



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

**CULTIVATING LIVES
THROUGH EDUCATION**







In 2018, Seeds for Progress had a year of tremendous accomplishments. After five years of operating as a nonprofit, Seeds for Progress has expanded and strengthened important alliances. This has resulted in a greater presence and impact in the coffee growing regions and has allowed us to expand not only in Nicaragua by initiating projects in the Nueva Guinea zone, but also across our national frontiers and launch the first school projects in Guatemala.

Seeds for Progress's figures could not make us prouder. Currently, in Nicaragua, we support and provide a better education to children in 20 schools in the regions of Jinotega, Matagalpa, Nueva Segovia, Madriz and Nueva Guinea. Our work has benefited close to 5,000 students. More than 270 teachers work directly with Seeds for Progress to improve their teaching techniques and familiarize with modern tools to implement in their classes. In Guatemala, we are pleased to be sharing these experiences with two schools in the coffee growing region of Palencia, for the benefit of 180 boys and girls.

We also invested over US \$285,000 in infrastructure, as part of the Digital Seeds program, with projects such as preschool classrooms, water systems, technological classrooms and school and building maintenance. It is important to note that teachers were supplied with new technological equipment. Devices, such as the Tomi 7, allow teaching digitally interactive classes. These devices also provide an opportunity to train teachers through our facilitators and hence elevate the academic level of the students. In 2019, we look forward to see the tangible results of this investment.

These advances would not have been possible without the invaluable support of our producers, commercial partners and Friends for Education, whose contributions allowed us once again to exceed over one million dollars. This investment in the coffee growing communities signifies a definitive push in their development and an improvement in their future perspectives.

We want to thank all of our friends who contributed to the success of our first Gala in New York: "Building a Better Coffee World through Education". Those positive results were key to achieving our investment goals for 2018.

We know that there are challenges that still exist and improvements to be made, however we are certain, with everyone's continued support, we will move forward. We will continue to provide opportunities and promote development in coffee growing communities.

Thank you for your generosity in these remote areas where the seeds grow for a new Nicaragua and a more prosperous Central America for all.

J. Antonio Baltodano

J. Antonio Baltodano
President
Seeds for Progress Foundation



WHO WE ARE

The Seeds for Progress Foundation is a nonprofit organization that promotes access *to quality education*, a fundamental human right that contributes to *social development* and *sustainable economic growth*.

We strive to create opportunities to enhance the *quality of life* of students, teachers and their families who live in the *rural communities* of the coffee growing regions.



MISSION

To increase the quality of education and health services for rural communities in the coffee-growing regions of Nicaragua and other coffee-producing countries.



VISION

A world where people can recognize their potential to become self-sufficient and thus contribute to the development of their communities and society in general.



