



**Change for
Children**

**Projects Report to the Board
October 30, 2024**

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	Country & Community	Project	Partners	Participants	Timeline	Funding (CAD)	\$ Source	Status
	Guatemala							
1	Comitancillo	Rainwater Collection Tanks	AMMID	37 families (about 500 people)	Jan-Dec, 2024	\$15,000	Bishop	Completed
2	Comitancillo	School WASH Projects	AMMID	7 Schools	Nov 2024 – May, 2025	\$25,000 from 2025 funds; \$10,000 Transferred from BOSAWAS	Bishop	To begin in January, 2025
3	Chicaman	Tech Classrooms	Mundo Posible	6 schools	Jan-Dec 2024	\$20,000 & \$27,143	Bishop and CFC Donors	Completed
4	Chicaman	School Hand-washing and Latrines	Mundo Posible	2 schools	Jan-Dec 2024	\$20,000 Bishop;	Bishop and CFC donors	In progress – started Sept, 2024
	Nicaragua							
5	BOSAWAS	Community Water Systems	GTI, CFC	Shiminka, Tuburús and Aniwas	Jan-Dec 2024	\$68,000 \$3,500 CFC	Bishop	Completed – some funds diverted to School WASH in Guatemala
6	NW Nicaragua	Community Water Systems	EOS, El Porvenir	In Chinandega & Leon	Jan-Dec 2024	\$26,000	Bishop	
7	BOSAWAS	Rice Threshing Machines	GTI	4 more communities equipped	Jan-Dec 2024	\$6,000	Bishop & CFC donors	Purchased – currently being installed
8	BOSAWAS	Mother-Tongue Language	GTI	Create and test curriculum for ‘Mother Tongue	July-Dec, 2024	\$65,000	ARRAMAT, U of A	In progress – data collection phase

		Curriculum Development		Language for Mother Earth Conservation'				
9	Nicaragua	Alberta Teachers Exchange to Nicaragua 2024;	GTI	6 Alberta teachers to Nicaragua	July 20-Aug 4, 2024	\$36,000	ATA – Alberta Teachers	Completed
10	BOSAWAS	Field House Renovation	GTI	Renovations to the field house	April 2024 – March 2025	\$20,000	CFC	Postponed/Cancelled
	Regional							
11	Guate & Nica	MOOC for Climate Change	Mundo Posible (MP)	Creation of a MOOC for Indigenous teachers re climate change	Jan-Dec 2024	\$30,000 (60MG) \$5,000 (CFC)	60MG	In progress
	HONDURAS							
12	BOSAWAS moved to Honduras	Professional development remote and rural teachers	Fe & Alegria, UNAH	Professionalization of 400 teachers	4 years; approved July 2023; start date unknown	\$2.2 million	GAC; with part of CFC contribution from Bishop - \$50,000	MOVED to Honduras; in process of planning
	Proposals Submitted							
13	Guatemala, Honduras & Nicaragua	Water, Education, and Food Security Projects	Various – AMMID, MP, EOS, GTI, etc.	Marginal communities		\$92,500	FIT	

1. Water Project in Comitancillo, Guatemala

The Bishop Croteau Foundation funding for 2024 included an extension of project to install rainwater storage tanks in high-altitude communities in Comitancillo, Guatemala so that households have improved water security and household production of food. Last year, the project installed over 100 tanks, and this year, we provided another 20 families with tanks. We have asked AMMID to do a brief survey of the households who installed tanks last year to see how they are functioning, how much water they have, and what they are using it for. Results of the survey were very positive, and demonstrated the on-going usage, and careful maintenance of the equipment of the families. AMMID is proposing a further extension of this project to another 68 households for 2025.

2. School WASH in Comitancillo, Guatemala

The school WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) projects for 2024 included rehabilitation and construction of water access, latrines, and handwashing stations in seven primary schools. Unfortunately, initiation has been postponed to January, 2025, due to administrative delays and weather conditions. In addition, AMMID has proposed similar WASH improvements for six more schools in the 2025 proposal to the Bishop Croteau Foundation.



