

Changes in Forum Syd

A series of changes are taking place in Forum Syd Latin America due to a restructuring of the organization and its programmatic activities.

In Nicaragua, these changes will mean the end of the country program and the transfer of administration of the FED's pilot phase (*Fund for equity, sexual rights and reproductive rights*) in December 2009. In March 2010, Forum Syd's regional office in Managua will also close, and will be temporarily transferred to the main office in Stockholm, Sweden. Nonetheless, Forum Syd is not leaving Nicaragua, but is in the process of seeking financing so that it can continue its work.

The country offices will remain open in the countries that have financing for programs.

25 years working in Nicaragua

Forum Syd is celebrating more than 25 years of work in Nicaragua. Its activities began with its predecessor – SVS (*Swedish Volunteer Service*) – in January 1983, when the first group of volunteers arrived in Nicaragua. At that time, the work modality consisted of integrating professional volunteers (“*cooperants*”) from Sweden into organizations, institutions and ministries with the objective of contributing to national, institutional and organizational development.

The type of cooperation changed in the last decade, when Forum Syd began working with thematic programs. The first such experience was the *Gender Equity Program*, beginning in 2000. In 2004, the *Local Democracy Program* and the *Public and Global Policies Advocacy Program* were created, both with a rights approach. In this way, a broad array of projects, training programs and experience exchanges were financed, and technical and other assistance was provided to numerous civil society organizations.

Forum Syd – in Latin America

Forum Syd has supported similar programs in two other countries of the Central American region: Guatemala and Honduras. In addition, Syd Forum has worked in cooperation with the United Nations system in Guatemala for several years, through the UNV (*United Nations Volunteers*). In Colombia, Forum Syd is currently working with victims of the internal armed conflict in coordination with UNV, with the UNHCR (*United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*), and with the OHCHR (*UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*).

Forum Syd – a meeting point

Forum Syd is a NGO (*non-governmental organization*), a meeting point for organizations with diverse ideas and experiences, united by one common objective: global justice. Forum Syd is comprised of more than 200 Swedish civil society organizations that support international cooperation programs, that help form public opinion, and that work in coordination with numerous national and international associations and networks. Forum Syd's work focuses on the themes of human rights, democracy, gender equity, conflict management, the environment, and HIV/AIDS.

Our work in Nicaragua, in Latin America and throughout the world has convinced us that civil society is a key actor for bringing about a better world.

Further information at <http://www.forumsyd.org/> (Swedish and English) and <http://latinoamerica.forumsyd.org/> (Spanish).

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