



**HORIZONS**  
of friendship • d'amitié • de amistad



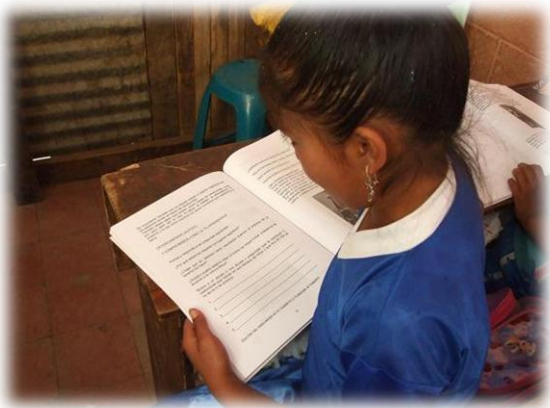
# Nicaragua 2013 Orientation Meeting

*January 18, 2013*



# HORIZONS OF FRIENDSHIP Horizons

Building Partnerships to End Poverty in Central America and Mexico



40 Years Building Partnerships to  
End Poverty in Central America and  
Mexico

# HORIZONS OF FRIENDSHIP Horizons



Horizons of Friendship is a Canadian non-profit, international development agency committed to addressing the root causes of poverty and injustice through the cooperation of people from the South and the North.

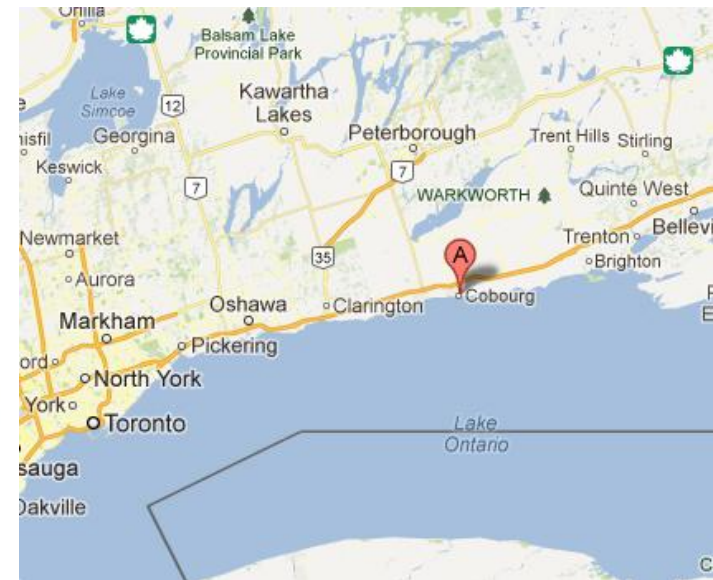
Horizons of Friendship supports Central American and Mexican partner organizations that undertake local initiatives which further this goal.

In Canada, we raise awareness on global issues and work with Canadian organizations at the local and national levels to bring about positive and lasting change.



### In 2011/2012

Horizons of Friendship supported the work of 23 partners in Central America and Mexico and coordinated seven regional thematic programs including gender equity and violence against women, food security, intercultural bilingual education, ancestral medicine and community health, migration, and HIV/AIDS. Projects are community-based and address socio-economic rights via initiatives to improve livelihoods, health, education, food security, environmental protection and cultural promotion in Mesoamerica.



# KEY FACTS ABOUT HORIZONS



- Founded in 1973
- Based in rural Ontario
- The only Canadian organization focusing exclusively on Mesoamerica
- Has supported more than 130 organizations that have implemented over 1,130 projects



# THE EVOLUTION OF HORIZONS

1973 to 1979: Humanitarian Assistance

1979 to 1989: Transition towards Community Development

1990 to 1999: Strengthening North-South Relations

2000 to Present: Construction of a Learning Network for Social Change



# Horizons of Friendship: 40 Years of Social Progress

This timeline outlines the evolution of Horizons of Friendship, from community volunteers in rural Ontario, to a progressive, respected organization that is stronger today than ever.



1973: Horizons becomes a registered NGO (Help Honduras Foundation); focus on **child sponsorship**.

1970



Early 80s: Bearing witness to war and poverty, Horizons shifts focus to **community development**.

By 1980: **62 projects completed.**

1980



1996: The communities welcome Horizons of Friendship': Canadians go on **awareness tours** to the South.

By 1990: **367 projects completed.**

1990



2004: Horizons launches **regional learning network** in Guatemala to address regional issues.

By 2000: **488 projects completed.**

2000



2012: Comprehensive **Law Against Violence Against Women** passed in Nicaragua.

By 2010: **1330 projects completed!**

2010



1974: Hurricane Fifi hits Honduras; Horizons funds **community reconstruction**.



