

Carruseles Educativos for Children on Coffee Farms

Child labor is a [persistent problem in Nicaragua](#). It is estimated that over 300,000 children between the ages of 5-14 are working, particularly in the agricultural sector. Our goal is to develop a strategy to alleviate child labor through improved educational opportunities for children on coffee farms. We have developed a multi-stakeholder, community-based program which includes anti-child labor awareness events for coffee farm owners and industry representatives, a teacher training program tailored to rural communities, and parent-teacher workshops on coffee farms.

CATEGORY

[Social Inclusion of Vulnerable Populations](#)

LOCATION

[Nicaragua](#)

WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE OR NEED YOUR PROJECT WILL ADDRESS AND WHAT INNOVATIVE METHODS WILL YOU EMPLOY?

Describe the specific need or challenge that your team will address with this project

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Briefly describe the specific solution or approach to address the need or challenge and explain why it is innovative

Our solution involves (1) hosting two anti-child labor awareness event for coffee farmers, (2) developing four training modules and workshops for teachers and child care workers at coffee farms, (3) hosting three parent workshops on three coffee farms to encourage parents to send their children to school, (4) leading two community events for the general public and community leaders, and (5) distributing anti-child labor posters to local businesses in regions that rely on coffee as a major source of income. Our approach creates dialogue and information-sharing among mutli-stakeholders.

How will the project impact your community? What changes (in people, institutions, attitudes, practices) do you think you will see?

Through our project, we hope to (1) secure buy-in from farm owners to promote educational opportunities and protect children on their farms; (2) encourage and inspire parents employed by coffee farms to send their children to school or child care; (3) create workforce development opportunities for teachers and child care workers; (4) reduce child labor and barriers to education for children on coffee farms; (5) improve the quality of education for children of farmworkers; (6) increase awareness of child labor in coffee production among coffee farmers, parents employed by farms, and the general public in Nicaragua and the United States; (7) generate intrinsic values in parents and their children regarding the importance of education; and (8) collaborate with human rights organizations and nonprofits in Nicaragua and the United States.

<https://www.facebook.com/CarruselesEducativos>

MEET THE TEAM

Project owner
[Mahana Lugo](#)
[Nicaragua](#)
[Fulbright Student Program](#)

Project members
[Manage members](#)
[Kristin Van Busum](#)
[United States](#)
[Fulbright Student Program](#)
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[Oscar Quintanilla](#)
[Nicaragua](#)
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[Samuel Kaviar](#)
[United States](#)
[Gilman, Benjamin A. International Scholarship Program](#)
[Fulbright Student Program](#)
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[Flor Fernandez ...](#)
[Nicaragua](#)
[Fulbright Student Program](#)
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[Braeden Mayer](#)
[Texas](#)
[Fulbright English Teaching Assistant](#)
[\[remove from project\]](#)

WHO WILL BE INVOLVED?

Beneficiaries: who are your target groups (or communities) and how many people will directly benefit from your project?

Direct beneficiaries of Carruseles Educativos include teachers who are currently working or will be employed on coffee farms (n=12); parents employed by coffee farms (n=180); and coffee farm owners (n=25). **Indirect beneficiaries are the children who will receive a safe place to explore, play, and learn with a professionally-trained educator directly on the coffee farm where their parent(s) work (n > 400).**

The collaborative arrangements of our project yield diverse benefits. For example, educators gain access to information and professional resources through the formation of a *Rural Educators Network*. Farm owners have the ability to become more involved in rural community development, and parents have direct conversations with educators to voice their opinions and concerns. Individuals that attend our awareness events and businesses that display posters will spread messages of child labor reduction at a community level.

Local partners

We will partner with three privately run coffee farms and a number of Nicaraguan-based nonprofit organizations to reach our program goals. We have established partnerships with the nonprofits we would like to collaborate with to achieve our program goals. Specifically, we have established the following commitments:

- **Ministerio de Education (MINED), Intervida, Project Alianza, Cuculmeca and Planting Hope** will help develop and provide training modules for teachers or child care workers on farms;
- **MINED** will work with our Fulbright team, nonprofit partners, and teachers to set well-defined standards for implementing educational programs on farms;
- **Project Alianza** will coordinate and provide materials for parent-teacher workshops and promote program activities through social media;
- **CARITAS** and will assist in coordinating and hosting community awareness event for coffee farmers.

Mahana Lugo has previously worked at MINED on promoting education in rural areas and Kristin Van Busum is the Founder and Director of Project Alianza. We have established relationships with employees at CARITAS, Cuculmeca, Intervida and Planting Hope who have expressed their commitment to working with us fulfill this project. One of the three coffee farms has been identified to participate in our program, and since the initial submission of this project, we have begun to develop a roster of potential coffee farm partners to implement Carruseles Educativos. We plan to identify two additional farm partners at our awareness events in August and September.

