

## Education

### Civic participation to educational administration and local development in Nicaragua

PROGEDES: Joining efforts to improve education

*"PROGEDES has been as a mom that shakes hand to her son to help him to walk".*

Harriet Jacoba Blandón, Teacher at Tepeyac School, Matagalpa



#### EC Partners

CARE International,  
coordinating institution

Instituto de Promoción  
Humana de Estelí,  
local partner

LA CUCULMECA,  
Jinotega, local partner

#### Facts and Figures

- Budget: 1 000 000 €  
(EC contribution:  
75%)
- Start date:  
30/11/2005
- End date: 29/11/2009
- Beneficiaries: 29 954  
people in 59 poor  
communities and six  
municipalities: La  
Trinidad, Sebaco,  
San Isidro,  
Matagalpa, Estelí  
and Jinotega.



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

#### Context

Almost 20% of the primary-school-aged population does not attend school in Nicaragua, one of the poorest countries in Latin America. This is mainly due to the fact that many children in rural areas abandon school to contribute to the family income. PROGEDES joins efforts to increase the quality of education in 59 poor communities and six municipalities of the country.

**Objective** To improve school attendance and educational quality through community-based management in 59 poor communities in six municipalities of Nicaragua.

- Reducing poverty through greater access to quality education in poor communities.
- Raising awareness among parents on the importance of education and encouraging their active participation in school activities.

#### Impact

- Access to a quality education for 10.728 students in 59 schools. Participation of 1.088 children in new preschool programmes led by trained teachers.
- Training of 800 parents and 626 municipal education officers to encourage the project's replication in other poor communities.
- Increasing school retention rates in the areas where PROGEDES is working.

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### Learning Leads to Changes

Anna Raquel Cruz Martinez, at the tender age of 7, is already well on her way to being a leader. Dressed in her white and blue school uniform, she is at once endearingly sweet and unabashedly confident. While other students stare out the window or talk amongst each other in class, Anna Raquel watches her teacher with steadfast concentration.

Anna Raquel attends primary school in the rural community of Apante Grande in north-central Nicaragua. It is an area rife with poverty; small homes constructed of mud and tin-siding line the dirt lanes, whose residents are largely subsistence farmers. For the past four years, PROGEDES project has been working in the Apante Grande School, Matagalpa-Nicaragua to provide students with a high quality education.

“Now teachers get together each month to create lesson plans. We do it collaboratively to get advice from one another,” explains Sonia Matus Mairena, a schoolteacher for the past 18 years who last year became the director of the Apante Grande School.

Because parents heavily influence their children’s success in school, PROGEDES also raises awareness among parents about the importance of education and encourages their active participation in school activities.

“There are many parents in this community who can’t read and write – maybe a third of the parents altogether. But, most of them want their children to succeed in their education,” Sonia says. “When children drop out of school, it’s almost always for economic reasons, because their parents need them to work.”

“For me, PROGEDES’ biggest contributions have been increasing retention rates and motivating students to be leaders at school and within the community,” Sonia remarks. “Last year we had a 100 percent retention rate.”



Anna Raquel says, "I am never going to abandon school"