VALUES

Collaboration

Respect

Self-determination

Integrity

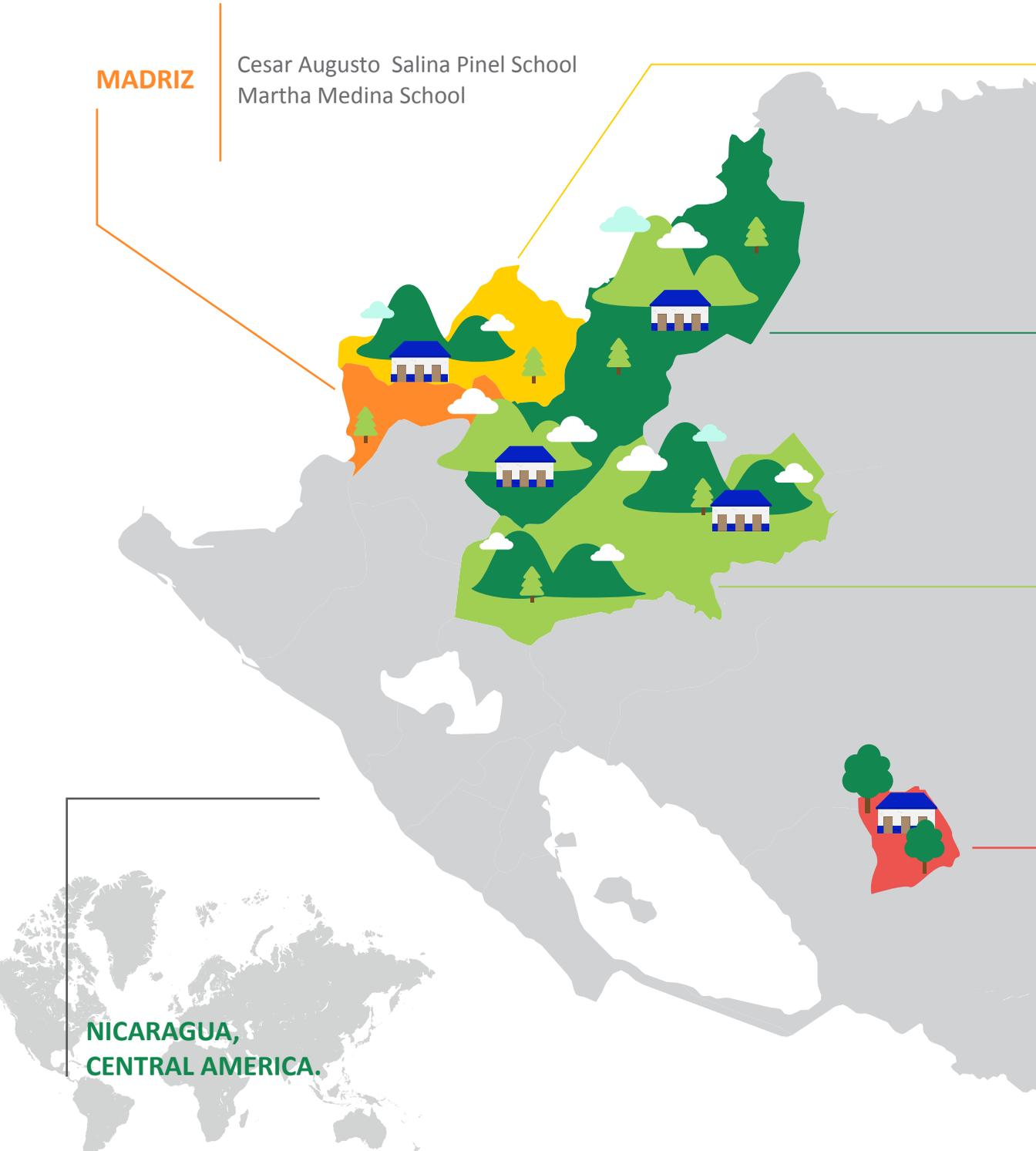
Innovation

The Seeds for Progress Foundation is a nonprofit organization registered under the 501 (c) (3) code in the United States.

SCHOOLS WE SUPPORT IN NICARAGUA

MADRIZ

Cesar Augusto Salina Pinel School
Martha Medina School



**NICARAGUA,
CENTRAL AMERICA.**



NUEVA SEGOVIA

Ena Sanchez Casco School
Jose Dolores Estrada School
San Martin School
San Jose de la Luz School

JINOTEGA

Buenos Aires School
Flor de Maria Rizo School
Las Colinas School
Las Marias School
Ruben Dario School
Lazaro Talavera School

MATAGALPA

Aguas Amarillas School
Los Milagros School
Nicarao School
Santa Clara School

NUEVA GUINEA

Diriangen School
Violeta Barrios School
Cristo Rey School
Francisco Jose Aaron School

GENERAL STATISTICS



20

SCHOOLS IN
NICARAGUA



51%

BOYS

4,795

GIRLS

49%

STUDENTS BENEFITED
IN 2018



TEACHERS IN 2018

Based on studies conducted by the Seeds for Progress Foundation,
in the communities where we have presence:



95% of families in the coffee-growing communities work with activities related to the coffee harvest.



