

Best Practices in Poverty Eradication:

Case Studies from the Field



Presented by the Sub-Committee for the Eradication of Poverty
of the NGO Committee for Social Development
to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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Cover photo courtesy of ATD Fourth World,
“In the Courtyard of a Hundred Trades in Burkina
Faso, children who lived in the streets make toys.”

June 2003

INTRODUCTION

This report has been compiled from direct service, grassroots programs and projects¹ in 21 countries. It represents the best practices in poverty eradication of experts in the field. Each project was contributed by a UN-affiliated NGO that is a member of the NGO Sub-Committee for the Eradication of Poverty.

Poverty is a multi-faceted problem, involving finances, food supply, housing, education, health, sanitation, infrastructure, politics, war, self-esteem, and more. Thus, there is no single solution to poverty. Many issues must be addressed and a variety of approaches must be taken to ease impoverishment among the peoples of the world. These projects represent a diverse, but not exhaustive, array of active programs managed by NGOs and local communities, often in partnership with government. They are reducing local poverty and its resulting problems.

To produce this report, a survey (see Appendix 1) was sent to NGOs around the world. The goal of the Sub-Committee was to provide a general sense of the variety of poverty reduction strategies currently being implemented around the world, as well as obtain information that could be used as a catalyst for creative thought, actions and policy formation. The experiences, ideas, lessons, and advice found here can inspire new projects and increase the effectiveness of projects led by governments, NGOs, and local communities.

The NGOs involved in this report (see Appendix 3) support the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, 1997-2006, and seek to promote the UN Millennium Development Goals of 2000. The Sub-Committee drew from international members and collaborators to describe experiences, competencies, and “best practices” that improve the situation of people who live in conditions of poverty. By giving attention to the insights of direct service practitioners, this report adds to the ever-broadening human rights perspective necessary to eradicate poverty. This project, then, is consistent with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Millennium Development Goals, both of which express the aims of the United Nations – aims in keeping with the missions of each of our NGOs.

***“All the projects
have been planned
and implemented
by local actors.
All decisions
have been taken
by local groups.”***

(Ukraine)

***“Eradicating poverty does
not depend on any
particular group but rather
on each member of the
human family, including
the destitute themselves,
political decision makers,
and the civil and religious
authorities.”***

(Madagascar)

¹ The terms program and project are used interchangeably, since the practitioners themselves chose which term best defines their activities.

Survey and Sample

The surveys asked respondents about the purpose of their project, as well as the project characteristics (e.g., who was served, how many people were served, whether the program was situated in rural or urban communities, the annual budget of the program, etc.). It also asked about the successes of the project, how the participants were involved in each phase of the project, and whether there were future plans for the project. In addition, it sought information about the obstacles faced in trying to implement the project and advice to government decision-makers for creating policy to eradicate poverty.

The report gives information from 46 projects being carried out in all regions of the world (see Appendix 2). There is geographic balance with 13 projects each from Africa, Asia and Latin America; the remainder are from developed countries. Two-thirds of the projects come from rural areas. The populations served are wide-ranging, although women, children and families represent, by far, the majority of the population groups served by the projects. The breadth of the projects submitted was remarkable, covering a wide spectrum of capacity. Examples range from an industrial borax mine that produces \$US 4 million annual revenue and employs 300 men and their families, to small savings and credit groups for rural women. Some projects focus on creating infrastructure, such as water systems and roads, while others help develop support communities for lonely, older people. Some programs concentrate on provision of basic services like child and health care while others introduce innovative ideas, such as the use of vitamins and locally produced soy in the diet of malnourished children. Projects reached immigrants in developed cities like Marseilles, as well as people in the slums of São Paulo or the highlands of Western Nepal.

Populations Served:

Women (16)
Families (8)
Men and women (3)
Men (2)
Refugees/immigrants (2)
Indigenous people (2)
Farmers (3)
Elderly (4)
Children (11)
Youth/students (2)
Orphans (3)
Widows (2)
Girls (3)
Program crossover (16)

SUCCESSSES

The projects discussed here are success stories in poverty eradication around the world. Project organizers have overcome a variety of obstacles to attain real achievements. These successes have been categorized into overarching themes presented below, followed by some specific examples that fall into each theme. It is important to note the span of successes: improvements in daily living conditions such as health care, education, or housing; infrastructure themes, such as sanitation, water systems and roads; and human empowerment themes, such as pride, confidence, or interconnectedness.

OVERARCHING THEMES

Better Living Conditions

Finance

- ◆ Established small-scale industries through soft loans
- ◆ Created a savings system
- ◆ Sold products of co-op, bringing income to members

Education

- ◆ Attended program-sponsored courses
- ◆ Learned to apply values to daily living
- ◆ Learned about HIV/AIDS
- ◆ Understood the importance of education
- ◆ Increased school attendance

Health Care

- ◆ Discussed the need for HIV tests
- ◆ Decreased alcoholism
- ◆ Improved health and health awareness
- ◆ Increased alertness of children

“The experience of success sustains motivation.”
(South Africa)

“They have to have their own savings, thus giving them their own identity.”
(India)

“After the children study at our center they are much better persons... They have a feeling of community and being together.”
(Korea)

“At the end of the course, some of the plumbers, boys and girls, initiated discussions with the staff on whether or not they should take an HIV test.”
(Zambia)

Housing

- ◆ Improved housing conditions
- ◆ Became home owners
- ◆ Helped street children return to their families

Infrastructure Improvements

Sanitation

- ◆ Kept housing clean
- ◆ Improved the smell of slums

Water

- ◆ Organized around the need for water
- ◆ Installed drinking water system

Roads

- ◆ Built roads to support agricultural independence
- ◆ Developed tourism through improved roads

Human Empowerment

Empowerment

- ◆ Solved common issues through self-help groups
- ◆ Organized together
- ◆ Gained self identity through economic sufficiency
- ◆ United toward a common vision

“Families who never dreamed they would own a home now have energy-efficient, attractive homes that will last about 100 years.”

