



NICARAGUA

ANDECU Centro Educativo Vega Baja

2014 - Current
Managua, Nicaragua

PROJECT PROFILE

Vega Baja is a vocational training school, located in Diriamba, Carazo where there are few education centres. Women who attend are from Diriamba and surrounding suburbs, which are considered rural and women characteristically have low levels of education and few opportunities to employment.

The project focuses on creating income generating skills and initiatives through technical training in:

- Cooking and Pastry
- Housekeeping
- Sewing
- Business skills development training

The objective of these courses is to provide a pathway to income stability for women as well as to increase the levels of self-esteem and leadership of the students, so that they have the skills and personal capacity to make a quality product or service in their own community. In turn this drives them towards a change of economic, social and cultural life. Vega Baja draws on a strong volunteer program with 20+ volunteers each year dedicated to deliver entrepreneurship courses, demonstrating a high level of community engagement in the project.

CONTEXT

Prior to the Covid pandemic and political unrest of 2019, the region of Carazo was seeing significant growth in tourism related services but the shrinking economy has meant up to 90% of families are unable to diversify their income through local employment.

- Only 65% of women reach primary school education.
- Poor access to basic services and provisions such as running water or inconsistent medical attention.
- A higher rate of teenage fertility – women are tied to seeking agricultural jobs due to their husband's employment, low level of skilled labour.

IMPACT

Between 2014-2017, the following have been achieved with Reledev's involvement:

- The program has reached over 900 women.
- Nationally recognised diploma level courses in cooking, housekeeping and sewing.
- A micro-entrepreneurship course focusing on business start-up for professional garment production.