The majority of the families are small coffee producers. **85%** of them cultivate less than 12 hectares of coffee.



The average **monthly income** of families is below the basic food basket value.



In general, these communities are made up of disperse farmhouses, where schools are located at a considerable distance, hence children must cross rivers and roads that are **difficult to access**.



Due to these travel risks and **poverty** situations, schooling is not a priority for many families. Several parents do not send their children to preschool, waiting until they have reached the age of seven or eight to attend first grade.



Up to **60%** of the families travel with their children from one community to another during the coffee harvest season to work in the coffee estates.



Since 2013 we have
benefited over

7,000
STUDENTS

DIGITAL SEEDS PROGRAM

We improve educational processes in the coffee growing communities through a holistic learning model that innovates the pedagogical practices and integrates Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), focused on students in early education and the first four grades of elementary school, emphasizing the development of students' competencies.



This program is implemented in alliance with:





INFRASTRUCTURE

2018 RESULTS

Goal:

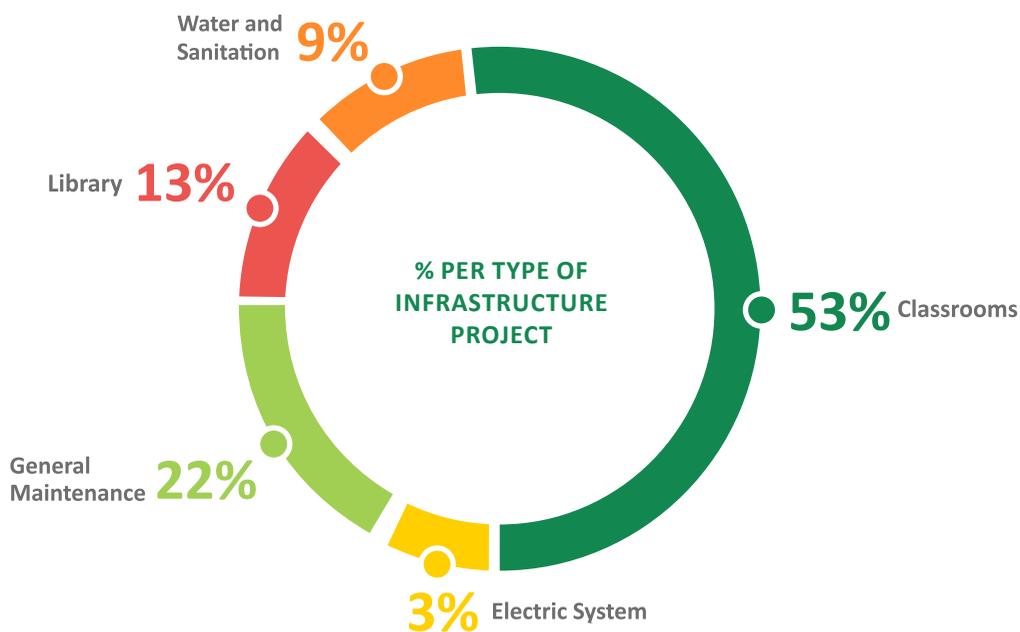
Create and improve physical conditions that foster the development of a pedagogical practice from the vision of a holistic focus on education.

11

Projects completed

2018 Investment:

US\$ 287,100



TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2018 RESULTS

Goal:

Develop teachers' capacities to innovate in the pedagogical methods, promoting attitudes that improve relations within the school environment and lead to interactive learning.

392 half day training sessions to
283 teachers about the following topics:

- Teamwork
- Pedagogical strategies to strengthen reading and writing skills
- Integration of technological resources in the classroom

1,629 training hours

2018 Investment:

US\$ 229,300

77%

Teachers apply innovative pedagogical strategies in the classroom

Mentors Network

We created a network of **33 mentors (teachers)** to strengthen local capacities in the schools and coffee-growing communities.