(USA)

“They found pride knowing that they could provide food for their children.”

(Madagascar)

“People realize and speak out about the importance of education of self and the children. Women start asserting rights in the family. Self-help groups are formed and common issues are taken up and solved.”

(India)

Pride in Accomplishment and Confidence in Abilities

- ◆ Expressed views in public willingly (women)
- ◆ Had the courage to speak at government meetings (girls)
- ◆ Had pride in being able to provide food for their children
- ◆ Realized requirement to voice needs and demand rights

Community Participation

- ◆ Created social opportunities among older people
- ◆ Formed self-help groups
- ◆ Gained a feeling of community
- ◆ Organized to gain a common title to tribal land
- ◆ Returned to communities to serve their own people

***“Graduates have
returned to their own
communities to serve
their own people.”
(Philippines)***

LESSONS LEARNED FOR NGOS

NGO workers in the field are faced with many obstacles and challenges. In response, they employ a variety of strategies to create successful projects. Presented below are lessons that the practitioners would like to share with other NGOs implementing projects to improve the situation of those living in conditions of poverty. Again, we have categorized the lessons learned into overarching themes, followed by specific information that will be helpful for NGOs.

OVERARCHING THEMES

Education is Essential

- ◆ Integrate both formal and informal education

Empowerment Requires Participation and Local Community Ownership

- ◆ Involve the people, both in planning for and in the responsibilities of carrying out a project
- ◆ Participate in the activities of the community
- ◆ Use mental or spiritual awareness as well as self-confidence and self-esteem as important factors in training to develop technical skills
- ◆ Include the people with the least opportunity
- ◆ Listen to the people

Responsibility and Perseverance are Indispensable

- ◆ Encourage people to take responsibility for their own actions – do not just say that the government caused the situation
- ◆ Work with the community continuously, over a long period of time
- ◆ Do not give up on the children

“The main question for success is not the technical ‘know how’, but the human ‘know with whom’.”
(Bolivia)

“The secret to the growth of the community is organization and education.”
(Philippines)

“Keep up communication with the whole community through open meetings... everyone should feel able to participate.”
(Zambia)

Poverty Eradication Requires Integrated Vision

- ◆ Integrate holistic social services with economic strategies
- ◆ Take into account the different aspects of service needs and consider them in relationship to one another: education, health care, job creation, infrastructure

Respect for Human Dignity Builds a Solid Foundation

- ◆ Build trust
- ◆ Respect family relationships
- ◆ Respect and understand the customs and cultures of the community
- ◆ Take into consideration the pace of life of the people
- ◆ Give value to the positive accomplishments of the participants
- ◆ Support people without duplicating what they have done for themselves
- ◆ Learn what poverty means within the culture in which you are working in order to understand who might be having the most difficult time

Sustainability Requires Long Term Goals, Not "Quick-Fixes"

- ◆ Build capacity of participants
- ◆ Explore and ensure the marketability of project products
- ◆ Put the project within the reach of the people involved
- ◆ Gear scope and size of the project toward local reality
- ◆ Do not create dependency
- ◆ Encourage self-help groups
- ◆ Employ savings schemes

Cooperation Can Enhance Effectiveness and Creativity

- ◆ Network and partner government and NGOs
- ◆ Build partnerships among individuals, groups, community, business, and government
- ◆ Be aware of other NGOs so as not to duplicate each other's work
- ◆ Provide opportunities for networking among organizations – networking of women's associations has had a high level of success

“We have learned that it is false to imagine that children in the streets have been abandoned or that their parents have given up on them.”

(Burkina Faso)

“Programs for the poor should be empowering rather than encouraging dependency.”

(Philippines)

“The most successful projects originate with the people and take into consideration the rhythm of the people. They tend to give importance to the tribal leaders and to the bases.”

(Bolivia)

NGO/Government Relationship is Not Easy to Negotiate but Essential to Highest Levels of Success

- ◆ Educate government officials about the project and its usefulness
- ◆ Avoid becoming dependent on government
- ◆ Work with government when possible, but be aware that in some places government involvement ends autonomy
- ◆ Clarify relationship with government
- ◆ Be transparent in dealings with government representatives, and encourage transparency from them
- ◆ Involve the community in monitoring government and donor funds
- ◆ Remember that the starting point is not financing, but the existing poverty
- ◆ Be aware that NGOs can be catalysts for programs intended for local levels

“It is crucial that at some point people living in extreme poverty get together. The sense of belonging and of having friends outside their community provides a powerful means to breaking down the isolation and shame of living in poverty.”
(Thailand)

“Communities must create awareness...by inviting local government officials to openings of the project and other events. Records must be kept of the project.”
(Nigeria)

ADVICE TO GOVERNMENTS

For any project to be successful, realistic and appropriate relationships with governments are vital. NGO workers in the field present insights to governments that can improve the probability for a successful program. NGOs in the field also realize how globalization and the world economy directly affects the local level, and call for strengthening government policy to provide real development assistance to people living in poverty. The advice to decision-makers has been categorized into overarching themes, followed by specific information that will be helpful for governments in program development and policy formation.