End of the 80s: **First regional consultations** with southern partners; programs to help Guatemalan refugees return to their homeland.



1990s: Emphasis on **partner development, capacity building, sharing knowledge**.



2008: Regional projects on **HIV/AIDS and violence against women** launched.

2010-**Strengthening Civil Society in Mesoamerica** through learning and action



2011: 'March for My Rights' **youth citizenship** in Nicaragua.



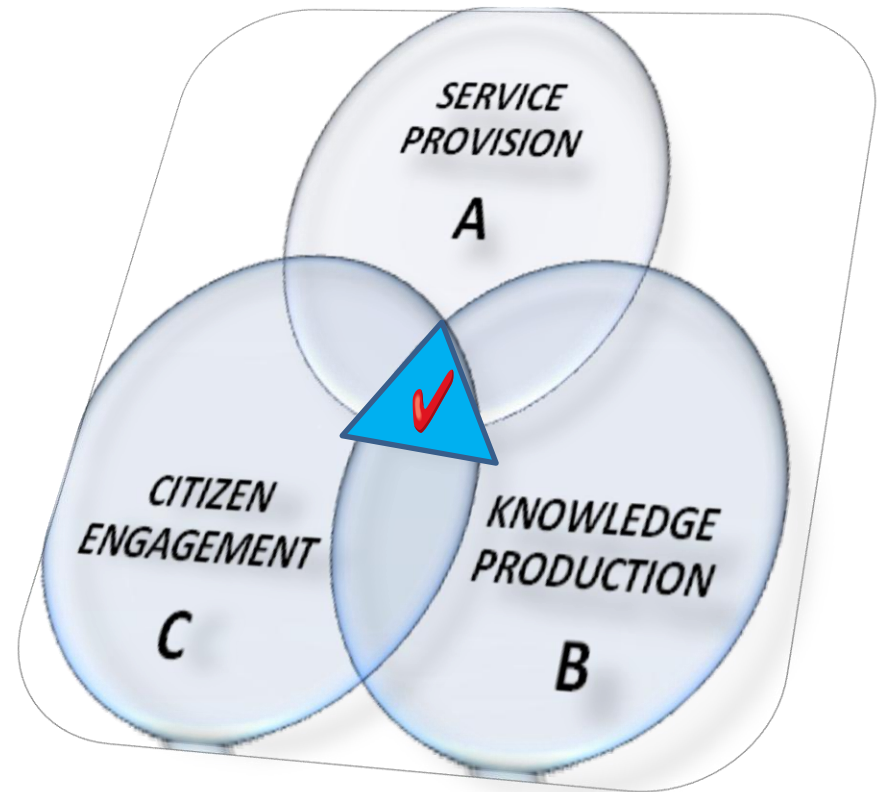
1992: Horizons office at 50 Covert St. in Cobourg, Ontario built by **community volunteers**.



2010: Projects on **Intercultural Bilingual Education** to promote indigenous people's rights/2011: Regional projects on **Food Security and Ancestral Medicine**.

# HORIZONS APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIP

- Strengthen the capacity of marginalized peoples -- in particular women -- so that they can more effectively press their governments to respect their international human rights obligations.
- Build medium to long-term partnerships with grassroots organizations to be agents of change (short-term and long-term)



# Current Partners



## Mexico

- Economic and Social Development of Indigenous Mexicans (DESMI).



## Guatemala

- Association for Health Promotion, Research and Education (PIES)
- Guatemalan Intercultural Highlands Association (AMIGAS)
- Santa Maria Linguistic Project (PLSM)
- Central American Institute for Social Studies and Development (INCEDES)



Las Meliú

## El Salvador

- Melida Ayana Montes Women's Movement (Las Melidas)
- Intercommunity Association of Communities Working Together for the Economic and Social Development of Lower Lempa (ACUDESBAL)
- Federation of Independent Association of Unions of El Salvador (FEASIES)
- The Organization of Salvadoran Women for Peace (ORMUSA)



## Honduras

- Garifuna Emergency Committee of Honduras (CEGAH)
- Siimiente Foundation for Human and Community Development (SIIMIENTE)
- The National Lenca Indigenous Organization of Honduras (ONILH)



## Nicaragua

- Association of Indigenous Women of the Atlantic (AMICA)
- "Maria Elena Cuada" Working and Unemployed Women's Movement (MEC)
- Oscar Arnulfo Romero Community Centre (CCOAR)



## Costa Rica

- Humanitas



## Panama

- Interamerican Cooperative Institute (ICI)
- Ngobe Cultural Action (ACUN)



# “STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY IN MESOAMERICA THROUGH LEARNING AND ACTION”

- This is a five year CIDA co-funded program.
- This is the sixth program Horizons has successfully negotiated with CIDA since the early 1990s.
- Horizons must raise 54% of the funds needed for its implementation.