- Participated in 40 hours of training.
- Facilitated workshop replicas with other teachers in each Educational Nucleus.
- Developed educational projects for the strengthening of reading, writing, mathematical skills and ICT integration.
- Accompanied other teachers in the methodological implementation in the classrooms.





INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICTs) IN EDUCATION

2018 RESULTS

Goal:

Integrate ICTs into the learning processes and school management guaranteeing the conditions and school support to facilitate a digital culture in the schools.

2018 Investment

US\$ 71,900

6 

SCHOOLS HAVE
INTERNET ACCESS

16 

TECHNOLOGY
TEACHER MENTORS

CONNECTIVITY IN EDUCATION

TOMi

A multipurpose device that fulfills the role of computer, interactive screen, augmented reality scanner, personal assistant to the teacher and access to educational resources from an online platform for teachers' use in their daily planning.

Makey Makey

An electrical circuit connected to a laptop that can be programmed and used as an external keyboard, promoting creativity and critical thinking in students.

Lego Education

A Lego kit for early childhood education that introduces students to the first steps of robotics, fostering collaborative skills and critical thinking.

Internet in a Box

Digital library of didactic resources and interactive activities that can be used offline.

Technological Learning Kiosk

Spaces enhanced with virtual desks (NComputing) and provision of robotic kits.



DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS' COMPETENCIES

2018 RESULTS

Goal:

Strengthen basic students' skills in the first three grades of Elementary Education in reading, writing and mathematics.

2018 Investment

US\$ 44,700

74% 

OF STUDENTS HAVE
OVERCOME THEIR
DIFFICULTIES IN READING
AND WRITING

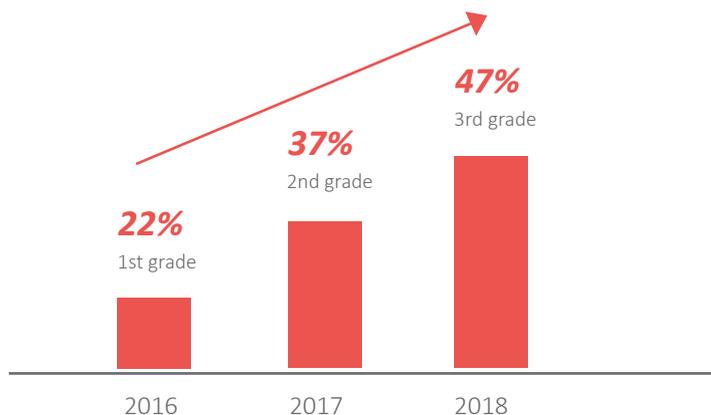
MONITORING AND EVALUATION

From the Digital Seeds Program, the monitoring of results is considered essential to effectively respond to challenges and make informed decisions.

We have developed an automated system which includes a mobile application that allows the evaluation of skills developed by students in reading, writing and mathematics based in the EGRA and EGMA methodologies*.

*EGRA: Early Grade Reading Assessment / EGMA: Early Grade Math Assessment

Compliance of Standard for the 2016-2018 Cycle



READING FLUENCY

The group of students with high difficulty of reading fluency dropped from **54%** in first grade in 2016 to **26%** in third grade in 2018.



We systematized the teaching experience with the implementation of four strategies to strengthen reading and writing skills through the design of materials and support resources.

Initiative 1

Strengthening Reading Methodologies with the FAS Method*

It is a training and support process that allows for the specialization and the exchange of teaching experiences in the implementation of the FAS Method and the use of didactic resources to teach literacy in first grade.

55 First grade teachers participate in a 16-hour training process based in the “model class” modality.

*FAS: Método Fónico, Analítico, Sintético (Phonic, Analytical, Synthetic Method)



Initiative 2

Learn and Play

Spaces outside of the classroom are designed for personalized attention to students in order to strengthen their abilities, in reading, writing, mathematics and using ludic methodology. Parents, teachers and community leaders are integrated in the process.