OVERARCHING THEMES

Education is Essential

- ◆ Appreciate the crucial role of education
- ◆ Budget for the necessary subsidization of education
- ◆ Give more attention to adult literacy
- ◆ Provide civic and political education, especially in rural areas
- ◆ Provide enough information so communities can be successful – e.g., in agriculture, people need to know about climate change and its effects

Continuity and a Healthy Social Structure are Necessary for Long Term Success

- ◆ Understand that true development projects are always for the long term
- ◆ Assume responsibility for long term continuity, management, and supervision
- ◆ Provide basic infrastructure and technology
- ◆ Ensure social stability through a political climate free of war and military domination
- ◆ Integrate social services with the economic structure
- ◆ Eliminate corruption
- ◆ Streamline bureaucratic structures

“Don’t be afraid of alternatives. They can cut costs for people and government.”
(USA)

“Education is key in the search for more justice in the world. The untapped excellence of the poor is being wasted in the need to survive.”
(Bolivia)

“It is the duty of the government to provide [for] its citizens. NGOs are not substitute machinery to fulfill the [obligations] of the government.”
(India)

Funding is Critical

- ◆ Direct more government funding to rural areas that have little infrastructure and limited civic and market participation
- ◆ Ensure that money from the government goes directly to those responsible for project management, not to an intermediary
- ◆ Appreciate that basic services will always have to be subsidized
- ◆ Facilitate and/or encourage training in accounting and financial management

Cooperation Can Enhance Effectiveness and Creativity

- ◆ Cooperate between departments in government
- ◆ Deal with local community organizations that know the people, instead of large organizations that might be convenient but are not part of the community
- ◆ Promote projects at the federal and local level of government in collaboration with local business
- ◆ Involve the people who live in conditions of poverty in program development
- ◆ Engage the community positively; avoid warnings or admonitions

NGO/Government Relationship is Not Easy to Negotiate But is Essential to Highest Levels of Success

- ◆ Share information with NGOs
- ◆ Involve local NGOs in planning programs
- ◆ Monitor, analyze and evaluate all projects
- ◆ Facilitate and support the work of NGOs
- ◆ Tap the expertise of NGOs
- ◆ Guarantee transparent and accessible processes, especially for small, rural NGOs
- ◆ Recognize the differing but complementary roles of NGOs and government

“Invest in rural areas by providing farming inputs, implements and irrigation systems. In rural farming areas the communities need a lot of civic education.”
(Zambia)

“More funding for types of transitional programs—especially those that focus on the career as opposed to the job.”
(USA)

“The importance of government organizations facilitating the work of NGOs is very important. It seems that some NGOs are sometimes closer to the heartbeat of the people.”
(Bolivia)

Economics, Politics and Policy Go Hand in Hand

- ◆ Recognize that poverty eradication is impossible in areas of insecurity and conflict
- ◆ Hold dysfunctional government institutions accountable
- ◆ Incorporate lessons learned from best practices and model projects into legislative policy at national and local levels
- ◆ Create a priority setting process for development spending based on input from local people, including women
- ◆ Become more transparent at all levels to help build confidence in political system
- ◆ Empower women to improve quality of life for the family, the community and the nation

Government Investment is Needed in Rural Areas

- ◆ Focus on the *integral* aspects of rural development: physical infrastructure, education, health care, job creation, market access, irrigation, etc.
- ◆ Reform land ownership and give rural cooperatives access to public land
- ◆ Broaden opportunities for rural employment so people do not have to move to cities
- ◆ Provide regional agricultural technicians and experts
- ◆ Assist in developing marketing strategies for small farmers
- ◆ Employ new strategies for simple and sustainable development like solar energy
- ◆ Fund research on new sustainable farming techniques and water harvesting projects to address climate change

“Eradication of gender violence is necessary in the attainment of genuine social transformation.”
(Philippines)

“They provide micro-loans with the thought that you merely have to put money in the hands of a person and all is resolved.”
(Nicaragua)

“Poverty reduction programs will become successful when there is political will among politically educated and sensitized people.”
(India)

Globalization Presents Challenges

- ◆ Provide outright foreign debt relief with social controls to poorest countries
- ◆ Evaluate structural adjustment policies, World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, free trade agreements, Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) programs and International Monetary Fund (IMF) policy for internal consistency and their impacts on poverty reduction goals
- ◆ Recognize that village life is evolving in response to globalization, making families and communities less able to meet traditional responsibilities
- ◆ Reduce expensive imports by promoting food self-sufficiency
- ◆ Set trade policy to protect local products from negative aspects of international markets and to increase their productivity and ability to compete
- ◆ Work to address the core problems instead of just the symptoms

“In areas of insecurity and conflict, poverty eradication projects are impossible... At the present moment all our energies and funds are spent trying to keep people alive.”

(Zimbabwe)

“Problems of poor people do not depend on one aspect only (infrastructure, education, health care, production etc.) but poverty is a result of a lack of all these elements at once.”

(Bolivia)

BEST OF THE BEST

The reports from the field demonstrated the human dimension and inspirational nature of each project. Ideally, information on all 46 projects would have been presented in detail,* but space does not allow for this. Narrowing down the “best of the best” was extremely difficult.

The Sub-Committee wanted to include projects that represented the diversity of the responses received: various regions, social groups, types of project, etc. However, in spite of this effort to maintain balance, three exceptionally strong projects from Bolivia were selected.

While the following projects are highlighted as exceptional, short descriptions of many other innovative projects can be found in the chart in Appendix 2. In reading our “best of the best,” you will notice that local communities identified their needs in many different ways and, using local resources, organized to solve them. We hope this report of their successes will provide useful advice for policy development, as well as inspiration for others trying to eradicate poverty in their communities.

*If you would like more information on the additional projects, see the NGO contact list on page 56, or contact:

FranIntl@FranciscansInternational.org

Franciscans International
211 E 43 St, Room 1100
NY, NY 10017
USA

“The motivation of an animal to care for has helped other children remain with their families... In the case of Joseph, it is a specific plot of land, entrusted to him by a relative, that has kept him with his family for three years now.”
(Burkina Faso)

“If they can make the dream of obtaining access to safe water a reality together, they might dare to dream of creating a cooperative for the wool products, or of installing latrines, or of any number of development efforts to improve their lives, and regain their sense of human dignity.”
(Bolivia)

Survey on Best Practices in Poverty Eradication

Name of poverty reduction project:

The Courtyard of a Hundred Trades

Name of NGO affiliated with project:

International Movement ATD Fourth World

Location of project:

BURKINA FASO

- **Annual program budget:** \$53,000²
- **Source of funds:** Individual donations, both locally and from abroad, UNICEF-Burkina, NGO funders
- **Rural or urban:** Both. We work with children living in the city, and with their families in 8 rural provinces.
- **Average income of participants:** In the city, the children, who are sleeping out of doors, earn money for food by doing odd jobs or begging. Their families are part of the agricultural, rural economy, but have few means and struggle to survive.
- **Special characteristics of participants** (gender, age, etc.): Children, age 8-18, living in the streets

What is the purpose of the project?

