

**Cafe Femenino Foundation (CFF)** offers hope, opportunity, aid, and encouragement to disenfranchised women in the poorest and least accessible areas of coffee growing countries. These women perform much of the physical labor required to grow and harvest coffee, yet they have almost no influence on decisions about their family's income. They are typically uneducated, impoverished and disconnected from resources.

Cafe Femenino Foundation enhances their status by empowering them with skills and income producing opportunities. We provide small grants and micro-loans to help these women and their families diversify their income sources and improve the nutrition, health and education of their families and communities. The foundation also provides emergency aid when there is typically none.



**Cafe Femenino Foundation is different** because we work through well-established, in-country farming cooperatives to foster positive change, address gender inequality, reduce poverty and abuse. The grant requests we fund are generated by the women who actually live in coffee-producing villages. When services such as building, training, and health care are needed, they are provided by funding to local in country organizations. CFF is a volunteer driven organization with no paid staff, so more of the funds raised go directly to funding grant requests.

Cafe Femenino Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

For more information or to support Cafe Femenino Foundation, contact us at [info@cafefemeninofoundation.org](mailto:info@cafefemeninofoundation.org) or visit our website: [www.coffeecan.org](http://www.coffeecan.org).



# CAFE FEMENINO FOUNDATION



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**Enhancing the lives of  
women and their families in  
coffee growing communities  
around the world.**





**The women we serve** live in remote villages that generally lack potable water. Their homes are rustic, often housing a dozen or more family members in one or two rooms with dirt floors. Their “kitchens” often consist of an indoor fire pit and a bucket of dirty water for washing dishes. Most women have never received health care and know little about birth control or reproductive health. They marry between the ages of 12 and 16 and have as many as 10 or more children. During the “thin months” when coffee income is low, they and their children often go hungry.



**Cafe Femenino Foundation changes lives for the better.** Some of the projects CFF has funded include:

- In **Bolivia**: coffee seedlings to replace trees lost in floods and mud slides.
- In **Colombia**: healthy kitchens with clean water and vents for smoke; re-planting of farms and gardens following devastation by aerial herbicide spraying.
- In **Dominican Republic**: cattle raising projects; books and uniforms for school children; seeds and fertilizer for vegetable gardens; income diversification projects; and a pre-school building site.
- In **Guatemala**: Library and reading program for children; micro-lending program for women producers to encourage income diversification, teddy bears for children and emergency aid.
- In **Kenya**: leadership and organizational training.
- In **Mexico**: cervical cancer screening and reproductive health workshops.
- In **Nicaragua**: leadership training; reproductive health workshops; and cervical cancer screening.
- In **Peru**: a clean water storage system; hygienic latrines; health workshops; cervical cancer screening; dental care and education for children of the Andes; kitchen ventilation projects; malnutrition reduction programs including small animal breeding, quinoa crops and community gardens; income diversification projects to address the “lean months”; Credicafe Femenino -- a sustainable micro-lending organization owned and operated by women in 7 regions of Peru; and a health promoter program and travel expenses for families of children receiving. Each year, the foundation funds a cup of cocoa and traditional Christmas bread to more than 2,600 impoverished children in 50 Peruvian communities each year.
- In **Rwanda**: conflict resolution and business training for female survivors of Rwandan genocide; organic fertilizer

production project.

- In **Sumatra**: emergency aid, teddy bears for orphaned children.

**Cafe Femenino Foundation was founded** in 2004 by Gay and Garth Smith of Vancouver, Washington. They were driven by personal faith and a desire to improve the lives of women and children in communities that produced the coffee exported by their organic, fair-trade coffee business. Particularly concerned about the lack of basic human rights for women and girls, they focused on improving the status and standard of living for these individuals and their families. Gay and Garth’s established connections with farming cooperatives around the globe have provided the perfect connection to reach these women. The need is tremendous, but because of their efforts, women around the world are being empowered with skills, programs and small grants that improve the social status, nutrition, sanitation, education, and health of their families and communities. The foundation continues to reach out to other coffee companies and producer groups.

