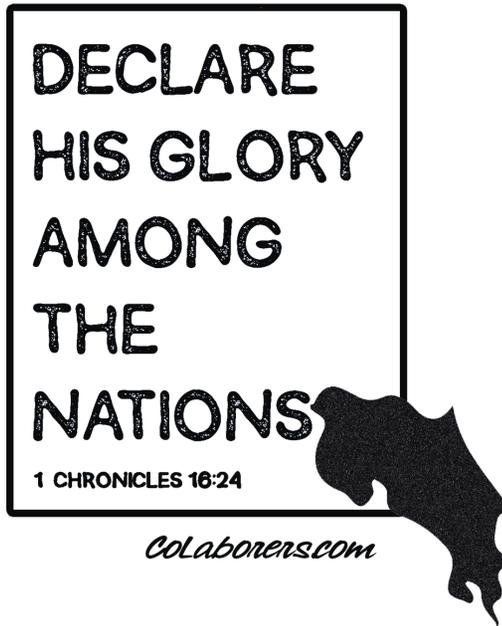


## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to come alongside Costa Rican led organizations to assist them in reaching women and children in impoverished communities.

## ABOUT US

**Colaboradores Internacionales Costa Rica** is the local branch of CoLaborers International, a US 501c3 nonprofit assisting international indigenous-led community organizations reaching women and children through volunteerism, aid, program development, and support to indigenous-led community organizations.



## CONNECT

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# WHO WE SERVE

We are serving Nicaraguan refugee families in La Carpio slum. Within this slum is Las Gradass, an area inaccessible by car and built into the side of a cliff, named for the 125 steps that are surrounded by makeshift homes. It is surrounded by polluted rivers and a garbage dump. It has about 52,000 inhabitants – largely Nicaraguans who have fled turmoil in their home country. They live in extreme poverty but are working hard to make a life for their families. Concerns for the community include sexual abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, gang activity, and prostitution.



Las Gradass slum is built into the side of a cliff facing a river. Families work in coffee farms across the river and carry their children across the dangerous river as they go to work each day. Next to this river is Las Gradass Betel (CFCI-CR), where CoLaboradores Internacionales missionaries serve providing services to the women and children including basic education, emotional intelligence/ mental wellness groups, counseling services, food, hygiene, arts and crafts activities, and vocational training to the parents.

This locally-led effort was founded by Marielos, a Costa Rican therapist. Staff members grew up in the community, once in the same place as these children. This is where hope lives and the rebirth of a community is happening.

- More than 350,000 Nicaraguan refugees live in Costa Rica, which is 80% of the foreign population there.
- Since 2018, Costa Rica has received over 77,000 refugee applications from Nicaraguans that were fleeing violence and persecution. Few resources are available to shelter and provide food to new asylum seekers.
- During 2020, 47% of Nicaraguans in Costa Rica were living in poverty. More than three-quarters of which could only eat only once a day.

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Serve short or long term as a volunteer in Costa Rica to help women & children using skills relevant to your field of study or expertise.
2. Donate.
3. Volunteer long-distance from anywhere in the world via telecommuting experience.
4. Become a prayer partner and stay up to date on ministry joys and needs.