Globally, more and more rural families are becoming fragmented, with children leaving for the city. Many of these children end up living in the streets, living a hand to mouth existence, with their health and well being in grave danger. We run a Street Library program as a way to meet these children and initiate a dialogue with them. In the Courtyard of a Hundred Trades we offer them the possibility to discover various trades: carpentry, masonry and metalwork skills, as well as writing and illustrating books with them.

Although the children have become estranged from their families, we support efforts made by their families to find a place for their children within the rural economy so that the children can eventually return home to live.

Project characteristics:

- **Number of participants served each year:** 250 children and their families

Please describe what your project has done that you consider successful in improving the living conditions, quality of life or environment of the participants.

These children, who used to be banished from the streets every time the city was preparing a festival, now have the pride of being able to contribute to the economic life of their families and their country. Reuniting children with their families is a very gradual process, which may begin with short stays. When children do return home, they are no longer living in the harsh conditions of the streets and are able, in turn, to help improve their families' lives.

How were participants involved in each stage of the project (planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation)?

Several years ago, this project was exclusively an activity with children living in the streets of the city. The

² All dollars US, unless otherwise noted.

children said, "We don't like living in the street. But how can we return home without work?" So in the Courtyard of a Hundred Trades, local artisans join us to introduce the children to various professions. It was over a period of several years that the children asked for help in contacting members of their families. Members of the Fourth World Volunteer Corps then accompanied them on visits home to the countryside and developed a dialogue with their parents about the situation. Meetings with these parents from eight different provinces highlighted many of the issues that need to be addressed to improve their situation.

Are there future plans for the project?

We are in the process of investing more of our time in the rural communities the children come from. ATD Fourth World has been present in the city of Ouagadougou since 1984, but has been working closely with families in rural communities only for three years now. We are now spending more and more time in these communities in order to learn from them what is necessary in supporting children who return home.

What changes happened in peoples' lives that let you know that the program is successful?

Inoussa went home to help his family with farming in 2000. After the season was over, he returned to the city. In 2001, he again returned home to make bricks to repair his parents' home. His father said, "I can find work here for Inoussa." This was a big change because, two years earlier, the same father had said to the Fourth World team, "My son is better off with you in the city." Although his father was now

convinced that Inoussa belonged with his family, Inoussa himself still hesitated to remain for good. So the Fourth World team is supporting his father in the purchase of a sheep or a goat that will be completely entrusted to Inoussa's care, so that he will have a specific long-term responsibility in the village. The motivation of an animal to care for has helped other children remain with their families, like Salif, who has now remained home for two years, despite some brief trips to the city. In the case of Joseph, it is a specific plot of land, entrusted to him by a relative that has kept him with his family for three years now. He has helped his family to grow more food, and to begin growing rice and raising pigs for the first time.

What was a major obstacle you met during this project? How did you manage that obstacle?

The parents have described many of the obstacles in keeping families together:

- Today, there are fewer constraints than in the past tying children to traditional life. As the country evolves from a rural to an urban economy, the roles for different members of the family in the village are less clear.
- There is more momentum drawing people to the city, to the point where a mother may advise her son to go to the city because she has heard of other children finding work there.
- As families become less extended, there are fewer options in stressful situations. Before, a child who had disobeyed or been troubled by a family dispute might have spent some time living with relatives before coming home. Today, the same child is more likely to run away to the city.

- Once children have tasted the independence of life in the city—despite all the hardships, and even when they did not succeed at earning any money—it can be hard for them to accept the structures of village life again. This is even more the case as village life itself is evolving in response to globalization in ways that make life less stable for everyone. Faced with these obstacles, we try to be very close to the children and their parents to support their efforts to reunite.

What advice would you give others considering a similar project?

When parents say, "My child is better off with you," it is important to understand their reasons for saying this. It does not mean that they do not want to have their children home, but that they need support to be able to offer their child a real future.

Based on your experiences, what ideas do you have that could be useful to government decision-makers?

We continue to be haunted by the questions of why children come to live in the streets and what could prevent this. We continue to look for answers from people living in deep poverty. What we *have* learned is that it is false to imagine that children in the streets have been abandoned or that their parents have given up on them. The children we meet are worried about their families, but feel too ashamed to return home. The parents we meet have hope and ideas for bringing their children home. We have also learned how much residents of the city and of the rural communities have to learn from one another despite all that separates them.

Contact information:

c/o Diana Skelton, NYCteam@4thworldmovement.org.

Survey on Best Practices on Poverty Eradication

Name of project:

Social Earth Project/Proyecto Social Tierra

Name of affiliated NGO:

Franciscans International, Bolivia

Location of project:

Apacheta, Sud Lipez, BOLIVIA

What is the purpose of the project/program?

- To foster social and economic development among the rural communities of the Lipez region (Potosi Dept., Bolivia)
- To ensure adequate, secure, meaningful and long-term employment for the people of the region so they will not need to emigrate to neighboring countries
- To motivate workers to become trained and thus ensure the long-term continuity of the project

Project characteristics:

Proyecto Tierra is both a Bolivian business and a foundation and has developed several sub-projects to accomplish its goals:

- **A mining-industrial enterprise** for the production of boric acid in Apacheta, Sud Lipez. This is located at an altitude of 5000 meters in the Bolivian altiplano near the Chilean border.

