

Fostering New Skills and Having Voices Heard in Cuscatlán/Cabañas Joint Project between SalvAide, CIDA, CRIPDES, and CORDES

SalvAide is delighted to announce that it will be collaborating with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), CRIPDES, and CORDES on a new and very innovative capacity building and governance project. This project began in February 2009 and will be continuing for the next three years.

Project Summary

This project seeks to strengthen social organizations and to encourage their participation in democratic processes in the provinces of Cabañas and Cuscatlán. The project will be focussing specifically on strengthening the role of **Youth, Women and Community Councils** in their own communities by giving the individuals the skills they need to get involved in their municipalities and creating spaces for democratic participation at the municipal and micro-regional levels.



Phase I

The first phase of the project will focus on developing new skills and capacities such as developing:

- **Awareness** towards key social challenges affecting their own communities such as: *HIV-AIDS, domestic violence, women's rights, environmental degradation, access to water, etc.*
- **Technical computer skills** such as learning how to produce useful documents and how to conduct research
- **Internal governance structures** which will allow each group to create strategic community plans that include the greatest community needs

Phase II

The next phase of this project in 2010 will incorporate the municipal governments of Tejutepeque, Tenancingo, Jutiapa, and Cinquera. During this time, the community at large led by the **Youth, Women, and Community Councils** will engage in the creation of a participatory integrated community plan and participatory budgeting for this plan.

This will be one of the first times that these community members will have the opportunity to have their voices heard in this type of participatory setting, have their needs directly integrated into community plans, and play a part in the process of allocating community funds towards these needs!

Intended Direct Beneficiaries

- 40 members (women and men) from the ADESCOS
- 40 members (women) of the women's groups and associations
- 40 members (women and men) of youth groups and associations
- 60 members of the ADESCOS, women and youth organization participate in computer training workshops
- 683 youth and citizens take advantage of the access to the computer centres (based on the assumption that 5% of the population will take advantage at least once in the life of the project of the access provided)
- 500 youth that participate in workshops that address the issue of HIV/AIDS
- 120 members of the municipal government and members of the community that participate in workshops on municipal spaces for citizen participation
- 500 members of the community and municipal government officials who collaborate on needs assessments, community development plans, and participatory budgeting

How Can You Help?

SalvAide is currently in the midst of support-raising for this incredibly important program. While Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has agreed to provide 75% of the funds over the next three years, SalvAide is still responsible for approximately 25% of funds. **You can support this project by donating to SalvAide towards one of the many trainings and workshops we will be providing.**