

IN MINISTRY TO CHILDREN

England & Wales · Charity number 1064690

Details

Other names I M C

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1997-10-03

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address In Ministry to Children
c/o Life Church Centre
16 D Chapel Street
Petersfield
Hampshire
GU32 3DZ

Phone 01730 231400

Email info@inministrytochildren.org

Website inministrytochildren.org

Activities

Objects: TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR CHILDREN AT RISK THROUGH POVERTY, NEGLECT OR ABUSE IN COLOMBIA, SOUTH AMERICA.TO SHARE THE CHRISTIAN GOSPEL.

Activities: Fundraising in the UK to support work on location in Colombia, providing relief for children at risk through poverty, neglect or abuse.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Accommodation/housing, Religious Activities, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** COLOMBIA, SOUTH AMERICA
- Colombia

Finances

| Period end | Income | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|---------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2024-12-31 | £73,974 | £81,400 | - | - |
| 2023-12-31 | £75,546 | £76,578 | - | - |
| 2022-12-31 | £78,212 | £81,493 | - | - |
| 2021-12-31 | £81,594 | £80,138 | - | - |
| 2020-12-31 | £85,315 | £82,870 | - | - |

Trustees

| Name | Role | Appointed |
|------------------------|-------|------------|
| SEREN BOYD | Chair | |
| Clive Norman Booley | | 2022-07-12 |
| Jennifer Booley | | 2022-07-12 |
| Leah Guzman Aldana | | 2017-01-28 |
| Leo Guzman Aldana | | 2017-01-28 |
| Penelope Ann Callaghan | | 2022-07-12 |

IN MINISTRY TO CHILDREN

England & Wales - Charity number 1064690

Accounts

IN MINISTRY TO CHILDREN 2024–2025

Chairman's report

[slide 1]

The IMC team in Colombia (which we call IMiC) continue to be a beacon of hope in some of the country's poorest communities. And they have continued to shine, despite significant hurdles this year. The communities they serve remain immensely challenging, and the funding landscape in which they operate is increasingly volatile. They remain a tiny team, operating on a shoestring. And yet, despite all this, IMiC supported **1,299 children** and 456 adults living in very vulnerable situations in 2024.

The context

[slide 2]

According to a World Bank report at the end of 2024, Colombia remains a deeply unequal nation. It is still plagued by deep class divisions, and [quotes] 'deep inequalities in access to opportunities (...) and widely varying levels of poverty'. Poverty overall is declining, yet more than 16 million people still live below the bread line. In departments such as La Guajira, one of the places where IMiC works, two in three people are living in poverty – double the national average.

When President Gustavo Petro took office in 2022, he announced a 'total peace' strategy but Colombia is still waiting. Her poorest citizens – especially indigenous and Afro-descendant communities – suffer widespread abuses at the hands of armed groups and big business. They are often the target of criminal gangs too. Yet, they have limited access to justice. The husband of IMiC's accountant was killed this year, a victim of extortion – a rising trend as criminal gangs facing a decline in drug trafficking look for new ways to make money.

[slide 2]

After visiting Colombia last year, Olivier De Schutter, the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, said: ‘Unless eradicating poverty becomes a priority for all Colombians, no matter their income bracket, the vicious cycle of poverty and conflict will continue, and the country will never know peace.’

Our priorities

In 2024, IMiC supported four main project areas. These are, in order of spending priorities:

- La Guajira, a rural indigenous area in the far north
- Los Alpes (‘The Alps’), a slum area within Ciudad Bolívar on the outskirts of Bogotá. *(The next few slides will take you on a cable car trip up to the top of Los Alpes where we work and watch how the housing deteriorates...)*

[slides 4 to 8 in succession]

We also work in:

- Fusa, an urban area about an hour’s drive from Bogotá, and
- Tasajera, a swampy area west of La Guajira

In each setting, IMiC continues to work closely with local churches which operate in the very heart of communities and enjoy strong relationships built on trust with local people. The churches provide families with spiritual input: IMiC provides practical and psycho-social support.

Broadly, IMiC summarises its key focuses as:

- Psychosocial support – mental and emotional health
- Healthy nutrition
- Educational support
- Clothing
- Savings clubs and microenterprises

- Spiritual support

IMiC's goal is to help families become what it calls 'sustainable families', resilient to the many challenges they face. It educates families about their rights, trains them in everything from child protection to conflict resolution, and helps them set up or develop microenterprises – from nail bars to artisanal products. As always, the drive is towards helping families help themselves.