- **A Safety Delegate** from the health post to provide medical assistance to the rural communities
- **Educational scholarships** to students from the region that permit them to continue university studies in Bolivia, and afterwards return to serve in their provinces of origin
- New **alternative projects**, such as an organic coffee production plant in Los Yungas and a small peat production operation in La Paz

Proyecto Tierra is the first socio-economic project in this region. During more than 10 years of operation, it has guaranteed a steady source of work for approximately 300 residents of the area. It has provided the workers with decent pay and medical assistance for their families.

Number of participants served each year: 300

Annual program budget:

The Earth Project manufactures \$4 million of boric acid annually. One hundred per cent of this is put back into the project itself.

Sources of funds:

The project currently finances itself. However, it originally received its financing from a Belgian funder: Cooperación Belga. It then became independent and created a Bolivian firm and a Bolivian foundation and reinvested 100% of its profits back into the project.

The industrial project was possible thanks to 3 important loans from international institutions: Interamerican

Investment Corporation (CII-BID), Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society - Holland (EDCS), and the Mining Bank of Bolivia.

Rural or Urban:

Rural. The Apacheta plant is situated in the Sud Lipez province of Potosi, in one of the poorest areas of Bolivia. It is located in the arid desert of the altiplano at an altitude of 5000 meters.

Average income of the participants:

The average salary is \$US 250/month, determined according to a salary scale from 1 to 4. In addition workers receive social security, all social benefits given by law, and medical attention for their families and communities.

Special characteristics of participants (gender, age, etc.):

Men. Miners with an average age of 30. The Coffee Production project was envisioned as an alternative to the boric acid production project because of the health problems of workers after several years working at an altitude of 5000 meters. In this project entire families are the workers: men, women and youth. Here each one receives a decent wage for his or her work.

Please tell us what the project/program has done that you consider successful in improving the living conditions, quality of life, or environment of the participants:

- Guaranteed permanent jobs in one of the poorest regions of Bolivia, through the development of a socio-industrial, long-term project. Provided workers with a decent wage and medical attention for both the workers and their families.
- Worker-managed production and administration at the Apacheta plant. Everything is under the control of the workers, including both their on the job training and other training, depending on their choice.

How have the participants been involved in each stage of the project (the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation)?

- This project came about because of the desire of the inhabitants of the North Lipez province to maintain sources of work in their region and avoid the need to emigrate. Together with the leaders, they discovered the borax deposit and were able to develop this boric acid factory project.
- The project is supported through the self-formation of the older and more experienced workers. In the absence of engineers, the entire system of internal on-the-job training took place within the firm. It was carried out by technicians in the various parts of the factory.
- The project is characterized by the participation of the workers in the management of the company, particularly those workers with major responsibilities for the system of production and administration. As a matter of fact, however, production is entirely in the hands of the workers.

What future plans do you have for the project?

We plan to continue the project and thus to guarantee its survival long-term. We are looking for the necessary markets and are looking to train a team of directors for the long-term.

What changes have come to the lives of the participants that show the success of the project?

- The majority of the families in the Los Lipetz provinces were used to having their men emigrate during several months of the year to find work to support the families. For the workers that have found work with Proyecto Tierra, this is no longer necessary.
- Prior to this project, there was no help in meeting the basic health needs of the communities of Los Lipetz, except for a few basic sanitation posts with a health care worker. The project ensures 1 full-time doctor and 1 dentist to attend to the needs of the families of the workers as well as to community in general. At the current time, this service is provided in around 15 communities.
- Thanks to the health and safety representative in charge of the project, several workers who had on the job accidents were attended to immediately and were promptly sent by the plant doctor to Calama-Chile, two hours from the plant. Such prompt action no doubt saved their lives.
- The project has improved more than 300 kilometers of roads in the region, permitting a major tourism development in the region which has many beautiful lagoons and saltwater lakes in the southernmost area of Bolivia.

- The project is integrated with the neighboring country of Chile because the supply of boric acid produced is shipped out through the nearest town which is Uyuini, Chile. About 50 people (almost all of whom are Bolivian) work in Chile to transport the products between Bolivia and Chile and to ship out the boric acid through Chilean ports.
- Because of the scholarships given by the Fundación Lipetz, more than 15 youth have received professional training. The dentist, who is a part of the medical team, received his training because of the foundation. The foundation also allowed a young man from the region to become certified as an engineer. He later worked in the project. Others are pursuing technical careers and when they have finished their training will be returning to work in the region.

What has been your greatest obstacle during the project?

On August 28, 2000, after 10 years of hard work to get the project to be economically and commercially stable, the entire project was paralyzed when the anti-drug police unit of Bolivia and Chile intervened saying that they have received an accusation that 10,000 tons of sulfuric acid had been diverted to the narcotics trade. Fifteen people, those accused of being directly responsible, were jailed and only regained their provisional liberty after several months (10 months in Chile, 4 in Bolivia).

The sulfuric acid used by Proyecto Tierra is required to eliminate the mineral impurities from the borax and to transform it into the final product, boric acid. Unfortunately, it

is also used in Bolivia for the production of cocaine. However, in the Earth Project, all of the sulfuric acid that is imported is used to produce boric acid. After prosecuting the case for 2 years, the prosecuting attorney was not able to prove a single accusation against the project. Many scientists have given testimony to show the absurdity of the accusation. However, the case still continues. At this moment they are awaiting the verdict on the first charge. National and international public opinion is supportive of the struggle of the workers to recover their jobs and demonstrate their innocence to everyone.

Private economic interests are really behind the accusation. This false accusation was promoted by Chilean and international competitors who wished to eliminate the Earth Project enterprise from the market so that they can take over the rich borate reserves for themselves.

How did you handle this obstacle?

