



OPPORTUNITY
International
CANADA



Financial and Social Inclusion in Nicaragua Spring 2026 Progress Report

You are Bringing a World of Opportunity to 15,000 Marginalized Nicaraguans

Thank you for your support

Together with your help, approximately 3,000 hardworking entrepreneurs each year — about 15,000 people including family members — will gain access to the tools and support they need by 12/31/2027. Across Nicaragua, women are receiving the tools they need to address significant barriers associated with chronic poverty, including economic instability, rising inflation, spiking food and fuel prices, climate-related impacts, and systemic inequality, and become more resilient and self-reliant.

Transforming lives and creating opportunity

Women who once relied on sporadic, informal, undignified pick-up work to provide basic food and shelter needs are now supporting their families and planning for their futures with heads held high.

Collaborating for sustainable progress

For nearly three decades, Opportunity International Canada (OIC) has partnered with ASODENIC, a recognized local Microfinance Institution dedicated to alleviating poverty through initiatives in financial and social inclusion, entrepreneurship, and comprehensive community economic development.

Expanding access and supporting women entrepreneurs

Through your generosity, in 2025, 2,810 entrepreneurs, positively impacting 14,050 people, including family members, have benefited from inclusive financial services, including microloans, financial education, and support systems that foster resilience and prosperity. You also supported the upgrade of ASODENIC's banking systems and digital upgrades, which increased efficiency for ASODENIC and improved service for the families reached.

THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT

Program Outcomes

- **Ultimate Project Outcome:** By building its capacity and loan portfolio, ASODENIC will empower 15,000 marginalized people, including 3,000 microloan clients each year, to achieve sustainable improvements in their quality of life, and deliver better and faster services to more people living in poverty by 12/31/2027.
- **Short-term Outcomes:** ASODENIC will support a caseload of 3,000 clients living in poverty with business and life skills education, financial literacy, access to financial services including microloans, and small-group support. Clients will use their newfound skills and resources to grow or expand grassroots businesses, increase incomes, create jobs for neighbours, gain confidence, and become changemakers within their communities.
- **Long-term Outcomes:** In 2025, ASODENIC continued laying the groundwork toward its three-year goals. This included rehiring staff, incorporating gender equality into updated training materials, developing and launching a new loan product to retain loyal clients who qualify for larger loans, and gaining efficiencies through updated financial systems and digital banking, while expanding to reach more people in need.

ACTIVITIES AGAINST OBJECTIVES: as of December 31, 2025

OIC's overall strategy, in partnership with ASODENIC, aims to reduce poverty and promote prosperity for vulnerable Nicaraguan families. The plan is built around key objectives, and substantial progress has been made across all three:

Objective 1: Reach 3,000 clients with loans and financial inclusion services, enabling them to start or grow their own income-generating, job-creating, grassroots businesses. **Update: 94% of Goal.**

As of December 31, ASODENIC disbursed microloans and training to 2,810 clients, 2,495 (89%) of whom were women, reaching 94% of the target of 3,000 clients by 12/31/2025. ASODENIC is pacing on track to successfully achieve this goal.

Objective 2: Establish the foundation for growth and greater impact by updating staff and client training materials, hiring and training staff, and embedding a gender lens in all training modules. **Update: 50% of Goal.**

During the second half of 2025, ASODENIC hired and trained two additional loan officers to serve 154 new microloan clients in the new expansion areas of Old Leon Highway, Villa Carmen, and Los Cedros. That brings the 2025 new hires to four, including the two hired earlier in the year when ASODENIC relaunched operations in Ciudad Sandino, an area previously reached through a branch that was forced to close during an economic crisis related to government regulatory changes in 2018.

The development of updated digital client training materials is ongoing.

Objective 3: Lay the foundation for greater efficiencies by consolidating branches, updating NGO/banking status, purchasing new computers, software, and hardware, digitizing core financial systems, and improving customer response times and care through innovative digital financial services. **Update: 75% Complete.**

ASODENIC successfully updated its banking status and developed and implemented a strategy to consolidate some branches, expand into three new service areas, and relaunch in one service area it was forced to close (as listed above).

ASODENIC also made strides toward the successful completion of its technology upgrade project. In 2025, ASODENIC installed updated PCs, laptops, multifunction printers, and mobile devices across its branches and headquarters. They optimized costs by replacing some aging printers with scanners. They installed antivirus protection and updated operating systems and Office 365 as an alternative to purchasing costly software licences.

They are continuing to upgrade technology hardware for operations staff and monitoring implementation and uptake of the new information system. They are now designing and preparing to implement digital client training and are conducting client surveys using technology that communicates with clients on basic mobile devices.

In December, ASODENIC launched a pilot project at the Managua branch in partnership with Banco de la Producción, enabling clients to create mobile wallets. Through this application, ASODENIC disbursed loans to clients, who can also receive income from business sales, pay basic services, and make transfers to third parties. It should be noted that Nicaraguan law does not allow microfinance institutions to collect client savings.



THE PROJECT OUTCOMES

2,810 clients (positively impacting about 14,050 people, including family members) have:

- **Developed** greater skills and confidence through training.
- **Gained** access to financial services, business support, and networking opportunities.
- **Expanded** their micro-businesses to provide more stable income.
- **Improved** family income, well-being, and resilience.

STRONGER TOGETHER: MEET MARÍA ESPERANZA ARÉVALO



María Esperanza Arévalo, a member of the Psalm 13 Solidarity Group, lives in San Benito, a rural community near Tipitapa, Nicaragua. The married mother of seven is known throughout her community for her warmth, honesty, and generous spirit — and for her delicious cajetas, a traditional sweet she makes from a third-generation family recipe passed down by her mother and grandmother.

For over 30 years, María has refined her craft, offering cajetas in flavors of milk, coconut, peanut, and papaya. With access to capital, what began as a means of survival has grown into a thriving small business. Using her loan and increased income, María purchased fresh ingredients in bulk at lower prices, increasing her profit margin and diversifying her inventory. Her business has become a favorite among neighbors and loyal customers who stop by daily to enjoy her signature sweets and friendly smile.

“I am an entrepreneur!” Each morning, María prepares her sweets with care, greets customers by name, and remembers their preferences — a thicker cajeta or favorite flavor. She understands the importance of quality and personal connection. “I am a real entrepreneur,” she says proudly. “My business is family-owned. It was difficult at first, but I am proud of what I have accomplished.”

With her growing success, María now sells up to 400 cajetas per day and has created jobs for her two sisters and seven salespeople. Together, they’ve fulfilled orders as large as 7,000 pieces during holiday seasons.

“You believed in me!” When she first met Guisella, her ASODENIC loan officer, who visited her community years ago, María lived in a small wooden structure. “No one had ever offered to help me,” she recalls. “ASODENIC believed in women like me who wanted to move forward.” She says she will never forget the very first ASODENIC loan and trust exhibited by her loan officer — the beginning of a partnership that changed her life.

“Now, I can achieve my dreams!” Her dreams include buying industrial kitchen appliances so she can stop using firewood and building a new workspace with a roof for busy rainy seasons. “With effort and ASODENIC’s support,” María says, “I know I’ll achieve it.”



Thank you for your partnership

On behalf of ASODENIC and the thousands of families whose lives are being transformed, please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your friendship and partnership. Your support is helping women entrepreneurs across Nicaragua access the tools, training, and financial services they need to build sustainable businesses, strengthen their families, and become more resilient in the face of poverty. Together, we are creating opportunity today while laying the foundation for lasting change in communities for years to come.

