



Nicaragua is the poorest country in Latin America and the second poorest in the Western Hemisphere. In the 1980s, the Nicaraguan government privatized its previously public services in an attempt to combat poverty. Unfortunately, this move had little effect on the extremely high rates of inflation and unemployment. Historically, even those with jobs in Nicaragua receive dismal pay so that today, over fifty percent of the 5.5 million residents are living below the poverty line. As a whole, Nicaraguans lack access to the work and borrowing ability that is needed to build a strong economy.

In Nicaragua, many nongovernmental organizations have begun to utilize microfinance as a way to address Nicaragua's poverty. Currently, nearly twenty percent of the country's population is either a direct or indirect user of microfinance services. Work produced by FSD partner organizations is rooted in client empowerment, allowing impoverished citizens to create and run their own businesses. Interns have the opportunity to be engaged in a variety of activities at the forefront of the struggle. Whether you are teaching workshops in strategic management to local artisans, facilitating youth entrepreneurship programs, or negotiating loans for women's micro-enterprises, the work will immerse you into local culture and expose you to the challenges and current solutions Nicaragua faces in micro-economic development.

Internship/Volunteer opportunities in micro-enterprise in Nicaragua include:

- Offer strategic coaching and other consulting services geared toward the successful management of micro-enterprises run by women. Holistically address accompanying personal and health issues that affect these women and their families.
- Assist in the assembly of borrowing groups that support each other's micro-enterprises and take financial responsibility for each other's loans.
- Provide business training programs and workshops geared toward the needs of poor, under-educated women who either need vocational skills, operate a small business, or would like to open a new micro-enterprise.
- Provide logistical support to micro-credit borrowers so that they understand the arrangement and terms of their loans, are able to maximize the use of these funds, and utilize various savings strategies.
- Conduct research that analyzes the successes and failures of a micro-lending program, a business development center for vocational training, and other topics related to micro-enterprise development.
- Support the distribution of international grants toward effective projects and trainings for the cultivation of micro-enterprises and micro-credit programs for marginalized communities.

For more opportunities in micro-enterprise in Nicaragua, visit our website or contact us directly.