

Pivoting the FIT project to Respond to COVID19:

COVID19: Please see our e-news publication entitled '[Knowledge is Power](#)' - April 16th for more information about this initiative.

The Indigenous Community Facilitators employed by Change for Children's [Technology and Training for Quality and Equality in the Bosawas](#) project are now also working to protect their communities from COVID-19. Working from four community base-camps along the upper Coco River in Nicaragua's BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve, these young people mobilized in early April to distribute soap, bleach, hand sanitizer, sanitary wipes, and educational posters and brochures to local Miskito indigenous communities. Community facilitators also trained adults and children by demonstrating proper hand washing, hygiene and sanitation techniques and conducted household visits in the indigenous villages that populate Nicaragua's northern border. In addition to the Miskito language translations currently underway for the teacher training MOOC as part this project, our facilitators are also now working on translating information on COVID-19 prevention strategies into Miskito to further bridge the knowledge gap.

Our local community facilitators, already trained in the use of laptops and the digital libraries recently deployed as part of the Technology & Training project and well-versed in the process of leading teachers through the teacher training MOOC, are now all enrolled in the Pan-American Health Organization's COVID-19 Training MOOC. As they progress through the on-line modules (which are designed to be easily accessible in areas with weak cell signals), they will learn how to recognize the basic symptoms of respiratory infection; how to evaluate the risk of infection from COVID-19, and basic health and hygiene practices to protect against infection from COVID-19.

When water, supplies, and social distance are scarce, **knowledge is power**.