All of the Earth Project workers undertook a long-term public demonstration (7 months of mobilization with their wives and children in the capital, La Paz). They wanted to force the government to reopen the business and get back their source of employment. It was during this struggle that a Chilean firm in the boric acid business was trying to buy the company's reserves. The workers who discovered this are continuing to fight to prevent both the closure of the enterprise and the surrender of its mineral rights and mineral fields to the competition.

Fortunately, since November 2001, some 200 workers were allowed to begin production again under the supervision of a court-appointed supervisor chosen by them. Nonetheless, serious market problems persist and the pending verdict

continues to threaten the survival of the business in the long term.

What advice would you give to others thinking about a similar project?

It is very difficult to bring about the survival of an economic project that depends on world markets for its survival especially when the business is located in an underdeveloped, dependent country of the South. If the project is too small, the project will fail. If the project succeeds in gaining a market, it will have to face international competition that tries to eliminate it from the market. There has to be a very solid leadership team to oversee the marketing – one that is very aggressive and can successfully take on the current challenges in the world market.

It is very important that the workers be responsible for the project and be involved in making the important long-term decisions regarding it, because it is the workers who will constitute the major force to defend the project.

It is also very necessary to ensure the formation of the workers because it is the only way that the long-term survival of the project can be ensured.

Based on your experience, which ideas do you think are useful for decision makers in government?

It is necessary to give preference to social projects that provide *stable employment for large numbers of people* in a particular place. In rural areas, employment is the most important means to keep the population from emigrating to the cities and to solve many other social problems.

True development projects always are long-term projects. It is not particularly useful to spend time on short-term solutions because these have no future. Instead, decision-makers need to promote long-term projects.

It is important that the participants in the project, its beneficiaries, be associated with decision-making. This is also a fundamental element that better serves to guarantee the survival of a social project. In its crisis stage, every economic project should have a social component, which improves the living conditions of the people.

Contact information:

Fdeacon@FranciscansInternational.org

Survey on Best Practices in Poverty Eradication

Name of poverty reduction project: Unidad Académica Campesina de Carmen Pampa (in Bolivia) and Carmen Pampa Fund (in United States)

Name of NGO affiliated with project:
Franciscans International

Location of project:
Carmen Pampa
BOLIVIA

What is the purpose of the project?

The mission of the UAC-CP is: To make higher education available to young people of rural areas and those who are, for whatever reason, unable to pursue such studies; to prepare men and women who, inspired by principles of Christian vocation, are called to the service of others, with a high quality professional training and a commitment to Christian principles to guide their decisions; to be in constant search for truth and goodness by way of learning, research, and community extension; to develop extension programs through specific projects that meet the needs felt in communities; and to integrate the successes of the university community into the countryside, strengthening and developing progress and socio-economic liberation, through academic, research and extension activities.

Project characteristics:

The UAC-CP is a non-profit university situated 111 km northeast of La Paz, in the Nor Yungas province of the Department of La Paz. The university is located in the community of Carmen Pampa, 15 km from Coroico. It is a university that offers higher education to the rural regions of the tropical north of Bolivia and to youth from the marginalized areas of the city of La Paz.

The institution was created Oct. 4, 1993, by an inter-institutional agreement between the Catholic University of Bolivia, the Coroico Diocese, the Franciscan Sisters and the Villa Nilo Subcentral, the local governing body of the indigenous people.

In 1990, the UAC project, which contemplated the aspiration to create a university in Carmen Pampa, was approved. In 1992, the construction of the first block was started and was finished in 1993. The farmers of the Villa Nilo Subcentral collaborated with materials in the construction. The second and third blocks were built from 1996 to 1997 and 1999 to 2000, respectively. The project recently began the construction of a fourth block due to the great influx of youth from the rural area.

The operation of academic activities began in the first block in 1994, starting the course with 58 students. From 1995 to 1998, the number of students grew from 108, to 133 and from 128 to 220 students respectively. The new academic year of 2002 started with a student population of 572 students. The majority of these students come from the tropical and sub-tropical zones of Bolivia and from the marginalized zones of El Alto in La Paz.

Originally the UAC-CP only offered technical degrees in Agronomy and Veterinary Science. However, in 1995 the students of the UAC-CP aspired to have a bachelors degree to be better educated and consequently better prepared to bring help to their community. Thus, at the end of 1995, the technical nursing program presented a bachelors program to the main Catholic University of Bolivia, which was then approved and initiated in 1996. The following year, in 1997, the Agronomy and Veterinary programs also presented programs for bachelors degrees, which were approved on Oct. 14, 1998. A great leap was made in offering higher education and in this way gave equal opportunity to students from the rural area.

The UAC-CP now offers bachelors degrees in Agronomy, Nursing, Veterinary Medicine/Animal Husbandry and Primary Education. The last began as a special program to permit rural professors to gain their bachelors degree and in 2001, it began as a formal program.

Number of participants served each year:

The actual enrollment in the University is 570 students (2002). The project also had direct beneficiaries in the communities in which it serves through extension services. The Public Health Department attended over 1,250 people in its five health posts and made nearly 3,000 home visits last year. The Veterinary and Agronomy Departments also reach about 150 families through various extension projects.

Annual program budget: \$492,000

Sources of funds: Carmen Pampa Fund, private donations, religious institutions and foundations.

Rural or urban: Rural

Average income of participants: The average annual family income in the area is \$200.

Special characteristics of participants:

The University is dedicated to the service and education of the indigenous rural youth from the tropical and sub-tropical areas of Bolivia. The University is also dedicated to equal opportunity and education for women. The student population is 49% women, an unheard of number in a Bolivian university. Over 80% of the student population comes from the rural tropical areas or from the marginalized zones of the city of La Paz.

Please describe what your project has done that you consider successful in improving the living conditions, the quality of life or environment of the participants.

