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¡Reading takes you far! Facilitating quality alternatives in the use of Spanish educational standards from Riecken Community Libraries

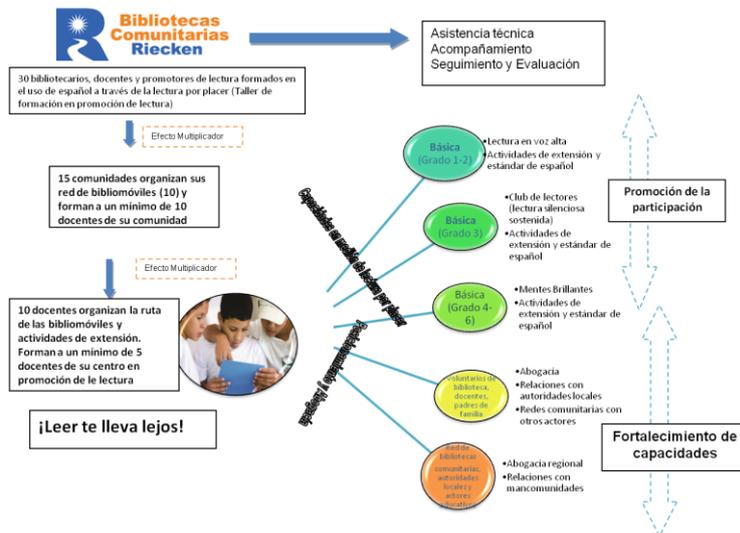
The Riecken Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 2000, with private funding, and with the mission to promote democracy and prosperity in Central America through community libraries that spark a spirit of discovery and social participation. Riecken libraries characterize themselves for its access to knowledge, freedom of expression, social participation and community leadership, since users can expand their knowledge through free access to books, computers, internet and activities such as story hours, book clubs, discovery activities, computer classes, community meetings, cultural and recreational events.

The Reading takes you far project will be implemented in 12 rural communities distributed in nine country states:

- Comayagua: Lejamaní
- La Paz: Guajiquiro
- La Paz: Santa Ana
- La Paz: Sta. María.
- Choluteca: Namasigue
- Francisco Morazán: Cedros
- Francisco Morazán: Cedros (El Guante)
- El Paraíso: El Paraíso (Cuyalí)
- El Paraíso: Morocelí (Hoya Grande)
- El Paraíso: Jacaleapa
- El Paraíso: Yuscarán
- Intibucá: La Esperanza (Llano Virgen)
- Ocotepeque: Nueva Ocotepeque

Strategy

Through the Reading takes you far project, we encourage a general strengthening of the library model in terms of services and programs to support the development of a new citizenship with ICT's skills, critical thinking and social harmony. In the different libraries a program to strengthen librarians, teachers and reading promoters will be driven so that it will be based in generating a reading for pleasure habit and Spanish standards from 1st to 6th grade.



In order to accomplish this, Riecken will have the support of a pedagogy expert who will adapt our library training curriculum to the Spanish class standards and its application to the reading for pleasure participatory principles. During the strengthening of educational capacities, an initial group of two community facilitators will be organized. They will be trained in the use of educational standards and its application to reading for pleasure. Program's components will be used according to school grades (story hour, book clubs or brilliant minds, adventures from

reading). This initial group will train a minimum of ten teachers from each community so that the program can be implemented in all communities. It is expected a participation average of 10 to 15 children from each grade in an educational center in each community. On the other hand, the community libraries network, on an individual bases as well as collectively through regional consortiums, will foster actions to promote civil/communitarian educational proposals and to organize joint actions with local actors. Each library and/or region will consider in their work plans a direct coordination with local and regional educational operators. Also the association of Riecken community libraries (formed in 2007) will follow the processes in order to offer a sustainable institutional frame to local and regional authorities.

Goals and expected results

- 1.1. Train to participate: Librarians, teachers and reading promoters with skills to promote the use of quality standards through reading for pleasure.

Two activities will be developed focused in the training of volunteers, librarians and teachers so that they have the abilities to promote the use of quality standards through reading for pleasure. In order to be able to provide these tools, the reading curriculum will be previously adapted to the Basic National Curriculum, a consultant specialized in this subject will be in charge.

- 1.2. Act to learn: Infant population from 6 to 12 years of age uses the Spanish standards in the reading for pleasure program based on community voluntarily participation.

In order to accomplish this result, three main activities aimed to develop the reading curriculum adapted to the Basic National Curriculum will be developed focusing on targeted population. It will be previously considered the purchase and delivery of reading kits for each of the processes.

- 1.3. Influence to change: Community leaders and family members have an incidence plan and proposals to promote higher participation in monitoring the quality of education in each community.

Three activities aimed to strengthen monitoring and advocacy skills will be developed for community leaders. In order to achieve this, community incidence plans will be previously developed. Also strengthening the Riecken Community Libraries Association will be taking into account.

The Reading takes you far project is linked to the four strategic results 2011-2015 that Riecken promotes through a library model based on access to essential knowledge and the developing of a critical thinking, encouraging self teaching and permanent learning, managed voluntarily and with strong participation from community leaders.