Our projects

[slide 9]

La Guajira, home to the reservation of the indigenous Wayuu people, remains a priority for IMC. It is a very poor, arid and insecure area. Colombia is host to 2.8 million refugees from Venezuela and most of them have settled in La Guajira. A large displacement camp there – called La Pista (the runway) as it's an abandoned airfield – is home to 10,000 Venezuelan migrants, half of whom are children.

[slide 10]

Two thirds of the Wayúu population live in poverty and one-quarter live in extreme poverty – victims of manmade injustices such as mines stealing their water and environmental hazards such as drought. In 2024, 31 children under the age of five died from acute malnutrition in La Guajira. (*The toddler you see in the centre of this image was showing signs of malnutrition – a telltale reddish tint to the hair*)

This is why 35% (more than a third) of IMiC's spending in 2024 went to La Guajira where we work with families in several *rancherías* or settlements, alongside the Upper Room and Maranatha churches.

[slide 11]

Since the school you see here was built, we have continued to support these communities with food and training. A continuing focus this year has also been the completion of a new church building that will double as a

community centre – a project which has just been completed, Nancy reports.

[slide 12]

And we continue to offer livelihood support to the Wayuu providing materials for their beautiful handmade *mochilas* (or bags) and exploring new markets for them.

[slide 13]

Los Alpes is an informal settlement on the outskirts of the capital Bogotá which has high rates of criminality and deprivation. We have been running a community hub here for several years now and last year it accounted for a quarter of IMiC's spending.

[slide 14]

For the first part of the year, the IMiC team and the Oaks of Righteousness Church provided food for children, plus activities and training for families, including a savings group. They even helped set up a community soup kitchen.

More recently, and as an aside, that church decided to run its own social project so IMiC has joined forces with Don Antonio, a teacher with a passion for helping children in Los Alpes, especially through educational support. IMiC now supports Antonio's project by providing food, training workshops, clothing and books to start a children's library. There is a plan to start a sewing school to help families set up microenterprises.

[slide 15 and 16]

In **Fusa**, where IMiC spends 22% of its budget, it has been partnering with two churches – the Good News Church and the King of Israel Church. It has been running activities for children, workshops for parents (such as conflict resolution and managing emotions), and a savings group. IMiC's

faithful team member Sofia has been providing the children with a healthy snack such as a sandwich.

And finally, in **Tasajera**, IMiC has been supporting a community with high unemployment and deep poverty in all the same ways as its other projects – but to a lesser degree. IMiC's involvement there has been halted for the time being for lack of funds, although there's still a church at work there.

In the spring, IMiC held a fair at Granja Peniel to celebrate its 30th anniversary and raise awareness of its work. It also used the opportunity to thank supporters, reach out to potential new donors, sell some of Peniel's own produce (including blackberries) and promote local producers who also sold their wares.

[slide 17]

We continue to be in awe of our Colombian colleagues, Nancy's core team now consists of Yan Carlos Rodriguez, IMiC's Deputy Director, and Jennyfer Ambrosio, the IMiC administrator, who are both based in Bogota; and Sofia, who continues to serve families in Fusa. In recent months, our social worker, Maicol, has left the foundation to focus on his family's tailoring business – and will be sorely missed.

[slide 18]

IMiC's tireless Director Nancy Centeno will be joining us shortly.

As trustees, we've been busy supporting Nancy and the IMiC team, raising awareness of their work, communicating with our supporters, and fundraising ourselves. We're all volunteers so we're as grateful as ever for the generous giving, volunteering, fundraising and prayers of our amazing supporters.

We must again mention and thank a few stalwarts:

- Michael and John Arnold of Life Church Petersfield for their administrative support
- our very wonderful newsletter editor, Martin Plowman
- the team who stuff envelopes and post out our newsletter, Joan, Sue and Liz
- our patron, Joan, for her grace and encouragement; and
- and Lesina and Robin Ashfield who host our Summer Serenade

[slide 19]

As ever, none of this would be possible without our supporters – whom Jenny will talk about in more detail a bit later. And of course none of this would be possible without God. We continue to seek him, as we try to serve his purposes, build his kingdom and love well the children of Colombia. We continue to be amazed by his faithfulness and his goodness.

