LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Three years after a devastating earthquake shook their nation to the core, Haitians struggle to rebuild and to revive hope in their communities.

Unlocking the potential: Youth programs are key to the success of the region.

On the fringe: Medical care to the marginalized.

Distribution of disadvantage: Addressing the LAC's deeply entrenched inequalities.

STATS ABOUT MDGS

COMPASSION CHILD SPONSORSHIP:
Not a handout. A way out.

In a first-ever study, independent researchers found that children sponsored through Compassion International completed more schooling, obtained better employment and became involved community leaders. Learn more at compassion.com/latamworks.
Weathering the change

In Manchay, Peru (located in the outskirts of Lima), Odelia Escalante Zuniga hears the rumble of the water truck and bolts out her front door. Buckets in hand, baby bouncing on her hip, she races down the dusty hill, past countless wooden shacks similar to her own.

An uphill climb sometimes, she clicks the truck door to open in her home to fill the buckets for herself and her supply of water. Other times, she has to hike up hills and back down before she reaches the bedrock that gives her water.

“I had to get up there in fear, saying there were more horses to RDH,” the story.

“If there are more, he didn’t have a problem coming up here with water,” she said.

Odelia had to get ready to serve the city after changes in weather patterns caused drought in this hillside. While Odelia lost her agricultural livelihood, she realized that it would not continue with the unpredictable climate. There wasn’t enough rain, there wasn’t rain, and there were no other options.

“Before there was enough – easy to walk, Odelia said “But now, there is a lot of trees dying up and down. That’s why water is here.”

At first, Odelia was excited about the move in Lima, also helped a brick home, the chance to earn income, and a real kitchen. Her family, like many indigenous families, lives on the margins of the city, on dryly, previously-paved, rock-filled hills.

A drop in the bucket.

In Lima, a city that receives less than a 10 mm of rain per year, one in 200,000 births.

“If there is any, it’s the one,” she said.

“Sad to see mothers and children with just a bick,” Odelia’s husband said.

The small town is now a part of the city. 29, March 2013 • Usa today

Epidemia poverty and extreme hunger

To achieve universal primary education

To promote gender equality and empower women

To reduce child mortality

To ensure environmental sustainability

To global partnerships for development

The MDGs in action

(MDGs = Millennium Development Goals)

Empowering women and men

Achieving anMDGs in aCtion

end Child and Maternal Mortality, combat other diseases

Millennium Development Goal 5

Empower women

Millennium Development Goal 5

The millennium development goals (MDGs) are a blueprint for fighting global poverty. It wasn’t readily apparent that the goals could be met.

After all, the task for each of the eight MDGs was daunting: reduce extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality, combat child mortality, ensure environmental sustainability, and create a global partnership for development.

A global goal

If the MDGs were achieved, one question naturally came to mind: Could lead to a better future for all?

The global partnership for development (GPDD) was formed at the Earth Summit in 1992, and at the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1995. The GPDD is a global partnership of countries that are working together to achieve the MDGs.

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It’s never been more important to invest in Latin America — time, energy, abilities and resources. Data from Goldman Sachs and World Bank indicate that 10 percent of the population in Latin America is under 14, and they are the future! The region is blessed with abundant natural resources, providing the capability to define its own successful future — if the incredible potential of that population is unleashed.

The increasing number of U.S. citizens with ties to Latin America is bringing us closer together through trade, investments, and innovation. Emerging Latin American economies have made market trade for technology and development. Perkins International has witnessed growing interest in technology by Latin American countries to the UNDP and education for children with disabilities. Partnerships with ministries of education have sustained funding to improve quality and number of education programs thanks to recent years.

For years Latin America has been engaged in profound institutional reforms to achieve rapid economic growth, but the UN notes there is much untapped potential to realize further gains through tackling inequality, including gender inequality, and promoting women’s rights and full participation. This will further drive sustainable growth and contribute to more prosperous, equitable, and democratic societies.

Question 1:
Why is now the time to invest in Latin America and the Caribbean? Sustainability has strengthened the region, and there have been less pronounced recessions and more swift recoveries compared to OECD economies. Today there is much untapped potential to realize further gains through tackling inequality, including gender inequality, and promoting women’s rights and full participation. This will further drive sustainable growth and contribute to more prosperous, equitable, and democratic societies.

Children International President and CEO, Stephen Perreault has a shoulder to the wheel. Where is endemic is possible when everyone participates. Cross-sector collaboration demonstrates a humanely with the challenges. Multi-sector collaborations — business, traditions and ecologies — can’t achieve this alone and rely on partners with abundant natural resources, providing the capability to define its own successful future — if the incredible potential of that population is unleashed.