108

Boys and girls from second and third grade participated in personalized sessions

9

Participating schools

40

Training hours per tutor

432

Attention sessions completed to assist the children

9

Tutors with methodological training



Initiative 3

Reading, A Fantastic Adventure

Initiative that allows students and teachers to measure their advances monthly, while acknowledging the necessity of improvement and involvement through actions. They accept challenges to improve their results in reading and writing in a creative way.

844

Second and third graders participating actively

31

Teachers trained in the methodology

Parents, teachers and students become informed of the achievements and join in improvement projects.

Tools and support resources are designed and validated in the context of the rural communities.

16

Participating schools



Initiative 4

Let's Go to School

Permanent campaign that motivates boys and girls to go to school daily, involving directors, teachers and parents in the process.

814

Boys and girls from first to third grade actively participate

34

Teachers from eight schools participate with their students in the validation and systematization of the methodology







GROWING TOGETHER

In 2018, the Seeds for Progress Foundation, with the support of the Mercon Group and other allies from the coffee supply chain, extended its work to two new zones in Nueva Guinea, Nicaragua, and Palencia, Guatemala.

IN NUEVA GUINEA



952

Assisted students

2

Schools with infrastructure improvement investments

4

Schools attended

46

Teachers in training process

IN GUATEMALA



2

Schools with infrastructure improvement investments

109

Assisted students

5

Assisted teachers

VOLUNTEERING



During 2018, in Nicaragua and Guatemala we had the collaboration of:



304

volunteers

16

volunteering
campaigns

Highlighted Experience

180 students in 2 schools

Aguas Calientes, Palencia-Guatemala

Partners:

Eleva Coffee and Building Bridges

Volunteers:

12 Master's students from the McCombs School of Business.

Activities done:

- Students raised over US\$17,000 for the repair of two rural schools.
- A week-long exchange of experiences with the community.
- Participation in the repair of the school facilities: paint classroom, construction of perimeter fence, rehabilitation of bathrooms and recreational areas.



Testimonial

“Our trip was everyone in our group’s first to Guatemala, so we weren’t sure what to expect. From the moment we were picked up at the airport by the Seeds for Progress team, it was an amazing experience. They helped organize our trip and made sure we were introduced to a very welcoming community.

We were able to help the community refurbish their schools and get to know the people in the community as well. Everyone was so happy to work, learn and meet amazing people on the trip, we can’t wait to go back again!”

Richard Fusco

Director

Building Bridges Worldwide

COMPLIMENTARY PROJECTS



Montessori Pilot

During the 2018 school year, we deepened our work in the Early Childhood Education modality. Through the principles of the Montessori methodology, we sought to strengthen the abilities and skills of girls and boys in the different dimensions of development, as a basis to improve their learning process and achieve better performance in the rest of their educational, social and family life.

This project began with the adaptation of the Montessori methodology for the rural area, which implied the construction of classrooms and the methodological specialization of teachers, as well as the adoption of the principles in schools that in the future will serve as mentors to the country's northern region.

Pilot in two schools in Nueva Segovia and Jinotega

11

Early childhood education teachers trained

69

Assisted children



Scholarship Program

Since 2007 we implemented a scholarship program for high school students with the support of the Lacewing Foundation.

67%

Program graduates placed in the labor market

2

Scholars graduated this year as Technical Agronomists

24

Students benefited from the scholarship program

7

Former scholarship recipients continue studying in the university

6

Students currently studying in La Bastilla Technical School

PARTNERSHIPS FOR DEVELOPMENT



In the Seeds for Progress Foundation we believe in the power of education as a principal mechanism for the progress of coffee-growing communities. Joining efforts with the Mercon Group, we contribute to the communities' sustainable development by establishing alliances that provide added value throughout the coffee supply chain.

Under this approach, we work with Mercon to develop sustainable coffee communities, implementing our educational programs around LIFT communities. The LIFT program is an integral sustainable approach for coffee growing that promotes productivity, social practices and better quality.

This alliance contributes to the communities' progress through social investments and sustainable production that impacts the coffee sector as well as all areas related to the socioeconomic development of these communities.



