for them and their families. In order to promote the sector of the textile crafts in Mexico, we engage in parallel activities, such as:

MASDEDOS Bazaar

This concept combines contemporary textile projects in Chiapas that work collaboratively in various disciplines, using design and handicrafts as a common theme. Participating projects not only explore the possibilities for tangible proposals for artisanal products, they have also begun a process of deep reflection on work procedures, symbols, craft techniques, and the application of design as an agent of change in the reality of Chiapas craftsmen. As a result, this has generated a set of projects that are influenced by the context in which they develop, and has led to collaborative practices with highly symbolic cultural and ethical value. At the present time Masdedos Bazaar has held thirteen editions of its Bazaar.

Masdedos Bazaar defines its philosophy and space with the following principles, which determine the profile of the participating exhibitors as well:

Contemporary: current trends, that define and meet today's globalized market.

Authentic: originality of projects, synthesis of craftsmanship and a unique proposal that generates new design projects.

Exceptional Artisanry: production based on ancestral traditional techniques, which is exclusive rather than mass produced. It allows for the imperfection of pieces derived from the nature of the production process, but it requires top quality and functionality.

Conscious: respect for the cultures, ways of life, and individuals involved in the entire production chain. Attain an improvement in the quality of life and work through the application of ethical trade rules, as well as specific procedures. Attention to the care of the environment.

Local: all of the products are made in Mexico, and most of the raw material is Mexican, preferably from the same region.

Masdedos today provides an opportunity for creators to have direct contact with their customers, understand the demands and needs of the global market, and weave networks of contacts for future business opportunities.

During 2015, three editions of Bazaar were held, one with a national presence in the event DESIGNWEEK Mexico, in Mexico City, with total sales reaching approximately \$100,000 MXN pesos. In the two local editions of Bazaar, held in San Cristóbal de las Casas, the levels of sales ranged around \$50,000 MXN pesos per Edition.