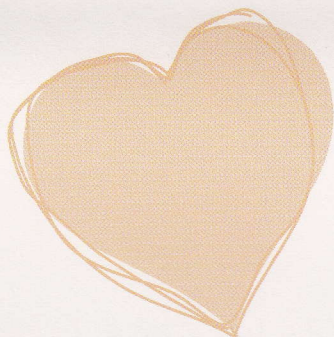
IN MINISTRY TO CHILDREN
TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT 1.01.2024 - 31.12.2024

INCOME

| | | |
|-------|-------------------|---------|
| 3524 | Personnel | £ 4,950 |
| 3525 | Child Sponsorship | £ 6,115 |
| 3527 | General Fund | £58,308 |
| 3530 | CIF | £ 3,600 |
| TOTAL | | £72,973 |

EXPENDITURE

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---------|
| Transfers to Colombia | | £66,330 |
| Publicity | | £ 441 |
| Financial management by Links | | £ 6,956 |
| TOTAL | | £73,727 |



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To whom it may concern

This is to ascertain that all In Ministry to Children monies (Charity No. 1064690) are monitored and audited by ourselves, Links International Trust. Therefore, the accounts for In Ministry to Children are encompassed in our audit report which we submit to the Charity Commission each year.

Mandy Dukes

Accounts Manager

IN MINISTRY TO CHILDREN

England & Wales - Charity number 1064690

Accounts

IN MINISTRY TO CHILDREN 2023–2024

Chairman's report

IMC and its dedicated team in Colombia continue to shine a bright light in a beautiful country which still faces many problems. Despite being a very small team with very limited resources, Director Nancy Centeno and the team continue to punch way above their weight.

In the past year, IMiC (which is the name of the team in Colombia) supported xx children in xxx families in different, very different, parts of the country. They met children's practical needs as well as giving them spiritual and emotional support, showing them love and reminding them that their lives matter. What they achieve, year on year, is nothing short of miraculous.

[slide 1: cable car]

The background to this work is challenging. While poverty is declining in some urban areas, it is increasing in rural areas and among indigenous communities such as the Wayuu people we support in the far north.

Today, 6.9 million people in Colombia live in extreme poverty – surviving on about £1.30 a day or less. In other words, almost 7 million people in Colombia struggle every day to secure food and shelter, and face impossible decisions like choosing between feeding their child and sending them to school. That's true for Los Alpes, which you see in the picture here: it's the slum area we support in Bogota.

In 2023, 269 children died of malnutrition in Colombia: two-thirds of these deaths were in indigenous rural areas.

Inflation remains high, and many communities live in the shadow of violence, family breakdown and criminality. Just last month, a three-year-old child was killed in Fusa, close to our community hub: his stepfather is the chief suspect.

[slide 2: boy in green/girl in orange]

IMiC continues to support four main project areas:

- Los Alpes ('The Alps'), a slum area on the outskirts of Bogotá;
- Fusa, an urban area about an hour's drive from Bogota
- La Guajira, a rural indigenous area in the far north, and
- Tasajera, a rural area, also in the north.

In each setting, IMiC continues to work closely with local churches. This means they have direct links right into the heart of communities and can easily identify who needs help the most. The churches provide families with spiritual support: IMiC provides the practical and psycho-social support.

As in the previous year, IMiC supports families in four main ways:

- Providing essentials – such as food and access to education
- Running workshops and training to strengthen families' resilience – from positive parenting to family values
- Offering livelihoods support and training, including savings groups
- Giving spiritual support – through their collaboration with churches

[slide 3: mother and baby]

One area which remains a particular priority for IMiC is **La Guajira**, home to the reservation of the indigenous Wayuu people. Drought is persistent here, water is scarce and unemployment rates are high.

About one-third of the Wayúu population live in poverty and one-quarter live in extreme poverty. More than one in four Wayúu children under five suffer from malnutrition. An infant dies every week in La Guajira.

A major source of the Wayuu's problems is the fact that large mining companies have stolen tribal land and water – and their actions have gone unpunished. Anyone who speaks out about injustices – so called human rights defenders – tends to be threatened or killed.

This is why **about a third** of IMiC's spending now goes to La Guajira where we work with **xxx** families in seven *rancherías* or settlements, alongside the Upper Room Church.

