Fundación Escuela Nueva Volvamos a la Gente®
Mission
We contribute to improve the quality, relevance and efficiency of education by rethinking the way we learn and promoting active, cooperative and personalized learning, centered on the learner.

Who we are
FEN is a Colombian NGO founded in 1987 by the authors of the Escuela Nueva pedagogical model and the core team that pioneered and developed the program. Since our founding, we have contributed to improve the lives of children and their families through education that empowers and enables them as individuals. We are pioneers innovating and adapting the Escuela Nueva model to new contexts, such as Escuela Activa Urbana® for urban populations and Escuela Nueva Learning Circles® for out of school children in emergency situations. We also lead the implementation and adaptation of these programs internationally in various countries.
The Escuela Nueva model is a world renowned social innovation that provides a low cost, systemic, replicable and scalable solution to the problem of quality education.
Our work

Based on the Escuela Nueva Activa® model we provide educational solutions to improve the quality, efficiency and sustainability of education. We are committed to improving learning, nurturing civic and democratic attitudes and behaviors and the development of social, emotional and entrepreneurial competencies for the XXIst century.

We seek to drive large scale social change through providing quality education to the underserved and creating a sustainable global community that supports continuous learning.

How we do it

We lead a global movement focused on improving the life chances and opportunities of the underserved through quality education that promotes cooperative learning, centered on the learner. Through a coalition of global partners from various sectors, the movement is focused on extending the reach of the proven Escuela Nueva Activa® model and adapting it to meet the needs of the underserved.

To achieve this goal the following are our strategic areas:

- Technical assistance and support in the integral implementation of our programs and the development of customized educational solutions, in various contexts, in the principles and strategies of our learning model.

- Community Connections to strengthen knowledge production and management and connect partners.

- Research and Evaluation to measure impact, innovate and promote continuous learning.
Some Results

Academic improvement and efficiency

- When comparing scores of 5th grade students of the Escuela Nueva Learning Circles™ program for displaced population, and those of the national average, scores of the 5th graders of the Learning Circles were 13.9 and 17.3 points higher. In addition, students’ self-esteem increased by 18.5%.

UNESCO tests. 2005

- Evaluations in language and math show that among 20 urban educational institutions, language scores had significantly increased by 40% and math scores by 69%, after Escuela active Urbana strategies were implemented by Fundación Escuela Nueva.

National University of Colombia. 2000-2002

- Colombia is the only country in the Region where rural schools obtain better results than urban schools, except in large mega cities. Additionally, in rural education, only Cuba is above Colombia in math achievements, mainly because of Escuela Nueva.

UNESCO’S First Comparative International Study on Quality of Education. 1998

Equity and impact on public policy

- Escuela Nueva is one of the country’s main achievements.


- The most relevant achievement in education is that the academic results of Escuela Nueva in socio economic level 1 are greater than those of traditional schools, even in those of socio economic level 2; Escuela Nueva compensates for initial socio economic limitations of children.

National Planning Department of Colombia. 1997

- Escuela Nueva is one of the three most outstanding reforms in the developing countries worldwide that has gone to national scale.

World Bank. 1989

Democratic behaviors

- Escuela Nueva demonstrates significant results in the formation of democratic behavior and peaceful social interaction of children in comparison to conventional schools. The probability of parents perceiving an impact of the school on home practices grows as the level of implementation of Escuela Nueva increases.

Clemente Forero in Education for All and Multigrade Teaching: Challenges and Opportunites. University of London. 2006