The University has had 16 students graduate from its four areas of study and there are currently over 80 students who have defended their theses project and are in the final stages of their education. These are all students who had no other opportunity to higher education open to them. In the communities the quality of life has improved, especially in health terms. As the Public Health Department visits each community every week, access to health care has greatly improved. Agricultural and animal management and production techniques have also seen an improvement in the surrounding area.

How were participants involved in each stage of the project (planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation)?

The community was involved from the first planning stage of the project. The idea for the university itself came from the community members. The planning and construction also involved very close participation of the community members. Currently the advisory board of the University includes the local governing body's representative to provide local monitoring and evaluation.

Are there future plans for the project?

The University recently embarked on a major construction of a 4th block of buildings. This will increase the student (on campus) capacity to 600 students. The University will expand and/or change according to the needs felt in the surrounding communities. However, the central mission will always remain the same.

What changes happened in peoples' lives that let you know that the program is successful? (Please be as specific as possible).

We do not have much history in terms of our graduates but all those who have finished their studies have good jobs or are continuing their studies. We have data that demonstrates improved health in the communities we serve through family farms and public health services. We have increased our income (financing) to 48% and thesis projects (research) are directed towards the resolution of real problems that affect the communities.

What was a major obstacle you met during this project?

Rejection of the concept of educating "campesinos" to this level. An attempt to water down the academic challenge. Lack of faith development. Financing.

How did you manage that obstacle?

Insisting and demonstrating, but obstacle 1 remains. We built up a challenging curriculum. Financing is still a problem because we are small and have no political connections.

What advice would you give others considering a similar project?

Do not duplicate what exists. Have enough money in a dedicated account to guarantee a year plus construction and focus on fund raising from day one. Have faith and courage to be true to your mission.

Based on your experiences, what ideas do you have that could be useful to government decision-makers?

Education is the key and education in the rural areas should receive the same emphasis as in urban. Educating the poor ALWAYS must be subsidized.

Additional comments:

Education is key in the search for more justice in the world. The untapped excellence of the poor is being wasted in the need to survive.

Contact information:

Fdeacon@FranciscansInternational.org

Survey on Best Practices in Poverty Eradication

Name of poverty reduction project:

Tierra Madre Sustainable Community

Name of NGO affiliated with project:

Elizabeth Seton Federation

Location of project:

Sunland Park, New Mexico

UNITED STATES

What is the purpose of the project/program?

The program seeks to establish an alternative, self-sustaining and intercultural community that addresses issues of people's poverty and degradation of the earth along the border of the United States and Mexico. It provides affordable housing (straw bale houses) and preservation of the environment by working on creative alternatives (passive solar, water harvesting etc.)

Project characteristics:

- **Number of participants** served each year: 250
- **Annual program budget:** \$150,000.
- **Sources of funds:** Foundations, individual contributions and some government funds.
- **Rural or urban:** Sunland Park is still considered a rural "colonia" due to economic conditions.

- **Average income of participants:** \$12,500 for a family of four
- **Characteristics of participants** (gender, age, etc.): This is a Mexican immigrant population, 95% Spanish-speaking, all ages and some single-parent families.

Please describe what your project has done that you consider successful in improving the living conditions, quality of life or environment of the participants.

Families who never dreamed they would own a home now have energy-efficient, attractive homes that will last about 100 years. The homes are straw bale and use passive solar heating so that the R factor is 35. Thus families can eliminate high energy bills while preserving the environment. The use of solar water heaters and a solar gray water pumping system also decreases water bills while saving water in the desert.

How were participants involved in each stage of the project (planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation)?

Fourteen families were involved in the research for the type of house to be built, location of houses, and design of the neighborhood. Residents have been on the Board of Directors from the beginning. Through monthly meetings, they plan the next steps of the community, and take ownership of the future economic strategies that will be implemented.

Are there future plans for the project?

The economic strategies are still being designed by the residents. Houses are still being built and the residents continue to be engaged in activities that enhance community-building.

Tierra Madre has been a provider of technical assistance for many other groups that are attempting to implement various aspects of the project.

What changes happened in peoples' lives that let you know that the program was successful?

- People who were afraid to speak began speaking to the City Council to groups interested in replicating the project and to groups that might fund the project.
- People waited and raised money for 7 years before the first houses were completed.
- People passed the word to friends who might be interested.
- Tierra Madre was named “best practice” by H.U.D. because of the families’ work.

What was a major obstacle you met during this project?

There were many obstacles, but the major one was convincing the local developer that we were not his competitor and that the houses would be better than the trailers he was providing. He was not willing to turn a road over to the city so that we could begin building. Basically, there was ignorance and fear of alternative development.

How did you manage that obstacle?

We had lots of meetings with the developer, the city, the state, the alternative builders, funders and anybody who would help us educate the doubters. The wider our circle of

support grew, the more acceptable the project became. Lots of press helped.

What advice would you give others considering a similar project?

Form relationships with everybody you can. Meet with all the stakeholders (city planning, mayor, church officials, developers, university, local residents, etc.) to assess needs. The more people involved the more support. Educate yourselves, city officials, state inspectors, mortgage companies, title companies, the state land office, and the community on straw bale housing, re-use of gray water, and water harvesting. Fund raising and public relations will link many organizations and individuals to the project. Be patient since it is a long process, but a strong sense of community will result from the struggle.

Based on your experiences, what ideas do you have that could be useful to government decision-makers?

Don’t be afraid of alternatives. They can cut costs for people and government.

Contact information:

Elizabeth Seton Federation, Fedngo@aol.com

Survey on Best Practices in Poverty Eradication

Name of poverty reduction project:

Training Women's Groups for Empowerment in Poor Communities

Name of NGO affiliated with project:

Elizabeth Seton Federation

Location of project:

Surket, Birendranagar
NEPAL

What is the purpose of the project?

