



## Women's Integral Empowerment Program Guatemala, Honduras, and Sierra Leone 2007-2012

### PROJECT GOAL:

The Women's Integral Empowerment Program (WIEP) is designed to address the practical needs and strategic interests and aspirations of highly marginalized women. WIEP is aimed primarily at building the capacity of women to become more effective leaders, businesspeople and caregivers in their homes and communities. WIEP will continue to operate in three targeted areas, namely: Koinadugu, Sierra Leone; the Western Highlands of Guatemala, and the northeast coast of Honduras.



### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

WIEP involves the implementation of three separate training tracks for women based on need, interest and capacity. The Program will provide: (a) **literacy and numeracy courses** to a total of 3,200 illiterate and semi-literate women; (b) **leadership classes**, including financial management skills, to 1,000 women who are already literate or who are academically challenged by age or disabilities, and (c) **business support classes** to 3,000 women to enhance their capacity to manage small businesses. Women may participate in multiple tracks according to their interest and ability.



Health, leadership and financial management (such as household and business budgeting) will be included as topics in all of the groups. Women in the literacy and leadership groups will be provided with a one-to-one match for the savings they accumulate during their year of classes to a maximum of CDN\$100. Awareness raising sessions with community leaders and the male population of participating villages will also be offered to encourage high

participation and completion rates. Business support participants will be eligible to receive business financing from microcredit providers in collaboration with the Program.

WIEP is evaluated on an ongoing basis through participant skills assessments, open-ended participant review meetings, and constant financial oversight in the operational countries and in Canada. CAUSE Canada is audited annually, with published reports available online at [www.cause.ca](http://www.cause.ca).

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES:**

- Increased sense of dignity and self-efficacy of 7,200 women over 5 years
- Higher literacy for women and girls due to role modelling and mutual tutoring
- Community decisions take women’s viewpoints and concerns into account; more respect for women’s rights
- Improved health among women and families; less preventable illness, incapacity and death
- Increased household savings and asset accumulation

**2011/12 BUDGET:**

CAUSE contribution	\$129,447
CIDA contribution (3:1 match)	\$388,342
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$517,789</b>

The total budget for the Women’s Integral Empowerment Program is **\$2,919,000** over five years, with three quarters contributed by CIDA. This year CAUSE Canada is responsible for raising **\$129,447**.