[slide 4: inside of church]

We have continued to support these communities with food handouts – but also training. A major focus this year has been the construction of a new church building that will double as a community centre – a project which is nearing completion. This is due to the generosity of one particular IMC supporter to whom we are immensely grateful.

[slide 5: social worker Maicol with 5 small children]

Meanwhile, the *comedor* or community hub in **Los Alpes** continues to serve a very deprived area with high rates of criminality. As well as providing food **for xx children each week**, the IMiC team and the Oaks of Righteousness Church provide activities and training for families. For example, there's a regular 'music school' for children, and families attend workshops in subjects such as positive parenting.

[slide 6: many children, Colombian and British flags]

In **Fusa**, our programme now offers children refreshments, rather than full meals, but there's still a full programme of activities. There are regular workshops for families on subjects such as child protection, as well as health outreaches, such as dentistry and oral hygiene checks.

Strong links with local churches and occasional collaborations with other organisations mean that IMiC is extending the range of what it can offer families.

As always, the drive is towards helping families help themselves.

In the summer, the Fusa held a community fair to advertise the work of IMiC, sell products the families had made, promote their small businesses and raise funds that would help provide the families with 'thanksgiving' gifts.

This year, new savings clubs have been set up in Fusa and Los Alpes: members commit to saving regularly for a specific purpose and undergo weekly training in entrepreneurship. In Fusa, they've even started small business ventures such as selling sweets.

In **Tasajera**, an area to the west of La Guajira, local people have had their livelihoods stripped from them as landowners and businesses have exploited coastal marshlands, destroying fisheries. **IMiC has again provided xx families here with food and given children xxxxx.** IMiC would like to develop its work here, when funds allow.

As trustees, we've been busy supporting Nancy and IMiC, communicating with our wonderful supporters and fundraisers, and fundraising ourselves, as you'll hear later in this meeting. We're all volunteers so we're incredibly grateful as ever for the faithful giving and prayers of our supporters.

We must mention a few stalwarts: Michael and John Arnold of Life Church Petersfield for their administrative support; to the team who stuff envelopes and post out our newsletter, Sue, Liz and Joan; to our very wonderful

newsletter editor, Martin Plowman; and to our patron, Joan, for her grace and encouragement.

[slide 7: the IMiC team – Maicol, Jennyfer, YanCarlos]

And we continue to be inspired by of our Colombian colleagues, especially Director Nancy Centeno, who's based in Barranquilla these days (and whom we will hear from shortly!). On her core team are:

Yan Carlos Rodriguez, IMiC's Deputy Director

Maicol, a former IMC boy who is now the IMiC social worker and Jennyfer, the IMiC administrator

[Maicol, Jennyfer and YanCarlos are shown here. They are all based in and around Bogota]

[slide 8: Sofia the 'cook']

And then there's faithful Sofia, who continues to serve families in Fusa, despite some significant health issues of her own.

These are all determined, selfless people devoted to serving the children of Colombia – and it's a privilege to support them. As ever, we remain committed to Colombia's most vulnerable children – the 'C' in IMC stands for children, after all – and we continue to ask God to guide us.

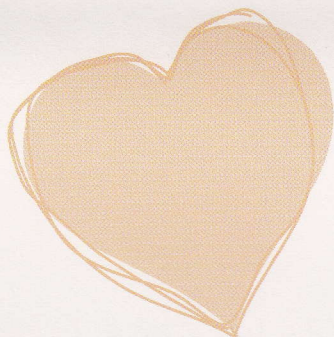
IN MINISTRY TO CHILDREN
TREASURER'S REPORT 1.1.23-31.12.23.

Income

| | | |
|-------|-------------------|----------------|
| 3524 | Personnel | £4980 |
| 3525 | Child Sponsorship | £6,716 |
| 3527 | General Fund | £6,250 |
| 3530 | CIF | £3,600 |
| Total | | £75,546 |

Expenditure

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Transfers to Colombia | £69,250 |
| Publicity, various items | £650 |
| Financial management by Links | £6,678 |
| | £76,578 |



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Mandy Dukes

Accounts Manager

IN MINISTRY TO CHILDREN

England & Wales - Charity number 1064690

Accounts

IN MINISTRY TO CHILDREN 2022–2023

Chairman's report

It's 30 years exactly now since our founders Joan and Terry Thraves first visited Colombia – and that beautiful nation is still struggling to shake off its violent past. Peace deals may have ended the civil war, but armed groups, paramilitaries and criminal gangs are still very active. Insecurity and gang violence are part of daily life for so many.