HOW TO COLLABORATE?

Join our effort to guarantee quality education in coffee-growing communities.



Sponsor a specific school:

US\$ 50,000*



Sponsor a student:

US\$ 250*



Support a specific project:

Technology class for

30 students:

US\$ 10,000*



DONATE

NICARAGUA

BAC Dollars 357-843-200 **BAC Cordobas** 358-176-154

UNITED STATES

Bank of America, N.A.

ABA No.: 026-009-59 3 (only for wire transfers)

SWIFT Code: BOFAUS3N

Account Name: Seeds for Progress Foundation Inc

Account Number: 8980-5244-5278

Seeds for Progress Foundation

2333 Ponce de Leon Blvd. Suite 660

Coral Gables, FL 33143

THROUGH OUR WEB PAGE:

www.seedsforprogress.org/donate/

*Average amounts.



Absent from the picture: Sharon M. Ravitch, PhD. and Craig J. Russell.

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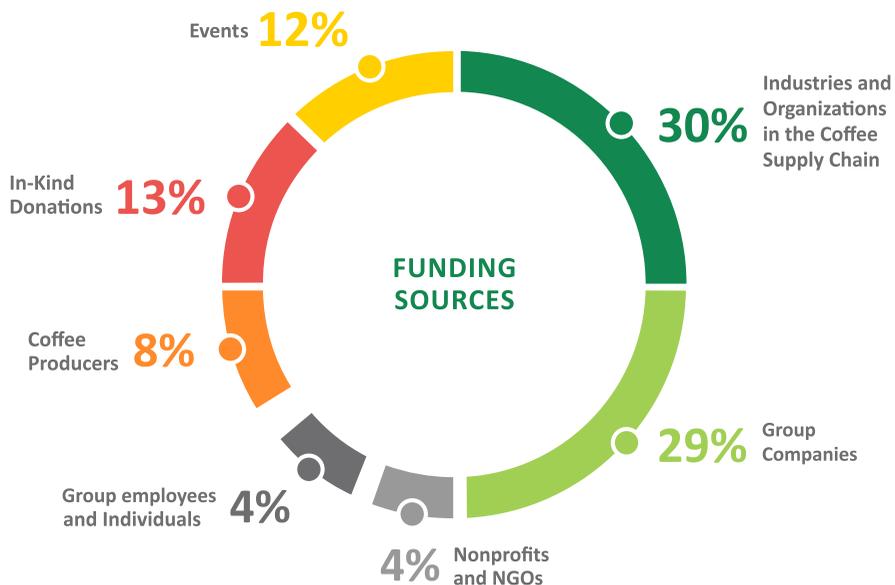
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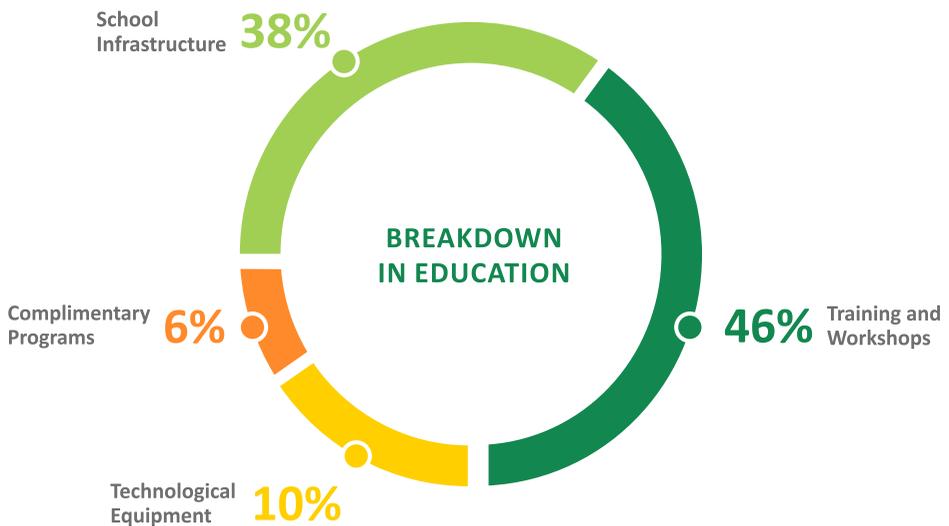
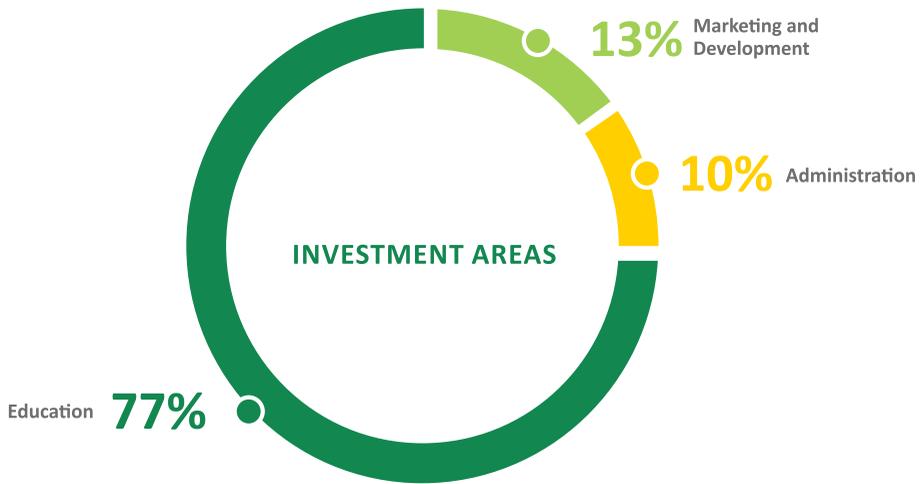
Sharon M. Ravitch, PhD.