Canadian International  
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de  
développement international



# “STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY IN MESOAMERICA THROUGH LEARNING AND ACTION”



## A. Direct Support to Partners



## B. Regional Coalition Building



## C. Community Outreach



Canadian International  
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de  
développement international



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## Country Overview Nicaragua

### Key Indicators

Population (2009)	5,743,000
Urban population (%)	57.3
GDP (per capita)	\$3,205
Trading Partners	United States (32.8), El Salvador (14.3), Venezuela (8.6)
Infant Mortality (per 1000)	18.1
HDI	0.565 (medium) rank:115
GINI	40.1 (medium)



## Economic Context

- Nicaragua is considered the 2nd poorest country in the hemisphere (based on nominal GDP) and the least developed country in Central America.
- About 20% of the population lives in extreme poverty, most of whom live in rural areas.
- The economy declined significantly in the 1980s due largely to the conflict and trade embargo.
- High food and energy prices remain barriers to higher standards of living.
- Agriculture is the primary sector and textiles are the primary industrial export (60% of exports).



## On the Ground Context

- Venezuelan cooperation amounts to 45 percent of the Nicaragua's national budget.
- In the upcoming Municipal elections, November 2012, candidates are being imposed by the FSLN Party. There were many comments made by partners and others we spoke to that the Sandinistas have clearly lost their roots.
- It is estimated that due to the international economic crisis Nicaragua has lost 30,000 jobs in the maquila industry.
- Basic Food Basket – for a family of 6 people is about \$ 400 USD per month whereas teachers make about \$150 USD per month.



## ...Context *continued*

- In the Northern and Southern Atlantic Autonomous Regions (RAAN and RAAS) unemployment levels are at 85 %. Indigenous peoples make up 8.2 percent of the population in Nicaragua
- A pension in Nicaragua is on average about 1.500 córdobas (US\$ 50) / month. Nicaragua is also in the process of increasing the eligible retirement age: women from 55 to 65, and for men from 60 to 70.
- They are currently discussing a proposal to build an “Inter-oceanic Canal” in Nicaragua. There are concerns about the proposal including ownership over the canal and the implications of this for Nicaragua, and the fact that the canal could damage up to 8,000 km<sup>2</sup> of freshwater.
- There is little focused on mental health in Nicaragua. Some say that Nicaragua is a country of unhealed wounds; since the war many people have not received any type of support.



## Horizons 2010-2015 Program: Nicaragua

### Who's Involved?

- Women maquila workers and unemployed young women
- Impoverished rural youth and women
- Agricultural producers and members of agricultural co-operatives
- Indigenous Miskitu women and families
- Single mothers
- Youth

**Direct Beneficiaries 21,000+**

### Issues

- Food security and food sovereignty
- Promotion of agricultural cooperatives
- Environmental protection
- Disaster prevention, mitigation and management
- Micro-credits and agricultural productive projects
- Gender equity
- Basic education
- Health care
- Indigenous peoples' rights

**Indirect Beneficiaries 645,000+**

## Partners in Nicaragua:

- Association of Indigenous Women of the Atlantic Coast (AMICA)

- "Maria Elena Cuadra" Working and Unemployed Women's Movement (MEC)

- Oscar Arnulfo Romero Community Centre (CCOAR)





# Oscar Arnulfo Romero Community Centre (CCOAR)



- Founded in 1989
- Partners since 2003
- Promote the skill development, education, and rights of children and youth in Nandaime
- 2,000 direct beneficiaries and 100,000 indirect beneficiaries





**“Children and youth: Towards the construction of citizenship in the Nandaime.”**



# Association of Indigenous Women of the Atlantic Coast

- Is an Indigenous, Miskitu, women's organization that emerged in the late 1980's
- Partner since 2008
- Focuses on supporting Indigenous women through education on health, violence, gender, as well as productive agricultural projects
- 2,500 direct beneficiaries and 50,000 indirect beneficiaries





**Promotion of Indigenous women's rights  
to prevent and address violence against  
women in Miskitu Indigenous  
communities**



Movimiento de Mujeres  
Trabajadoras y Desempleadas

"Maria Elena Cuadra"

# Maria Elena Cuadra Working and Unemployed Women's Movement



- Founded in 1994 in response to increase maquila industry and internal struggles of labour movement
- Partners since 1997
- Focuses on training unemployed women, legal support to women workers, and addressing all forms of violence against women
- Directly benefits 14,000 women in 6 departments and indirectly 539,000 people



**Strengthening the autonomy of women by supporting processes that increase the defense and enforcement of their human rights**



**Building collective women-focused strategies and actions to combat gender-related violence and femicide.**

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## El Salvador

February 10-19, 2014



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