The cost-of-living crisis has plunged many Colombians into poverty: the poverty rate rose to 38 per cent in 2022. In a country famous for its rich natural resources, children are still dying of malnutrition. Colombia remains a very unequal society.

There were high hopes riding on Colombia's first left-wing president, Gustavo Petro, who was elected on the promise of reform last June. These hopes have yet to be realised.

As we seem to say every year, In Ministry to Children in Colombia, IMiC, have had a difficult year, with rising prices and an unpredictable income due to exchange rates. Yet, despite these pressures, they have supported **xxxx children and xxx adults** in total – a remarkable achievement for such a small team.

They continue to support four main project areas:

- Los Alpes in Ciudad Bolívar, an informal settlement in Bogotá;
- Fusa;
- La Guajira; and
- Tasajera.

In each setting, they work closely with local churches, whose commitment to making a difference in their local area makes them invaluable partners.

As in the previous year, IMiC supports families in four main ways:

- Essentials – such as food and access to education
- Workshops to strengthen families' resilience – from parenting support to drug awareness
- Livelihoods support and training, including savings groups
- Spiritual input – which IMiC considers the most valuable gift they can give

One area which remains a particular priority for IMiC is **La Guajira**, which is in the far north-west of Colombia and home to the Indigenous Wayuu people. The region has suffered drought for years – the result of both climate change and injustice. Then, last October Hurricane Julia brought flash floods, perversely, which cut off for days vulnerable areas including the communities we support.

Countrywide, 308 children died of hunger in Colombia last year – 85 of them in La Guajira, according to the national ombudsman. This was almost a third more than in 2021.

Our work in La Guajira has focused mostly on providing food to people in seven *rancherías* or settlements – but the focus is also moving towards helping people start to develop their own livelihoods. These are early days but there have been some small projects to encourage the planting of drought-resistant crops such as corn, beans and mango.

Meanwhile, the *comedor* or community hub in **Los Alpes**, which moved to new improved premises in September, continues to grow in numbers. And the input of the local church means people have grown spiritually too. It remains a very violent, deprived area. Not long ago, a mother deposited her newborn child in a bin near to the IMC hub, because she was too poor to care for it. Thankfully, the child was rescued but the mother was nearly lynched. Yet, the IMiC team and their church partners believe in the power of God's Word and the power of community to transform society.

In Tasajera, an area to the west of La Guajira, local people have had their livelihoods stripped from them as landowners and businesses have exploited coastal marshlands, destroying fisheries. As they did last year, IMiC has provided families with food and given children clothes and shoes for school. IMiC would like to develop its work here, when funds allow.

In all projects now, there's a strong emphasis on breaking a mindset of dependency. Indeed, families in Fusa and Los Alpes are now expected to attend workshops that will give them life skills if they want to receive foodstuffs, for example. IMiC Director Nancy makes no apology for attaching strings in this way: people cannot rely on handouts, she says.

As trustees, our focus this year has been on supporting Nancy and IMiC, maintaining communications and relationship with our wonderful supporters, and fundraising. As you'll hear later in this meeting, we've had a busy fundraising year as trustees – and we're grateful as ever for the faithful giving and prayers of our supporters.

We continue to be inspired by the commitment and dogged determination of our Colombian colleagues, especially Director Nancy Centeno, who's now based in Barranquilla. She is ably supported by: Yan Carlos Rodriguez, IMiC Deputy Director; Maicol, the IMiC social worker; Jennyfer, the IMiC administrator; and Sofia, who continues to support Fusa families. Partnerships with local churches in Colombia are something we have longed to see for years – and now they are absolutely key to how IMiC works in each project.

We continue to be amazed at the faithful generosity of our supporters, even throughout the cost-of-living crisis. As ever, we're grateful to: Michael and John Arnold of Life Church Petersfield for their administrative support; to team who stuff envelopes and post out our newsletter, Sue, Liz and Joan; to our very wonderful newsletter editor Martin Plowman; and to our patron Joan for her cheery wisdom and constant encouragement.

