

EU Partners

ProgettoMondo Mlal
(Movimento Laici
America Latina), Italia

Municipality of
Chinandega, Nicaragua

Asociación Juntos
Somos Alternativa
(ASJUSA),
Chinandega, Nicaragua

Facts and Figures

- EC contribution:
€ 727,930 (75% of
the total budget)
- Project duration:
February 2008 - May
2011



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Employment

The future is young! Fighting youth poverty in Chinandega, Nicaragua.

Creating services for youth employment and entrepreneurship.

"It is very difficult for us young people to find employment. With the little grocery shop which I was able to set up, thanks to the project, I have found an economic alternative: I earn more than before and I can work while having my small son with me."

Itzumiriam Tercero, 31, single mother



Context Lack of opportunities for Nicaragua's youth

Nicaragua has a young population but few economic possibilities to offer. The high rate of youth unemployment prevents economic development, causes social problems and high emigration flows. The education system fails to enable young people to respond to actual job market requests, and municipalities lack a public policy for an integral youth development. As a result, many young people have adopted an approach that looks for "quick and ease money", even gained abroad if necessary. Consumerism and dependent self-perception prevail over entrepreneurial attitudes. Moreover, when they do want to take initiatives and start their own enterprise as an alternative to unemployment, they are refused access to credit by a financial system that does not believe in them.

Objectives

- Contribute towards effective poverty reduction and improvement of living conditions by strengthening the human capital of Chinandega's youth
- Develop economic opportunities for young men and women within the national policies

Impact

- Municipal centre for employment and entrepreneurship is set up within the town hall; its database already contains the details of 2200 young people and is directly connected to the communication system of the Ministry of Employment
- 65 young people have already been able to improve their income and living conditions

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The case of Marbely Chavarria Cantillo, age 30

Marbely lives with her husband and their three children in a humble house in rural Chinandega. Her main source of income is a small banana field. She approached the project in order to learn how to set up a business plan that could develop the potential of her property and in order to obtain financing and support for that undertaking. Her goal was to improve the management of the banana field and to buy a pump for the irrigation system so that the production would not be affected during the dry season. Marbely actively participated in the training, and managed despite her low academic level, to develop a well articulated business plan that was eventually financed by the project. Two weeks after installing the pump, a bad drought hit the country and affected the entire rain season. Yet, thanks to her investment and to all she had learnt in the course, Marbely was one of the few small-scale rural producers who managed to get out of this situation without major harm. Moreover, she even won in terms of competitiveness and quality of produce.



Marbely with her husband in her banana field