Alumni team

- **Mahana Lugo** will work collaboratively with our nonprofit partners to develop training modules and training programs for teachers.
- **Kristin Van Busum** will lead coordination of parent-teacher-child workshops, awareness events for farm owners, lead budget and sustainability planning.
- **Oscar Quintanilla** will lead preplanning discussions and design the monitoring and evaluation strategy, coordinate community awareness events and maintain the budget and project timeline.
- **Sam Kaviar** will assist with initial interviews, project evaluation, and design awareness posters.
- **Flor Fernandez** will lead efforts for dissemination strategies for broad public messaging in Nicaragua as well as assist with coordinating workshops and trainings.
- **Braeden Mayer** will develop a social media outreach and visual communications strategy for U.S. audiences, the Fulbright community and assist with program materials.

Proposed Project Dates: July 01, 2015 - June 30, 2016

HOW AND WHEN WILL YOU IMPLEMENT YOUR PROJECT?

Implementing Plan and Timeline

Phase I: Planning

July – August 2015: 1a. Hold roundtables and discussion with experienced nonprofit organizations on best practices to reduce child labor (Quintanilla, Kaviar, Mayer); **1b.** Delegate roles with nonprofit partners to coordinate program activities (Lugo).

Phase II: Implementation

2.1 Awareness Programs for Coffee Farmers and Industry

August - September 2015: 2.1a. Hold two awareness programs for coffee farmers and industry leaders. The purpose is to encourage dialogue among coffee farmers about child labor and education and select partner farms to become a 'farm that cultivates more than coffee' by implementing *Carruseles Educativos* (Quintanilla, Van Busum).

October 2015: 2.1b. Visit farms, finalize three partners and sign social contracts with farmers (Fernandez, Van Busum).

2.2 Training for Rural Educators

November – January 2015: 2.2a. Promote training programs for teachers and parents through introductory meetings on farm (Lugo); **2.2b.** Design training programs for educators to be held at nonprofits and farms. The methodology for the training will be in part community-based and will result in a *Rural Educators Network* (Lugo).

January 2015 – February 2016: 2.2c. Host educators training programs which will provide a manual of curriculums and educational resources that are pertinent to the population (Lugo, Mayer, Fernandez).

2.3 Parent-Teacher Workshops

January 2015 – February 2016: 2.3a. Design training programs for parents with nonprofit partners (Van Busum, Mayer).

January 2015 – April 2016: 2.3b. Host two workshops for parents and on three partner coffee farms. Workshops will be held on farms that have agreed to implement *Carruseles Educativos* (Van Busum, Fernandez, Lugo, Mayer).

Phase III: Evaluation and Dissemination

April – May 2016: 3a. Host two community events to acknowledge the educators and farmers in *Carruseles Educativos*. (Quintanilla as leader; All Fulbright Team); **3b.** Disseminate anti-child labor posters and contact media outlets (Mayer, Kaviar, Fernandez);

June 2016: 3c. Document survey findings, hold roundtables (Quintanilla).

Communication Plan

What we find exciting about this project is the ability to make an impact by communicating our awareness efforts to a diverse audience in Nicaragua and the United States. Our communication plan involves five primary outreach strategies: (1) Host three community awareness event in Jinotega and Matagalpa, the main cities in the coffee growing region. [In Jinotega, we will hold the event at CARITAS, and in Matagalpa at the Museo del Café.]. (2) Design anti-child labor posters, and handouts containing information about good practices in reducing child labor in coffee farms, and distribute to local businesses in Jinotega and Matagalpa. (3) Contact Radio Corporacion in Matagalpa and other local media outlets to raise awareness about the problem and the work being done by our partner organizations. (4) Utilize social media intensively to communicate our goals and progress on our project, specifically Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. (5) Create an email listserv to send personal updates to a select group of individuals and organizations concerned with human rights and anti-child labor regulation.

Evaluation

To evaluate the effects of the program we will attempt to compare school attendance rates the

year prior to the intervention with the attendance rates the year of the intervention, both for schools located in the communities we are working, and schools in communities with similar characteristics but that won't receive the direct intervention. The proposal also includes collecting data on attendance rates of our programs, e.g., the total number of parents that participate in workshops and the number of teachers who attend training sessions and gathering feedback from parents through surveys. We will also supplement these data with qualitative interviews with beneficiaries of the program to determine ways in which we can improve the content of the training programs and workshops for future years.

Sustainability

In order to sustain our project, we delegate responsibilities to our nonprofit partners, document lessons and disseminate our program materials, raise funds, and build a network to encourage ongoing knowledge share:

- The continuity of the project will be fulfilled by the social coordinator of Project Alianza, who will be responsible for maintaining outreach to teachers at farms, and hosting biannual meetings with farm owners, and coordinating future teacher training program;
- At our community-based awareness events, we will solicit donations to run the training program for teachers in 2017;
- In the final month of our project, we will host a roundtable discussion to develop a sustainability plan. By documenting the results of the intervention we will be able to build a viable model for future anti-child labor interventions in coffee farms, and share our findings with our partners and with the coffee growing community in Matagalpa and Jinotega;
- As a result of our project, all participating teachers and child care workers will be part of a *Rural Educators Network* to provide support and share ideas about best practices
- We will publish a document with curriculum materials and program findings.

TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTED

\$24,705.00

PROPOSAL DOCUMENT:

[Download budget](#)

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