We're still coming to terms with the loss our dear patron, Joan's husband, Terry Thraves, in November. But we trust that Terry would be happy to know his legacy lives on, in the way that IMiC is touching so many young lives in Colombia and showing them that they are precious and valuable in God's sight.

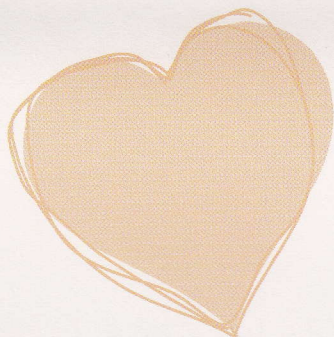
Seren Boyd, Chair of IMC trustees

May 2023

IN MINISTRY TO CHILDREN
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2022

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Income | £81,594 |
| Expenditure | £80,138 |
| Comprising:- | |
| Transfers to Colombia | £76,000 |
| Publicity Expenses | £ 428 |
| Financial Management | £ 3,710 |

| Active Accounts | Debit | Credit |
|------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 3524 Personnel | £4,952.00 | £5,048.00 |
| 3525 Child Sponsorship | £7,516.00 | £7,446.00 |
| 3527 General Fund | £68,265.01 | £67,180.17 |
| 3530 CIF | £1,920.00 | £1,920.00 |



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Mandy Dukes

Accounts Manager

IN MINISTRY TO CHILDREN

England & Wales - Charity number 1064690

Accounts

IN MINISTRY TO CHILDREN 2021–2022

Chairman's report

Colombia has been fighting fires on multiple fronts this year. The pandemic has continued to have a heavy toll on the economy and society, with many people unable simply to feed themselves. Poverty and malnutrition are rife among indigenous, migrant and other marginalised communities.

Despite the peace accord in 2016, conflict-related violence continues: 7.5 million people have been displaced in Colombia. Human rights defenders and community leaders are a particular target. Drug-related crime and violence are endemic, affecting all areas of the country.

Last April and May saw tens of thousands of Colombians take to the street to protest against inequality, increased taxes and corruption: this May, the country looks set to elect its first left-wing president, Gustavo Petro, a hugely divisive figure on a reformist ticket – and social tensions are high.

As in many places in the world, the economic impact of Covid has been devastating in Colombia. Almost half-a-million people fell into poverty in 2020, according to its government, and have stayed there. And as always, the poorest and marginalised – especially children – have been worst hit.

In Ministry to Children in Colombia, IMiC, have navigated difficult waters this year, with their usual commitment and determination. Despite intense pressures, they have supported 1,487 children and 818 adults in total – a considerable increase on the figures for previous year.

They continue to support four main project areas: Bogotá, including an informal settlement called Los Alpes in Ciudad Bolívar; Fusa; La Guajira;

and Tasajera. In each setting they work closely with local churches, to support families in four main ways:

- Essentials – eg food, medical care, access to education
- Training to strengthen families' resilience and prevent family breakdown – eg positive parenting, drug awareness
- Small business support – from bakeries to recycling projects
- Spiritual input – which is absolutely essential when material things and hope are in short supply

One area where work has developed particularly this year is in **Los Alpes**, a slum area of Bogota. It's a very poor, dangerous area with many social problems. Families here live in makeshifts shacks and they have no amenities such as toilets or running water. It's here that we now support a *comedor* or community hub, in collaboration with the local church. It is now feeding about 60 children three times a week, as well as providing help with schoolwork; parents too receive support and training. In a struggling community, it's a place of stability, affirmation and love.

Another area which remains a particular priority for IMiC is **La Guajira**, a drought-affected region in the far north-west of Colombia which is home to the Wayuu people. It's a very poor area, neglected by the state: food shortages linked to drought are exacerbated by hugely unjust water management which has allowed water courses to be diverted away from poor communities towards mines and wealthier areas. Malnutrition claims the life of one in every ten children under five in La Guajira, according to Human Rights Watch.

Necessarily, then, our work in La Guajira has focused mostly on providing food to people in seven *rancherías* or settlements, amid food shortages and rising prices. But also work has continued on building a new church building in El Brasil, which will also serve as a community hub and host a health clinic. We have also been investigating new ways to improve

communities' access to water and to strengthen local livelihoods, including local artisan crafts.