Latin America has made significant progress, but the UN notes the region has the highest poverty of wealth. Universal access to education has improved, quality issues remain, incredible strides have been made by Brazil and Chile in narrowing the number of people that live on less than USD 1 day. Mexico and the BRK have shown positive change, Brazil and Venezuela still have large segments of people considered poor. Education, employment and environmental care need further attention.

With a focus on children with disabilities, One World Initiative committeemen’s commitment across Latin America to expand educational opportunities and inclusive programs leading to greater social inclusion in adulthood. Family networking has made more parents aware of their children’s rights to services and their power to participate in growing development. We have sought to build stable capacity and to grow expertise so that collaboratively designed solutions are developed within Latin America by Latin Americans.

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Question 2:
In reaching the Millennium Development Goals, what kind of progress has been made and where are we still falling short?

One word: Synergy. Cross-sector collaboration results can exceed the simple sum of the inputs. Eliminating poverty requires cooperation of private industry, local and national governments, individuals, and NGOs like Children International. Only through multi-dimensional effort can poverty traps (food insecurity, lack of education opportunities, poor health care, and human rights, for example) be addressed. Enhancing community development and providing youth opportunities where poverty is endemic is possible when everyone has a shoulder to the wheel.

Causes and effects of poverty are complex, a child with a disability who has no one to access to schooling and health care becomes an economic challenge for the family. Full-time children fall into the family. Without education, individuals cannot break the cycle, contributing scarcity to their children’s education and future. Child needs access to clean water, medicines, and food. These critical issues are intertwined and must be addressed collaboratively, whole-person support across sectors.

The cross-sector collaboration partnerships and creativeism has many different dimensions that are needed to be tackled simultaneously for efforts to be effective. Social and economic inequalities reinforce each other, cross-sector collaboration is needed to promote human rights for all, especially those who have been excluded and marginalized. Inequalities and programs should guarantee equality, inclusion, and social protection. This requires commitment to the equality of participation and the full equal and active participation of women.


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Discover the world of differences we all have in common.
Flicking through television channels late at night, we have probably all seen at some point a small child with an extended stomach asking you to sponsor a child that does it to help. I have never sponsored a child, now adults whose lives have dramatically changed.

Twelve-year-old Josefina whose name has been changed to protect her safety lives in Guatemala City, Guatemala in what is known as the “Red Zone,” a dangerous area where there is narcotics, drugs, gangs and violence.

“Young people in the Red Zone are easy prey,” says Josefina, explaining that she wants to help people make good choices and to “stay away from the wrong path.”

Native Guatemalan relief worker Brenda Guedes, who works in the Red Zone on behalf of Children International, a non-profit that assists children in poverty in 125 countries around the world, explains the problems that are faced by youth in the area.

“There is a lot of presence on children in the Red Zone to become involved in gangs and drugs,” she says. “Part of the challenge is that a lot of the time it’s older people who are presenting them, including their own parents who may be involved in gangs and put their children into the drug world.”

A glimmer of hope

Josefina could be introduced to live in such a troubled neighborhood, Josefina is hopeful because she knows there is another way in such a way. A sponsorship by Children International has paved a path out of poverty for her and her siblings. While the program provides Josefina with clothing, school supplies, and free medical and dental care, it also provides a social structure very different from the one in her dangerous neighborhood.

Josefina now understands how to be in a safe place with nurturing adults and constructive activities. This place is the Children International Community Center, and she is a part of this community — a safe haven in which to construct her path in life where she is free. In the community center, Josefina has access to empowering programs, computers, libraries and other educational tools.

“I wasn’t in the program, I would have a lot less help,” she says, noting how “having both with other young people trying to do the right thing” helps her to stay motivated and on the right track at the “center.” Josefinas among peers who are overcoming similar obstacles and is offered a unique sup-

A young girl is given a chance

ent system that provides her with skills and leadership training, career preparation, and the confidence build-

th at will guarantee her success.

“I really enjoy the youth activities at the center,” she says. “They help to orient us so we can be more productive and more responsible.”

“People young in the Red Zone are easy prey.”

Without sponsorship that open the door to the community center, children like Josefina would struggle to stay in school and sometimes end up in trouble. Just ask Josefina’s mother. “I feel very proud and grateful also that my children have this opportunity because I am a humble person of scarce resources,” she says. “If it weren’t for this program, my children would not be able to study.”

While Josefina’s mother is hopeful that her daughter can graduate from school and grow to be a lawyer, the girl has even bigger goals. “My dream when I grow up is to be a lawyer,” she says. “I want to defend the rights of the women and children.”

Kirsten Castillo

editor@mediaplanet.com

In the red: In a community brukrupt of hope, a young girl is given a chance

Question: What’s the problem?

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Answer: They are introduced to drugs, gangs and violence.

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Sponsorship programs that focus

Y ou’ve seen ads encouraging you to financially sponsor a child in a poor country that does sponsor

ship work?

