

POSSIBILITIES PROJECT: Pace, Opportunity & Security

*Strengthening communities to combat violence and crime in
Nicaragua*



OVERVIEW

Activity Duration: 5 years (2013-2018)

Funding Source: U.S. Department of State

Beneficiaries Targeted: 74,663 people

Geographic Scope: Región Autónoma de la Costa Caribe Norte: Puerto Cabezas, Waspam, Rosita and Siuna.

Local Implementing partners:

1. Centro de Derechos Humanos, Ciudadanos y Autonómicos (CEDEHCA)
2. Acción Médica Cristiana (AMC)
3. Universidad de las Regiones Autónomas de la Costa Caribe Nicaraguense (URACCAN)
4. Bluefields Indian and Caribbean University (BICU)

Project Summary

With funding from the Department of State, PCI is implementing the POSSibilities project, which seeks to increase citizen security and reduce the viability of drug trafficking in Nicaragua's autonomous regions. The project is being implemented in four of the eight municipalities of the Región Autónoma de la Costa Caribe Norte and in 46 of the highest risk communities most vulnerable to trafficking. By increasing capacity and leadership within civil society to address security issues and strengthening communities to reduce risk and increase economic opportunity, POSSibilities is attacking the root causes of violence and crime and deterioration of civil society in the region.

To date, POSSibilities has reached a total of **63,901** individuals with activities that are improving their security and the security of their communities.

Increasing Local Capacity & Leadership

POSSibilities is increasing the leadership and capacity of youth, women, government, business leaders, religious leaders, NGOs, universities and journalists to channel a mobilized and motivated community toward positive and concrete action. Key strategies include:

- **Developing youth leadership** to support citizen security through youth leadership training covering topics such as civic values, gender equity, family violence, drug and alcohol abuse, as well as training in community risk mapping and action planning.
- **Building organizational and technical capacity** among local NGOs and university partners in citizen security, conflict mitigation and operational and financial capacity using PCI's I-STAR capacity strengthening methodology.
- **Strengthening the capacity of community leaders** in risk mapping, orientation to Law 779 (the law against violence toward Women) and conflict mediation with support from the National Conflict Resolution Center.
- **Improving journalistic skills and competencies to report on citizen security issues** through a targeted fellowship program which builds journalists' and other media professionals' skills in democracy, ethics and reporting.





Building Stronger, Safer Communities

POSSibilities is strengthening communities and building local ownership through the following strategies:

- Engaging Local Business Leaders:** POSSibilities is building the capacity of local business leaders to contribute to efforts to address citizen security through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). PCI is helping local businesses to develop and implement CSR Action Plans which include activities such as promoting employment opportunities for local youth, funding sports and other recreational activities; and supporting community trash disposal.
- Supporting women's economic and social empowerment:** PCI has custom-tailored its Women Empowered model to organize and position women to promote social and economic activities that contribute to creating safer and more prosperous communities. The approach is focused on capacity strengthening of group representatives and collective action for transformative impact.
- Community Security Projects:** Finally, POSSibilities is providing small grants and technical assistance to support the implementation of community security projects, such as organizing community watch groups and creating safe spaces for youth. These grants are complemented by significant community counterpart funding in the form of volunteer time, labor, supplies and other local resources.



ABOUT PCI

PCI (Project Concern International) is an international, non-profit development organization dedicated to helping families and communities lift themselves out of poverty and create opportunities to build better lives for generations to come. Founded in 1961, PCI currently reaches over 10 million people annually through programs in 15 countries spanning Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

KEY RESULTS TO DATE

- **473** youth trained as lead advocates in promoting citizen security
- **85** local businesses engaged
- **72** Women Empowered groups established, representing over **700** members
- **46** community development committees formed and supported to implement projects to improve citizen security
- **Approximately \$100,000** in cash and in-kind support generated by local businesses and communities

PCI /NICARAGUA

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