3. School Technology in Chicaman, Guatemala

In 2023, technology for education (RACHELs and classroom sets of tablets) were installed in four schools in Chicaman, Guatemala, serving 1360 students. With funding from the Bishop’s Foundation and from a generous CFC donor, Mundo Posible will install RACHEL technology classrooms in six schools this year, serving 1600 students and 74 teachers. Mundo Posible is also providing teacher training and technology support for the schools as they learn to maintain and maximize the resources. Mundo Posible

4. School WASH Projects, Chicaman, Guatemala

Construction on the new school hand-washing stations and latrines in two of the schools in Chicaman is starting this month. This project is being managed by Mundo Posible, with construction done by Buena Semilla, the local community cooperative. These schools had no sanitation facilities previously and conditions were extremely unhealthy. The projects include new rainwater collection, new handwashing stations, and some cement paths and patios to improve cleanliness and access between the classrooms and the WASH facilities.

4. Community Water Projects in BOSAWAS

In the BOSAWAS, a tropical rainforest reserve in north-central Nicaragua, the indigenous communities struggle to access safe water in their homes. During 2023-24, community water systems in two of the seven largest communities (San Andres and Pamkawas) have been renovated and are operating well. In Walakitang, Phase 1 of the community water project was completed. This phase included restoration of the water collection tank at the source, and connections from the source to transport water to the community. This system serves 4300+ people in 451 houses, one school, two churches, and a health centre. Phase 2 will be implemented in 2025 and includes individual household water connections for 215 households.

During 2024, a feasibility assessment was undertaken in Tuburús to determine the best plan for a community water system. The assessment revealed the need for a new connection to a water source several kilometres away, with links to another community. The cost of the project is quite elevated and the local authorities and CFC are currently exploring options for financing. In the meantime, in August, 2024, CFC with funds from the BDCDF provided water filters to over 200 households in the community as a temporary measure to improve the quality of the drinking water.

5. Water Projects in NW Nicaragua

Earlier this year, two community water systems were completed in Santa Teresa, Somotillo, and in San Jose-San Ramon in El Sauce. Currently, CFC is working with El Porvenir, one of our last standing implementing partners in Nicaragua on water systems in the communities of Reyes Centro, Las Pilas and Armenia. The first two communities require retrofitting and upgrading existing systems, andf Armenia requires a well to be drilled. Perforation / water well drilling carries a cost of about US \$10,000 beyond our budget of \$25,000, so Lorraine visited the city hall there in early March and successfully negotiated cost reductions and a cost-share with the local municipality. This is an excellent way to ensure the sustainability of the project as well, because Municipalities – by law - must invest 7% of their municipal budget in water provision for their citizens. The remainder of the funding will come from the BDCDF.



7. Rice-Threshing Machines

Based on these positive results of the rice threshing machine in San Andres installed during the FIT project last year, four other communities within the Indigenous Territory have requested mechanical threshing machines. In 2024, these threshers were purchased and transported to the territory. They are currently being installed in the communities of: Pamkawas, Tuburús, Shiminka, and Walakitang. In the 2025 proposal, additional machines will be ordered for the remaining communities. These machines reduce the workloads of women and girls by several hours per day, as it is the daily chore of women and girls to prepare the rice for the family meals.

8. ARRAMAT Project - Mother Tongue Language

The research project with The ARRAMAT Project, based at the University of Alberta, is progressing well. In August, a workshop was held with the 10 people from the communities selected to do the data collection on mother-tongue language use and to develop of culturally-based curriculum materials. Lorraine was in San Andres during the workshop which was facilitated by Tony Llorente and Edda Muller of our CFC team in Nicaragua, and by our technical advisor on this project, Dr. Edgar Salazar, from the Ministry of Education section for Indigenous education.

The research project, *'Mother Tongue Language for Mother Earth Conservation'* aims to generate evidence about the importance and impact of education conducted in the mother-tongue language and based on Indigenous cosmovision and traditional knowledge. In a participatory action research process, Miskito and Mayagna communities in the BOSAWAS remote tropical rainforest reserve in northern Nicaragua are developing their own mother-tongue educational materials that will enable students to learn to read and write their Indigenous language, and to understand how the Indigenous knowledge of their communities can mitigate the impacts of climate change and foster sustainable local development.

