

Y'S  
MEN  
INTERNATIONAL

PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING FROM TIME OF FAST  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2004/2005

**04-03**      **COSTA RICA - Immigrants in Urban-margin Areas**

*Location:* Goicoechea , a suburb of the principal city San José, where the YMCA (ACJ of Costa Rica) maintains a community development centre.

*Background:* Costa Rica has been for a long time a stable democracy in a troubled region of Central America. Accordingly, it has the highest number of immigrants from adjacent countries who are fleeing political and economic conditions in their native lands. Most of these people are young people, 20-29 years old, who come from Nicaragua. The increasing birth rate among these immigrants shows that they are becoming part of the social fabric of the country, but as 40% are in the metropolitan area of San José they are not taking up agricultural activities as they used to in the past. They are ready to work in unstable jobs, with low salaries, low social position and with few chances of promotion. The educational level of these immigrants is lower than that of Costa Ricans, and they are not eligible for government scholarship programs. The women in particular take up menial work with long hours, especially as domestic servants. By contrast, immigrants from other countries now residing in Costa Rican cities tend to be older, with more financial backing, and often retired people looking for a cheap place to live.

*Project:* The Costa Rican YMCA has provided job training for Nicaraguan refugees for many years. In 2002 it developed a pilot project offering technical training in a bakery, or as beauticians and office clerks. Evaluation of the results of training 53 people showed that 70% were able to obtain permanent jobs. However, it was noted that these immigrants still have difficulty finding acceptance. A second year of these skill training sessions, combined with learning computer skills, will be led by 20 young volunteers with support from 15 other YMCA volunteers. There will be at least 5 annual courses in labour training with a total of 50 participants, 70% from Nicaragua and 30% from Costa Rica, with 4 workshops on human development and intercultural respect, and one management course for 3 hours a week over 2 months for all participants. Day care will be provided for women participants. There will also be campaigns against racism and xenophobia, and a community theatre presentation that shows the suffering of Nicaraguans that are rejected and exploited. Participation with churches, 5 governmental institutions, 3 NGOs, 2 community organizations, 2 national universities and two United Nations organizations try to bring Costa Ricans and Nicaraguans together within a framework of intercultural respect, gender and age equality to help the immigrants to integrate more fully into their communities. Annual events such as "Immigrant Week" and "Mayo Di/verso" will be supplemented by a handicraft fair and/or a photography exhibition. Each planned activity will be evaluated at the time, and an overall evaluation at the end of the year will involve all participants.

<i>Budget:</i>	<i>Requested</i>	<i>matched by Y</i>	<i>subtotal</i>
Co-ordinators (2 professionals)	\$ 9,468	12,216	21,684
Professional fees	4,734		4,734
Monthly scholarships (50)	9,000	6,705	15,705
Teaching materials	3,164	3,015	6,179
Activities against xenophobia (2)	500	500	1,000
Administration	2,687	5,732	8,419
Use of building		7,650	7,650
Evaluation		500	500
<b>TOTAL COSTS:</b>	<b>29,553</b>	<b>36,318</b>	<b>\$65,871</b>

They are requesting US\$**29,553** and contributing **\$36,318** for one year.

**Approved by ICM 04 for 2004/05: US\$ 29,553**



Students training their hairdressing skill on fellow participants



Students training their hairdressing skill on fellow participants



Students proud of their result



Seminar with women and children