

The Empowerment of Rural Women and their Role in Poverty and Hunger Eradication, Development and Current Challenges

The Experience of Dianova Nicaragua





Nicaragua





The Context: Nicaragua

- Area: 130,373 Km²
- Population: 5.896 millions
 - Urban: 58%
 - Rural: 42%
- Men: 49.5% Women: 50.5%
- Poverty: 44.7%
- Extreme poverty: 9.7%
- Human Development Indicators, UNDP: Position 129
- GDP per capita: \$1,100
- Gini index: 0.37
- Inflation: 8% annual
- Exports: coffee, beef, gold, sugar, maquila (textile, car spare parts), tourism.





Gap Between Rural & Urban Populations

- Illiteracy rate: rural: 37,7%; urban: 12,3%;
- Four or more years of schooling: rural 43%; urban: 77%
- Housing: rural: one bedroom; urban: 30% with two bedrooms
- Cooking: rural: 92.7% using firewood; urban: 61% using butane/propane gas
- Household drinking water: rural: 27%; urban: 86,2%
- Electricity: rural 2.5%: urban: 44%





Gap Among Rural Men & Women

- Rural women, economic activity net rate: 25%. The economically active population (EAP) is primarily male.
- Economic Activities.- Men: agriculture; Women: community, social and personal services; commercial activities, hotels & restaurant employees. 30% more than men.
- Access to resources: almost 9 of 10 farms belong to men.
- Legal properties: men five times more than women
- Size property: Men: bigger; Women: smaller
- Credit: Men: 70,3%; Women: 29,7%
- Credit Average Amount: Men: three times more than women
- Technology: Men: 2,2% of their farms with irrigation system; Women: only 0,5% of their farms
- Technical Assistance: Men: two and a half times more than women
- Agricultural education/training: Men: 22,3%; Women: 7,5%



The Dianova Nicaragua Intervention

Key factor for development: Education

5 Programs:

- Formal Education
- Boarding School
- NEOVIDA Prevention Program
- Environmental Protection
- Sports Club





United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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UNESCO
Associated
Schools



*DIANOVA Integral Education Center Esther del Río, part of
the UNESCO Associated Schools Network Project*



Education Program



Objective: Access to formal education

- Full scholarships
- Elementary (sixth grade) and secondary school (eleventh grade)
- Authorized by the Ministry of Education (MINED)
- Curricula approved by MINED





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Neovida Program



Objective: Work primary prevention

- School: ideal space
- Content: general topics about health care and development of personal skills, knowledge and attitudes.
- Modality: classrooms (cross-cutting themes) and workshops where parents take part.





NEOVIDA program : parents attending awareness & prevention workshop,





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High school graduation at Esther del Río education facility



Boarding Program

Objective:
Provide the poorest children with integral assistance

- Complete package: scholarship, school materials, accommodation, food, educational reinforcement, counseling and basic health care.





*Esther del Rio Center's 10 th
anniversary celebration*





Environmental Program

- CEID Esther del Rio: farm of 38,5 hectares.
- Objective: Care and environmental protection
- Participants: students, parents and community nearby.





Preparation of nurseries for reforestation







Global Sport Youth Program

Part of the "Fair Play" developed by the Global Youth Office on Drugs and Crime of the UN

Objectives:

- Improve the community relationships among young people
- Reduce rates of youth and domestic violence
- Promote sport as a prevention tool in drug use.

Two stages:

- Training to teachers and students
- Community activities applying the "Fair Play" approach





Las Marias School's young athletes during local sports event







Main Outcomes

- 293 graduates from secondary school, 143 women, 150 men; 75% of them continued university studies.
- 975 girls and boys in risk situation served by the internship program
- 13,200 parents trained by the NEOVIDA Program
- Conservation and rational use of flora and eliminating the use of agrochemicals
- Training to 40 coaches and 80 athletes under the Fair Play approach.
- 7 tournaments carried out; 1.371 participants, 50% female, among children, teens, parents and students from other schools





Impact

Defense of their social, economic and political rights

- Education
- Respect, not allow violence against women
- Better employment opportunities
- Civic engagement

Improved self-esteem

- Identity
- Self-knowledge
- Changes in physical appearance and grooming

Motivation to achieve goals, vision

Improvement in social skills, teamwork

Improvement in family relationships



*An NGO with Special Consultative Status to the Economic &
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Thank you