“Yes,” says Bruce Wydick, professor of economics and international studies at the University of San Francisco, who studied the long-term impact of sponsored chil

dren.

Wydick and his co-author Professor of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota Paul Glewwe and lead field researcher and doctoral student Laine Rut

bord, found that sponsorship does help children break the cycle of poverty.

Sponsorship impact

“Sponsored children complete one to one and a half years more school-

ing than non-sponsored children,” says Wydick, noting sponsored children are more likely to become community leaders and church leaders available.

Wydick’s study looked exclusively in Compassion International’s spon-

sorships in six countries – two in Latin America, two in Asia and two in Africa, computing data on spon-
sored individuals and their unspoon-

sored peers.

“What adolescents need more than anything is to feel they can master something,” says Dick Roberts, Chairma...
A lifetime of poverty can start at a very young age.

The reality is...a child born into poverty is likely to stay there. But early intervention and regular interaction can change the course of a child’s life completely. It’s why we start working with kids as young as 2 and stick with them until they’re 19.

By opening up the doors to one of our community centers and providing a proven curricula of age-specific programs, we’re opening up something else – their potential. We know a world of possibilities exists when we help them overcome daily barriers, nurture confidence, build skills and inspire dreams. It’s how we empower kids to escape the poverty trap before they’re stuck forever.

We know poverty isn’t a life sentence.
We want him to know it too.

A healthy start
By treating and preventing early childhood diseases and creating wholesome, sustainable habits, we’re helping young kids get and stay healthy so they can grow properly and begin learning.

Powering young minds
Educational support that creates knowledge and a lifelong love of learning inspires confidence and critical thinking, develops important habits and skills, and boosts potential.

Empowering youth transitions
In the final, critical step, we build momentum to propel teens forward. Combining confidence, personal responsibility, civic involvement, leadership training, job skills and access to college education helps advance a youth’s potential, fosters economic growth and improves social stability.

See how our youth programs are helping teens take the final step forward and leave the poverty trap behind.

Scan or visit www.children.org/breakthechain
Picking up the pieces
Three years of slow progress and the long road to reconstruction

When a catastrophic earthquake struck Haiti on January 12, 2010, the destruction was hard to imagine. More than one million people were dead. 

"In the earthquake’s immediate aftermath, the need was overwhelming,” says Emily Sperling, president of the iF Foundation. "An organization that provides emergency shelter and equipment to individuals affected by disasters. 

Our first task was to find the most vulnerable families and distribute aid that would help them live independently so they began to rebuild their lives."

The challenging reconstruction effort

"It will be difficult to move from each denotation even under the best circumstances, but Haiti was hit late by Starvation since time and family, making reconstruction efforts even more difficult. "We are normally on the ground in the immediate aftermath for a few weeks, then we move out and then other governmental organizations move in to start rebuilding," says Sperling. "But because of the additional natural disaster in Haiti, we continue to help with shelter needs."

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs, about one percent of the 1.4 million people who ended up in temporary shelters across the country remain homeless. And about 2 million people are affected by food insecurity. "While it needs physical help, it needs food, education, income."

Successes and the road ahead

There is positive news, however, as elementary school enrollment and vaccination rates among children are up, and acute malnutrition is down. The iF Foundation, a Haitian national and Program Manager at humanitaire aid non-profit United Methodist Committee on Relief, says, “There is still work to be done, but if you consider where Haiti was prior to the earthquake, I think it’s well on its way back.”

Specifically, Sperling says there have been three major successes. First is “the fact that so many people have returned to their homes with a better standard of living.” Second, she says, “we should celebrate that we are working with the government of Haiti and aligning work and priorities in a global community of humanitarian people and organizations.” And third is “the transfer of knowledge to local organizations that will allow them to take ownership of Haiti’s reconstruction."

Even with these successes, Sperling says the road ahead is long. "The government estimates another two years for recovery, then ten more for stable long-term development, and for Haiti to withstand itself as an emerging country."

A ripple effect

iF Haiti’s platform is one founded on the ideal of community since the program’s inception, two people have been employed at each of the poultry farms, as well as three cooks and one supervisor for the breakfast program. Eight mobile businesses have been established, including egg sandwich stands and a hard-boiled egg cart. The initiative has also helped to restart local business: "Two local vendors supply fresh for the students’ sandwiches. Two-thirds of the eggs from the poultry farms are distributed to egg sellers, while the other one-third is donated for students’ breakfasts."

For now, the poultry program, some parents and their children would not attend school because they were hungry,” says Eileen Spencer, one of the country program directors.

Haitians helping Haitians

Cange, along with Jean MagNorie, another country program director at both native Haitians who help create new iF, making sure salaries are paid and operations run smoothly. They helped supervise training of the farmers, who were educated by poultry experts in biosecurity to create only top-quality eggs are sent to vendors and the schools. 