2018 Total Funds Raised

US\$ 1,254,050





100% of the administrative and marketing funds are covered by the Group's companies (Mercon Group, Cisa Agro Group and Café Soluble,S.A.)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful for all the donations made to support the continuity of our programs.

The following list reflects donations greater than US\$ 1,000.

Diamond Seed

US\$ 50,000 +

- AMERRA Capital Management
- American Nicaraguan Foundation (in kind and cash)
- Cafe Soluble, S.A.
- F. Gaviña & Sons
- Mercon Group
- Macquarie Foundation
- Producers for Education

Platinum Seed

US\$ 30,000 - US\$ 49,999

- Friends for Education (employees of Mercon Group, Cisa Agro Group and Cafe Soluble, S.A.)
- Caffè Nero Foundation / Allegra Foundation
- Rekerdres & Sons Insurance Agency

Gold Seed

US\$ 10,000 - US\$ 29,999

- ADISA
- Agropecuaria Los Potrerillos
- Cisa Agro Group
- Fondazione Ernesto Illy
- Jebesen & Jessen Hamburg Foundation
- Lacewing Foundation
- Latin American Agribusiness Development (LAAD)
- Mr. Duilio Baltodano
- Rabobank
- Rabobank Foundation
- Yara International Fertilizer

Silver Seed

US\$ 1,000 - US\$ 9,999

- ABN AMRO
- Bank of America Corporation
- Brown Brothers Harriman
- David Yurman (in kind)
- Drew Estate Cigars (in kind)
- Dupuy Storage
- Habitarte Nicaragua (in kind)
- INGSERSA
- Masaya & Company (in kind)
- Morgan's Rock Hacienda & Ecolodge (in kind)
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- Mr. Osmin & Mrs. Maria Rivera
- Nicaragua Machinery Company
- Russell Family Giving Fund
- Sarah Tarditi Gallagher Memorial Fund
- Starbucks Foundation
- Victor Calvo Premium Cigars (in kind)
- Wakefield Inspection Services
- Waukesha County Community Foundation





**HELP US PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION
TO COFFEE GROWING COMMUNITIES.**

United States

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