9. ATA Teachers' Brigades Summer 2024 to Nicaragua; Summer 2025 to Guatemala

From July 20 to August 4, 2024 six ATA member teachers and a CFC staff (Adrienne) worked closely with 14 teachers and students in seven schools in the Indigenous territory of the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve in north-eastern Nicaragua. In addition, the ATA teachers facilitated a workshop with 40 teachers as part of their professional development days authorized by the Nicaraguan Department of Education. The teachers also fund-raised to bring educational resources and supplies worth several thousand dollars to distribute to the seven schools as well as three others that could not be visited.

Feedback from the ATA participants was very positive; all commented on the how broadening the experience was and how much they learned. The exchange worked well because the participants were adaptable, enthusiastic, and good-natured. Lack of an ability in Spanish was seen as a limitation, and they would have liked more time in the schools. All of the



participants noted that the experience was valuable for them as individuals and in terms of their professional development as teachers. All of the participants would highly recommend this exchange to their colleagues in the ATA.

For the summer of 2025, CFC has been approved for an exchange with six ATA teachers to Guatemala for two weeks in July. Applications for this are currently open through the ATA. The selection of participants will occur in January, 2025.

10. Renovation of the CFC Fieldhouse in San Andres, BOSAWAS

When the GAC project was going to be implemented in Nicaragua, CFC planned to do some renovations and improvements to the CFC Fieldhouse in San Andres, commonly known as Casa Verde (Green House) as part of the administrative funds due to the Indigenous Territorial Government. The fieldhouse would be intensively used during the implementation of the 3.5-year GAC project and so these renovations were needed to accommodate activities and personnel for the project. Unfortunately, with the transfer of the project of Honduras, there are now no funds to do these renovations, so they will be postponed.

11. Teacher Training Module on Climate Change

Development of the training module for teaching climate change from an Indigenous perspective is progressing well. The Nicaragua team, Tony and Edda, is collaborating with the Mundo Posible specialists, Israel and Tony, to create the content and the videos to offer this training on the RACHELS in schools throughout Guatemala and Nicaragua (and potentially Honduras, as the CFC project starts there). Funded by 60 Million Girls, the teacher training module will focus on strategies and resources for teaching about climate change integrating local indigenous knowledge. Some of the strategies included are: story-telling, land-based learning, tree of problems and solutions, and Flipped classrooms. There are videos, readings, and exercises that accompany each section. The videos are currently in development, with an effort on incorporating visuals that are culturally recognizable.

In September, Tony and Juan had the opportunity to present their results and learnings to date from this project to the 60 Million Girls team in Montreal and to the [mEducation Alliance](#) annual symposium in Washington, DC.



12. GAC Project – Intercultural Bilingual Education in Honduras

As noted above, CFC received approval from GAC on October 17 to move the **Intercultural Bilingual Education Project** from Nicaragua to Honduras. This is a \$2 million CAD, 3.5-year project which aims to reach 400 teachers and 8,000 students in Garifuna and Indigenous communities in northern Honduras. The three primary components are: 1) improved access to educational resources through technology; 2) creation of culturally-based mother-tongue language resources; and 3) teacher training in intercultural, bilingual education.

CFC's implementation partner is [Fe y Alegria](#), (F&A) Honduras. This organization was founded 65 years ago in Venezuela by members of the Catholic order, Company of Jesus (Jesuits). It is now a global organization working in 22 countries in Latin America, Europe, and Africa with a focus on transformative education in the most marginalized communities. F&A has operated in Honduras for more than 20 years, and currently works with more than 35 educational centres and 10,000 students. In addition, CFC is partnering with the Secretary of Education, Department for Afro-Honduran and Indigenous Education, and two universities: The Pedagogy University and the Autonomous University of Honduras to offer the distance teacher training program.

As we just received permission to proceed with the project two weeks ago, we have been moving quickly to finalize plans with our new implementing partners. We are planning to travel to Honduras later in November in order to work with all the partner organizations to develop the Project Implementation Plan (PIP) and the baseline data collection process, as well as determine the communities in which the project will be implemented.

13. Bishop Denis Croteau Development Fund Proposal

On October 26, 2024, we submitted a proposal for projects for 2025 which includes projects in water, education, and food security in Indigenous and marginalized communities in three countries: Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua for a total of \$300,000 CAD.

