

May 20, 2016

## Spotlight on Paraguay's Citizens

Many of those who benefit from IAF support represent people who been relegated to the margins of economic and civic life. The IAF grantee partners in Paraguay strengthen democracy by providing citizens with the tools and confidence to engage with local businesses and government offices to promote development in their communities.



FEDEM staff ready to travel to be interviewed about their work with the communities

### Federación de Entidades Vecinalistas del Paraguay (FEDEM)

Until 1992, Paraguay was under a decades-long dictatorship, making citizen participation in decision-making a relatively new concept. But over the past 15 years, [FEDEM](#) has been training community leaders and members of neighborhood association in Asunción to contribute their ideas for better communities. Its citizenship school imparts lessons on civil rights, democratic processes, community organizing and related topics. Neighborhood associations supported by FEDEM are articulating community needs to governmental authorities and confidently hold them accountable. Some graduates of FEDEM's school have also gone on to run for office and serve in various local governments.

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### Fundación Saraki

Is training representatives of disability rights organizations in administration, advocacy, communications and other skills, enabling them to provide better services. It has led efforts to secure accommodations so Paraguayans with disabilities may vote and ensured that they are counted on the census, so that resources can be adequately allocated for their needs.

On May 20, [Fundación Saraki](#) is hosting a job fair to mark the first National Day for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Workplace. The event, aims to dispel myths and prejudices that prevent citizens with disabilities from obtaining employment. For more on Fudación Saraki's work check out [Disabilities and Inclusion in Paraguay](#).

## Our programs in Paraguay

Active grantees: 17

IAF commitment: \$5,084,050

Counterpart value: \$6,983,470

Total investment: \$12,067,520



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