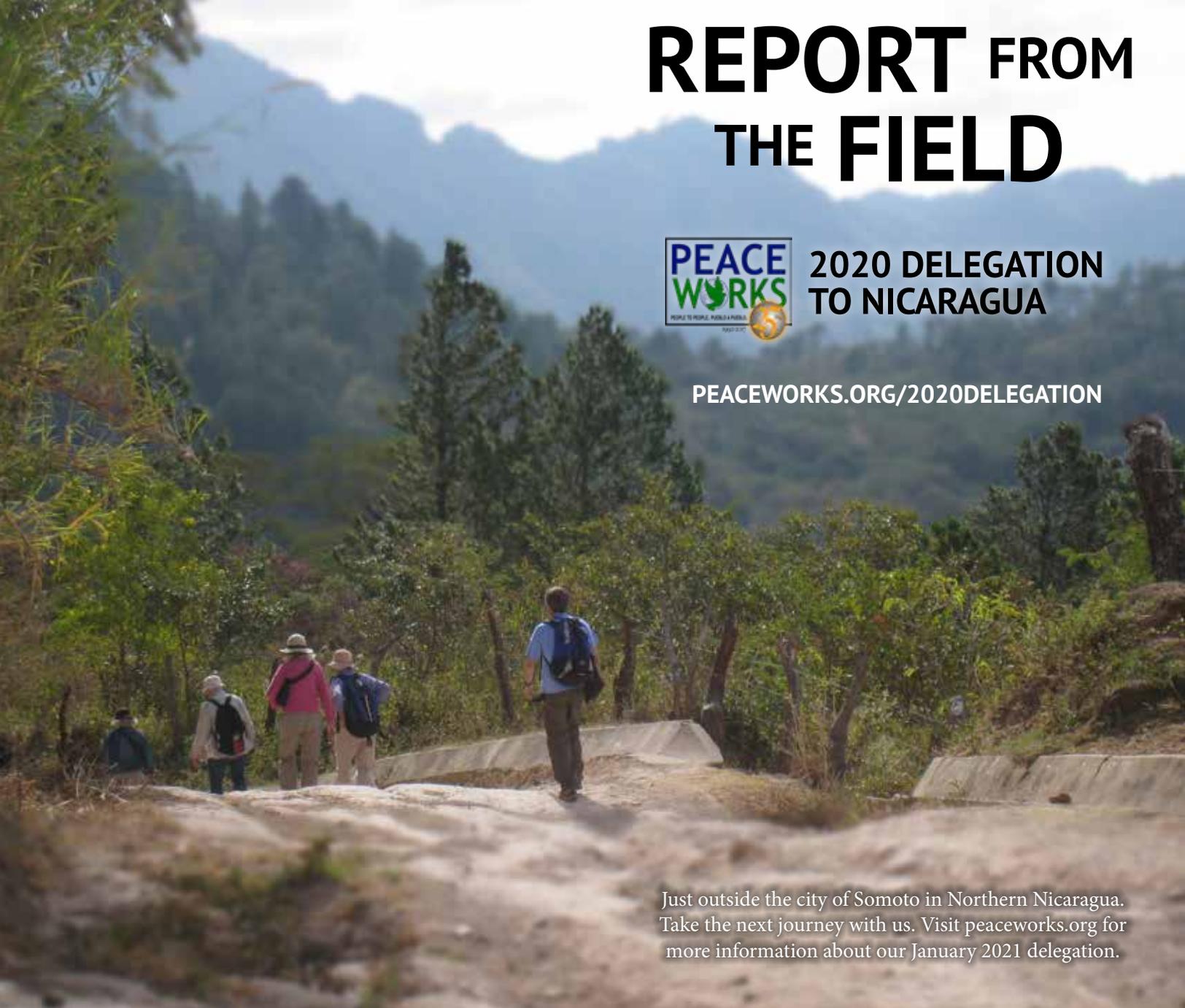


REPORT FROM THE FIELD



2020 DELEGATION
TO NICARAGUA

[PEACEWORKS.ORG/2020DELEGATION](https://peaceworks.org/2020delegation)



Just outside the city of Somoto in Northern Nicaragua. Take the next journey with us. Visit peaceworks.org for more information about our January 2021 delegation.

Dear friends,

As we reflect on our 2020 delegation, what stands out is the steady determination and resourcefulness of our Nicaraguan partners. Working on a wide range of issues -- economic development, women's rights, education, organic agriculture, conservation and climate change -- our partners work with marginalized Nicaraguans to build sustainable communities in this beautiful country that they love.

But as they welcomed us into their homes, offices, schools and gardens, our partners also shared their fears and challenges. Ongoing political tension, rising poverty levels and decreased funding have led to depleted resources and program cuts. We saw for ourselves how critical PeaceWorks' support has become as our partners fight to do their work.

And so we invite you to to share our journey, to be inspired, to get involved: People to people. New Jersey to Nicaragua.



The 2020 Delegation (L to R): Frank, Mackenzie, Maggie, Bruce, Fito, Susan, Margaret, Guy, Diane, José Luna, Ellen



FEDICAMP: RURAL FARMING & WATER PROJECTS

A quick huddle under the passion fruit vines to discuss new crop alternatives.

