

Consejo de Iglesias Evangélicas Pro Alianza Denominacional CEPAD

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CEPAD's Core Programs

CEPAD's core programs seek to empower rural Nicaraguan villages to identify their most pressing problems and then give them the knowledge and training to solve those problems themselves. CEPAD wholeheartedly embraces the concept of “teaching a person to fish” as this ensures they can feed themselves for a lifetime.

Leadership Development:

- **Community Leaders:** Leaders in the community receive training from CEPAD in leadership and community organization so they can develop new resources and work with the local government to achieve their goals. Leaders create a formal committee to identify needs and create strategies to meet them. In each five-year period, we train more than 250 leaders who advocate for infrastructure projects, such as road repair, electricity, and communal wells, among other projects. These committee members also serve as main points of contact for CEPAD.
- **Youth Leadership:** Youth who participate in CEPAD's programs learn skills such as public speaking, leadership, and care for the environment. They play sports, create art, and develop self-esteem. They receive training to identify children at risk for violence in the home, drug and alcohol use, and low school achievements so that they receive special attention.
- **Domestic Violence Protection:** Violence against women is the number one crime in rural Nicaragua. CEPAD teaches women in our partner communities about their rights and gives them tools to escape violent homes and help their friends and family members to do the same.

Women's Entrepreneurship Program:

CEPAD trains women on how to analyze business opportunities, healthy investing, and keeping an accounting records. These women then receive a seed fund to start their own business and pay back their loan to a community bank so they can have a revolving fund to involve more women in the future. Some of the businesses they open include: bakeries, corner stores, tailors, and more!

Food Security and Care for the Environment (Organic Farming):

CEPAD works with small farmers to increase food production, improve economies, and protect natural resources. We promote organic techniques and train farmers with less than five acres to make their own fertilizer, diversify crops, avoid chemical pesticides, and use water efficiently. Each farmer then teaches five other community members as disciples so that knowledge is shared. In three years, farmers transition from growing only stable crops like beans and corn to producing up to 25 varieties of fruits, vegetables, and wood trees.

Pastoral Training:

Pastors often serve as community leaders in areas without formal government structures. CEPAD provides practical workshops and self-study programs in theology to pastors and their congregations. They can select topics such as stewardship of creation, domestic violence, self-esteem, and working with youth. CEPAD does not plant churches but chooses to work with already established congregations regardless of denomination or affiliation.

Primary and Secondary Education:

CEPAD runs a primary and secondary school in Leon, Nicaragua, the Centro Educativo Marcos Antonio Mendieta Roja (CEMAM). This school provides both regular and weekend classes for students to help them excel and graduate in a country where only a very small percentage of students ever reach the sixth grade. The school has about 150 graduates per year.

RadioCEPAD:

RadioCEPAD offers a daily broadcast of news, sports, interviews, biblical study, and reflection that reaches almost the entire Pacific region of Nicaragua. Its programming speaks in favor of the poorest and most vulnerable members of the population and emphasizes gender equality, care for the environment, human rights and community action. The station broadcasts on an AM dial from 5am to 6pm and online at www.radiocepad.org.

Refugee Support:

CEPAD partners with the United Nations High Commission on Refugees to provide legal assistance and material support to vulnerable individuals and families in the process of integration. Most refugees come to Nicaragua from our neighbors: Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador to escape drug and gang violence. The number of refugees to Nicaragua continues to rise, and CEPAD is proud to support the U.N.'s efforts to provide families with new beginnings.

Department of International Relations and Communications (DRIC):

CEPAD hosts groups to create a transformative experience here in Nicaragua and to facilitate relationships. After groups get oriented to Nicaragua's history and challenges at our Central Office in Managua, we typically take to one of our rural partnership communities where they get firsthand understanding of rural life. We can tailor a trip to any age and service inclination, and we host Christian groups as well as secular groups like universities.

CEPAD also has a Volunteer and Internship Program for those who may feel called to spend more than one week in Nicaragua. This can even be done for college credit. Please reach out to voluntarios.cepad@gmail.com for any questions or more information.