



Richard Jones

Mr. Richard Jones is currently the Deputy Regional Director for Global Solidarity and Justice for Catholic Relief Services in Latin America and the Caribbean. For over 20 years he has worked on cutting edge human rights, peacebuilding and development programs including creating a Microfinance institution in El Salvador and developing gang interventions strategies. Prior to moving to he worked as a community Organizer in Detroit and Chicago focusing on issues of gang violence, Mr. Jones has a Masters in International Relations from The Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and a BA in English Literature from Boston College.

Ibania Rivas

Ms. Ibania Rivas is an economist with 14 years of experience in business development in rural and urban areas of El Salvador including running agricultural enterprise support services, small business development and formation of savings and loan cooperatives. Ms. Rivas is currently in charge of learning for Catholic Relief Services El Salvador program and manages the CRS/SEEP practitioner learning project on alternative financial services and enterprise development for youth.

Timothy Cross

For the last 15 years, Mr. Tim Cross has worked in the field of youth and community development, first as a frontline youth worker in community based organizations, city wide youth development efforts, national and international initiatives. He was the Country Coordinator of the Civil Society Development program helping to organize two national support organizations providing a range of training and technical assistance to the emerging nonprofit sectors in Poland and Hungary. Mr. Cross directed the ROCA youth center in Chelsea, Massachusetts a comprehensive youth development program and was executive director of Youth As Resources in Boston. He was the lead organizer of efforts that led to the founding of YouthBuild Boston, the first YouthBuild program to replicate outside of East Harlem, New York. Mr. Cross has also worked as a foundation program officer focused on refugee and immigrant development efforts, and has consulted to several international grant making organizations seeking to build the capacity of youth workers. Mr. Cross holds a Masters Degree in Education from Harvard University.