FEDICAMP works with rural communities in Northern Nicaragua, helping to create potable water systems, sustainable organic agriculture and irrigation, reforestation and mitigating the impact of climate change. Highlights from our visit included:

- Touring the new water distribution system being constructed in Rio Abajo to bring safe water to 120 families.
- Delivering \$25K for water projects for their next water project, in San Antonio..

- Learning about new sustainable farming techniques being piloted in Riito Abajo and Ducualí Abajo, including experiments in crop diversification and organic pest management.
- Meeting with the FEDICAMP team to discuss the possibilities for a solar powered riverside irrigation system in order to offset high electricity costs.



“The success of FEDICAMP’s program is all the more impressive given the difficult environment. Almost all of its local funding has disappeared. With this, and European funders focus continuing to shift from the Americas towards Africa, funds from groups like PeaceWorks are even more important. More impactful still is the solidarity – the fact that we are in this together for the long run, in good times and bad.”

-- Guy Talbot

Don Moncho of Riito Abajo explains new strategies to maximize crop production with Fedicamp’s support.

EL PORVENIR COFFEE COOP

54 families form this organic coffee coop located high in the Maribios mountain range. In spite of the rough, sometimes impassable mountain roads, isolation, limited tools, no grid electricity, no irrigation system and the disrupted weather patterns that come with climate change -- coop members continue to amaze us with their resourcefulness. Highlights of our visit included:

- Seeing how they make organic fertilizer for increased production.
- Discussing a reforestation project to provide shade for 24 acres of new, drought resistant coffee plants they hope PeaceWorks can support.

- Delivering \$500 to repair and upgrade the solar power system of the PeaceWorks-supported Jim Burchell Health Clinic. The Clinic provides gynecological care, birth control, pediatrics, asthma treatment and dental care when possible.



The 54 families living in El Porvenir grow some of the best coffee in the Americas which is on sale at any PeaceWork event.

INHJAMBIA PROGRAM FOR STREET KIDS

Inhijambia works with the children that live and work on the streets of Managua, providing educational, social and recreational opportunities, as well as basic necessities, like showers, clean clothes and healthy food from their farm project.

Highlights from our visit included:

- Seeing *Inhijambia* in action as we visited children and families in Managua's huge Eastern Market.
- Hearing about the desperate need for housing among many of the youth and their families. *Inhijambia* is hoping to raise enough money to build six small houses on land they've just acquired.



Mackenzie and a few friends *Inhijambia* works with at Managua's Eastern Market.



- Visiting three small homes that PeaceWorks funding helped build.
- Visiting *Inhijambia's* farm, now in its fourth year, with steady harvests of vegetables, fruits, poultry and now fish, which provide nutrition for the children and income for *Inhijambia*.

*"Because children produce income for their families, a material incentive is needed for them to allow their children to attend *Inhijambia* and school. One family sells fried plantains at a stall in the market and *Inhijambia* is working with them to allow their 9 year-old boy to come to their program but he cannot go until his work is done. This little boy was in tears as he told us that the best time he had is when he is at *Inhijambia*."*

-- Maggie Joralemon

AXAYACATL WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE



Delegation members marvel at the standout garden that Michaela of Chacosente has been able to put in place with the support of Axayacatl over the last 12 months.

The *Axayacatl Women's Collective* in Masaya promotes gender equality and women's rights, while supporting and empowering survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Women in Nicaragua are particularly vulnerable to violence and often have little hope of being protected by the justice system. The *Axayacatl* team provides a life line to these women and their families and empowers women economically through their rural development program. Highlights of our visit included:

- Touring the beautiful new Women's Center, which will provide office space, an emergency shelter area, classroom space for workshops, and a calm environment for a range of therapeutic services.
- Visiting the rural economic development projects where women have learned gardening skills and have received seeds, tools, pigs and chickens to help support their families.

CHISPA DE VIDA PROGRAM FOR KIDS WITH DISABILITIES

Located within a beautiful, forested nature preserve, the center provides physical and occupational therapy and special education for children with physical and developmental disabilities. In an area with high rates of developmental disabilities and few services, *Chispa de Vida* provides desperately needed help and hope. Highlights of our visit included:

- Visiting the center, which provides services and special education for 40 children. Therapies also include riding the project's rescue horses and weekly pool visits.

PADRE FABRETTO ARTISANS COOP AND CUSMAPA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

PeaceWorks has a special relationship with these artisans who weave the exquisite pine needle baskets we sell at our events. Located in the mountain town of Cusmapa, this cooperative provides women a way to help support their families. The Cusmapa Community Development Association helps harness growing tourism opportunities to provide livelihoods for residents. Highlights of our visit included:

- Delivering \$3000 for much needed housing repairs for association members.

JUAN VENADO SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION

This project protects the endangered sea turtles that nest on Nicaragua's Pacific Coast, while providing employment by paying local families who monitor the beaches to bring vulnerable eggs to the turtle nursery. Highlights from our visit included:

- Taking a boat ride through the mangrove forests and learning how this vital ecosystem is being restored and protected.
- Releasing a just-hatched baby turtle to the sea - one of 16,185 turtles this season!

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