The school we helped rebuild a few years ago with the support of A2O has become so successful – with children coming from many different hamlets – that it is no longer able to house all 100 children on its register.

This past year, we also started working in an area called **Tasajera**, to the west of La Guajira. This area of coastal marshlands has been exploited by landowners and businesses to the detriment of the local environment and waterways, and of local livelihoods which are based on fishing. Tasajera's 30,000 residents now cannot earn a living wage. IMiC's has provided food and given children clothes and shoes for school. This year IMiC is seeking ways to increase help to the community and is looking for volunteers from environmental organisations and university students to work on livelihoods projects involving recycling, which would improve the environment and provide economic support to families.

And finally, IMiC continues to provide support to families in **Bogotá and Fusa** with whom it has long had connections. The work in Fusa is now focusing on supporting the poorest children with food and educational support in their homes rather than through a central community hub or *comedor*.

As trustees, our focus this year has been on supporting and communicating with Nancy and IMiC, and continuing to develop the ways we communicate with supporters, especially digital comms such as emails and social media. We continue to review our policies and practices, with a particular focus at the moment on child protection. Our limited capacity as a group this year means that we have not been able to organise fundraising events of our own – although several of us are currently involved in a sporty fundraiser with other supporters.

We continue to be in awe of the hard work and dedication of our Colombian colleagues, especially Director Nancy Centeno. She is ably supported by: Jennyfer, her administrator; Yan Carlos Rodriguez, who became IMiC

Deputy Director last year; Maicol, the IMiC social worker; and Sofia, who used to help run the Fusa comedor and who continues to support Fusa families. We're excited to see relationships and collaborations with local churches in Colombia growing.

And we continue to be amazed at the faithful generosity of our supporters, even throughout the pandemic and austere times in the UK. As ever, we're grateful to Life Church Petersfield for their administrative support, to those who distribute our newsletter, to our longstanding newsletter editor Martin Plowman, and to our patrons Joan and Terry Thraves for their ongoing enthusiasm and wisdom.

None of what this would be possible without the God who is at the heart and centre of this work. It's because of *his* heart for vulnerable children and their families that IMiC exists. We continue to seek his guidance and leading as we work to show vulnerable children that they are precious and their lives matter.

Seren Boyd, Chair of IMC trustees

May 2022

IN MINISTRY TO CHILDREN
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2021

Income £81,594

Expenditure £80,138

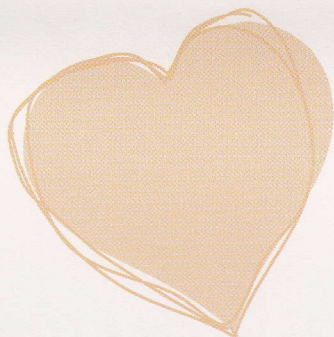
Comprising:-

Transfers to Colombia £76,000

Publicity Expenses £ 428

Financial Management £ 3,710

| Active Accounts | Debit | Credit |
|------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 3524 Personnel | £4,952.00 | £5,048.00 |
| 3525 Child Sponsorship | £7,516.00 | £7,446.00 |
| 3527 General Fund | £68,265.01 | £67,180.17 |
| 3530 CIF | £1,920.00 | £1,920.00 |



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To whom it may concern

This is to ascertain that all In Ministry to Children monies (Charity No. 1064690) are monitored and audited by ourselves, Links International Trust. Therefore, the accounts for In Ministry to Children are encompassed in our audit report which we submit to the Charity Commission each year.

Mandy Dukes

Accounts Manager

IN MINISTRY TO CHILDREN

England & Wales - Charity number 1064690

Accounts

IN MINISTRY TO CHILDREN 2020–2021

Chair's report

As for so many countries, 2020 has been a hugely challenging year for IMC and for Colombia. Ongoing issues, including conflict and the Venezuelan migrant crisis, have been exacerbated by the pandemic. The health emergency, lockdowns and restrictions have created an economic crisis too, hitting the poorest hardest. The most vulnerable families, who rely on casual labour to make a living, saw their work dry up overnight. Suddenly, they were suddenly unable to put food on the table. Across the nation, red rags were tied to windows, a traditional sign of protest co-opted to become a signal that the household had no food. More recently, anger over growing inequalities has spilled out into violence on the streets, with allegations of police brutality prompting an international outcry. At the time of writing, Nancy Centeno, our Colombian director, said it was not safe to go outside.

