

Self-saving and community microcredit systems

Good Practice *AT A GLANCE*

KNOW-HOW
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Experience by Fundación para el Desarrollo Socioeconómico y Restauración Ambiental – FUNDESYRAM

In San Pedro Puxtla and Tacuba, Ahuachapán, EL SALVADOR

The majority of women in these regions did not have the possibility for saving. They could not have a contingency fund for extreme needs faced by women and their families and were not able to achieve financial independence.

The solution was to introduce self-saving and community microcredit systems

IMPACT

- o Access to credits to improve the income of families through entrepreneurship and savings discipline
- o The funds for the credit come from the women themselves
- o Self-saving community committees are recognized as community structures that move the economy of their territories

Experience description

FUNDESYRAM uses the principles of the self-saving methodology of CRS (Catholic relief Services) to organize the self-saving community committees. These committees are made up of women who voluntarily join the group and thus provide them with a safe and self-managed way of generating savings and accessing credit. Its purpose is to encourage savings, achieve good family management, promote entrepreneurship, learn to be more supportive and contribute to women's financial independence or economic autonomy.



Other characteristics



BENEFICIARIES

- Women of the self-saving community committees
- Families of these women



CHALLENGES

- Respect the opinion of any person involved
- Achieve a methodology that is not too complicated



LESSONS LEARNED

- Instruments used must be simple, so that people in the communities can handle them
- Need of a clear guide about the entire process
- Let people improve the processes themselves (empowerment)

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ÖSTERREICHISCHE ORGANISATION
FÜR ENTWICKLUNGSZUSAMMENARBEIT



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