We are here in this community as an example that no matter where you are from, you can do good for your community,” says Spencer.

Cange school Jorgia, says: “We had the opportunity to make something out of our lives, so we take great pride in being able to help other people do the same.”

The biggest challenge, Cange says, is purchasing feed for the chickens at an affordable cost because only one local supplier exists. Finding the equipment and materials to operate in the primary stages at most businesses in Haiti face because most things have to be imported.

Needs of success

"This post-hurricane is a $35,000 heading a new program to help northern Haiti become even more independent. Although still in the works, this initiative will help bring farmers on how to increase their productivity and income."

For now, the poultry program will sell chicken for $2 and $2 is the weekly cost because only one local supplier exists. Finding the equipment and materials to operate in the primary stages at most businesses in Haiti face because most things have to be imported.

Successes and the road ahead

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Brewing a healthier society
Bringing cervical cancer awareness to coffee co-ops

Cervical cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among women in developing countries, where eighty-eight percent of the 500,000 new cases diagnosed each year occur. According to the United States, where cervical cancer is not even counted among the top ten cancer killers, it is the number one killer of women in developing nations—adequately complex.

Filtering knowledge

“In rural settings, many women don’t know about cervical cancer or understand that it is preventable,” says August Barros, regional director at IntraHealth International’s Project, says breaking down cultural barriers can also be a struggle. “In many Central American countries it is taboo to talk about sex, yet everyone is practicing sex without protection.”

Adding to the problem, she says, are low economic resources that can make it challenging “to increase access to quality services provided by well-trained health workers.”

Millennium Development Goal 6

Thirteen years after 189 world leaders came together at a United Nations summit and committed to do their part to end extreme poverty by 2015, the eight Millennium Development Goals are still at work in progress. Number six aimed to stop and reverse the spread of HIV/ AIDS as well as achieve universal access to treatment. So, how do things stand in Latin America? According to Barros, not on target. “The number of people receiving therapy is still below 40 percent, and there is a certain complacency because governments are relaxing as they see things improve. We need to be more aggressive in terms of prevention.”

Grande de hijos utiliza el estru- tura de coffee cooperatives to ensure success. The community plays a key role in outreach and education, solving access problems, and ensuring that all women who test positive receive the life-saving treatment they need.

María sắta Vilasénor López works with just such a cooperative in Mexico that helps bring viral services to the women in her area, a complex effort she notes has paid off in the simplest, most important way: “It’s a human life at stake,” she says. “Many women— all of them— have been screened. Those who were infected got treatment and now they’re all well. Many lives have been saved. And one of those lives was mine.”

Cervical cancer: a window to health outcomes

Eight percent of the 500,000 new cases counted among the top ten cancer killers, and it raises the question, “Why the disparity?”

The simple answer is a lack of access to blooming early detection and treat- ment services. But the reality of bringing services most Americans take for granted to women in developing nations is adequately complex.

Pressing the issue

But this is a problem with a solution. Utilizing a technique called visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA), a trained health worker can check for early cell changes, then offer immediate cryotherapy treatment if needed. “This ‘single visit approach’ can poten- tially save countless women. “The game changer is to provide access to life-saving measures at the point of contact,” says Ricky Lé, director of the cervical cancer prevention and control program at health non-profit Jhpiego. “But simply changing the services we offer is not the whole solution,” says Lé. “Setting up successful programs in rural areas requires collabora- tion with local health ministries and the community—they are the ones invested in creating long-term solu- tions.”

When women in developing coun- tries seek out screening the chances of poor quality testing and the need to return for test results and treatment becomes insurmountable. “The number of people receiving treatment is low,” says Dr. Carmen Barros, regional director at Inter- national Planned Parenthood Federa- tion.

Stigma, discrimination, and other challenges

Despite the progress, Barros says there are still challenges. “Women are more likely to be injured than men, and treatment is not reach- ing vulnerable populations like sex workers and breastfeeding women who are often the object of stigma and discrimination.”

Yudin Villaseñor, regional direc- tor for IntraHealth International’s USAID/Central America Capacity Project, says breaking down cultural barriers can also be a struggle. “In many Central American coun- tries it is taboo to talk about sex, yet everyone is practicing sex without protection.”

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For over 25 years, The Resource Foundation has been making it possible for corporations, foundations, and individuals to support life-changing programs across the Americas and the Caribbean.

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Nearly a quarter-billion women around the world lack safe, effective family planning and reproductive health services.

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Founded in 1829 as the first school for the blind in the U.S., Perkins is a global organization with partners in 67 countries. Working together, we aim to ensure that every child has the opportunity to reach their potential through education.

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