Lockdowns, restrictions and changing needs meant that IMiC had to be flexible and creative in its approach this year. The Fusa dining room has not reopened since its closure in March 2020 due to restrictions: it was with great sadness that we received the news that its director, Carlos Forero, had been made redundant. Yet, IMiC has been able to reach more families through its alternative approaches this year: a total of 388 families or 1,460 people, including 952 children.

- 32 families in Fusa (119 people)
- 321 families in La Guajira (1,220 people)
- 35 families in Bogotá (121 people)

In the previous year (2019-20), IMiC supported 84 families and 249 children. So the numbers of those reached this year have almost quadrupled.

Currently 83% of the families and 86% of the children that the ministry supports are in La Guajira. The proportion of expenditure assigned to each project area, however, does not vary hugely:

- La Guajira 36% of total expenditure
- Fusa 23%
- Bogotá 21%
- Administration 20%

IMiC continued to provide food parcels to the most vulnerable families, in its three project areas: Bogota, Fusa and La Guajira. Distributions of food have increased by 320%, compared with 2019, and the number of people supported with food supplies has increased by 186%. Families have also been taught about nutrition and how to prepare simple, affordable meals.

Helping children with their schoolwork was a large part of IMiC's support this year, including printing out schoolwork set online for families without internet access. The number of children supported in this way this year increased by 257%. Educational support included helping people understand the need for Covid restrictions, including mask-wearing and good hygiene. And it extended to supporting some older IMiC 'boys' through university, including Andres Castro and Willie Gomez.

In August, emergency supplies were sent to La Guajira because winter weather was badly affecting areas where people live in very simple shelters with bare-earth floors. We're delighted to report that the school in El Brasil, renovated largely thanks to our supporters A2O, now has a septic tank and toilet block.

IMiC's livelihoods support programme continued, despite the pandemic. It supported 28 families, 22 in La Guajira and six in Bogotá, to set up and run small businesses to help them provide an income for themselves. These enterprises included market stalls and a bakery. And, at the close of the year, every child received a Christmas gift – all 952 of them.

While plans for the year ahead are still being formulated, amid increasing uncertainty around Covid, IMiC's key focus will remain the same: protecting children and strengthening families, helping to meet their practical and spiritual needs, and building their resilience and independence. Lessons learnt this year are prompting it consider ways in which it can extend its reach to support more families, including reaching out to seven *rancherías* in La Guajira.

Our areas of focus continue to be:

- Food and nutrition, alongside other practical support (eg clothing)
- Spiritual support
- Educational support
- Health and well-being
- Social and recreational activities
- Entrepreneurship and savings schemes
- Environmental care, including recycling and vegetable gardens

As trustees, our focus this year has been on supporting Nancy and developing our digital means of communication and fundraising. We continue to review our policies and practices, with a particular focus on GDPR compliance and child protection.

Our grateful thanks, as ever, go to the team in Colombia, headed up by Nancy, for their tireless hard work. We continue to be in awe of their commitment to seeing transformation in the lives of the most vulnerable children.

We are grateful to all our supporters, many of whom have supported us over decades now and whose generosity has not wavered even during a national emergency here in the UK and Europe (see our Treasurer's Report 2021 for more information). Despite the pandemic, fundraising activity has continued – as Krissy Tapp will explain later – and we extend our grateful thanks to everyone who has made that possible.

We're especially grateful to Life Church Petersfield for their administrative support, to our longstanding newsletter editor, Martin Plowman, and to our patrons Joan and Terry Thraves for their wisdom and support.

Most of all, we thank God, our Heavenly Father, without whom none of this would be possible and who holds all of this in his hands.

Seren Boyd

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2020 ACCOUNTS FOR IN MINISTRY TO CHILDREN

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| Total Income | £85,314.50 |
| Total Expenditure | £82,870.40 |
| Amount transferred from Reserve a/c To General Fund | £ 2,444.10 |
| Funds transferred to Colombia | £78,300.00 |
| Expenditure on financial admin and Communications | £4,570.40 |

| Active Accounts | Credit | Debit |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Personnel | £7,153.00 | £7,306.00 |
| Child Sponsorship | £8,001.00 | £8,382.50 |
| General Fund | £77,602.96 | £77,098.14 |
| CIF | £2,420.00 | £2,540.00 |



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