To empower women of poor communities through:

- Training in formation of groups
- Imparting skills in managing micro-credit
- Imparting skills in small-scale entrepreneurship

Project characteristics:

- **Number of participants** served: 120 women each year and 32 girls
- **Annual budget:** 7,71,300 Nepal Currency first year (\$10,200 US), 597,500 NC second year
- **Source of funds:** 1) Caritas Nepal 2) Local contributions
- **Rural or urban:** Midwestern Nepal, rural setting with limited infrastructures

Specific characteristics of participants (age, gender, etc.): The participants are rural women from poor households, illiterate, either landless laborers or with

little land and most of them with no decision-making power in the family, and illiterate adolescent girls, aged 13 to 18, who have never been to school or who have dropped out of school before completing Class III.

- **Average income of participants:** The average annual family incomes are NC 13,000 (\$175 US)

Project description:

- Women are motivated to join the training programs through meetings with individual women.
- Training is given in developing various skills, e.g., making of smokeless stoves, construction of pit latrines, plastic and nylon bag-making, poultry farming, planting kitchen gardens and vegetable farms, bee keeping.
- The staff of the center meets with the women to form groups and assist the groups in the villages to plan various activities.
- Several awareness programs in the villages are held with the help of the participants.
- Non-formal education (literacy) centers are conducted for women and girls.

Please describe what your project has done that you consider successful in improving the living conditions, quality of life or environment of the participants.

- Improved self-confidence in the participants; remarks like, "Now I can read what is written, and keep accounts for my shop."
- Improved enrollment of girl children in the schools
- Increased resistance by the women to alcoholism, polygamy, trafficking, child marriages and child labor

- Increased readiness to invest time in meetings and joint ventures to improve their living conditions
- Improved economic standards through income-generating activities with credit mobilization from their micro-credit savings
- Demonstrated readiness to move away from faith healers and making use of the existing health facilities
- Improved sanitary conditions
- Increased assertiveness in family decision-making because of improved economic conditions of the women themselves
- Increased men's support of women in their activities as a result of gender sensitivity training
- Demonstrated breakdown of caste barriers as a result of training in tailoring (Earlier only a particular caste would tailor clothes)

How were participants involved in each stage of the project?

Women participated in needs assessment surveys, group meetings, training sessions, and project evaluation.

Are there future plans for the project?

The impact created by this program has been noticed by the local administration and the local leaders of the villages have requested that the program be expanded. The donor agency has promised their support for another three years. The plan is to extend the program to a number of new poor villages.

What was a major obstacle you met during this project?

The people were suspicious about the intention of the NGO coordinator (someone from another country) and men objected to their wives' and daughters' participation.

How did you manage this obstacle?

Transparency in our dealings, tireless visits by field workers who convinced the people of the genuineness of the organization, and by the NGO's participation in the village functions.

What advice would you give to others considering a similar project?

- Be as transparent as possible to target groups regarding the NGO's vision and mission.
- Be sure to get the support of the local government, local officials and leaders. Get them involved in the program. Ask for their suggestions. Inform them and invite them to functions.
- Get the support of men if you would like their women to be involved in the program.

Based on your experiences, what ideas do you have that could be useful to government decision-makers?

Ask them to provide good infrastructure for the benefit of the poor, e.g., communication facilities, halls for people to gather, etc.

Contact information:

Elizabeth Seton Federation, Fedngo@aol.com

Survey on Best Practices in Poverty Eradication

Name of project:

Rural Drinking Water Systems & Health/Hygiene Charlas of Andean Altiplano of Bolivia

Name of NGOs affiliated with project:

Maryknoll Office For Global Concerns

Location of project:

Andean Altiplano
BOLIVIA

What is the purpose of the project?

To provide historically marginalized rural Andean communities (typically between 25 and 100 families) the opportunity to obtain access to safe drinking water and better hygiene practices. Such drinking water systems usually come in the form of spring-fed, gravity-flow approaches. Manual hand pumps are installed where no springs exist or where there is no adequate fall. Each community's drinking water community is provided with continuing education courses on the administration, operation and maintenance of the water system.

Project characteristics:

- **Number of participants served each year:** 4 to 6 communities, on average, 40 families each (with 5 persons per family). Around 1000 people.
- **Annual program budget:** On average, around \$10,000 to \$15,000 per community drinking water

system (with domestic tapstands) and \$150 per hand pump for each family.

- **Local partners:** A local Bolivian rural sustainable development NGO "Suma Jayma" (good, works in Aymara, the local indigenous language); the basic sanitation superintendent of the local municipality; health workers from the various local health centers; guidance in the form of design criteria/construction plans from the Bolivian Government; and help from Maryknoll lay missionary since 2000. Of course one of the key local partners is the community itself.
- **Source of funds:** Water/sanitation/hygiene focused NGOs (Water for People, Waterlines & others); local municipalities (with funds from decentralized government programs, as well as foreign debt relief)
- **Rural or urban:** Rural
- **Average income of participants:** \$1 to \$2 per day
- **Special characteristics of participants** (gender, age, etc.): Often these rural Andean communities are made up of an older than national average population, as many (but not all) of the younger members have migrated to the urban areas in the search of a better life that is often not found. Also, many families are separated for long periods at a time as often the father migrates to the city to work in the informal economy (e.g. selling TV antennas on the city sidewalks) or to other regions, such as the subtropical areas of Bolivia, called the Yungas, during the slower seasons outside of planting and harvesting.

Please describe what your project has done that you consider successful in improving the living conditions, quality of life or environment of the participants.

Beyond providing an opportunity for community members to organize together to obtain access to safe drinking water as well as gain a better understanding of improved basic hygiene and health practices, the most successful aspect of this project has been the focus placed on community involvement. This project has given the local people the opportunity and space to carry out a community effort using existing organizational skills and indigenous values which place a heavy emphasis upon achieving consensus and community.

How were participants involved in each stage of the project (planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation)?

The community members hold the lead roles in partnering with the various grassroots organizations. Meetings are held in their typical style (our only change is encouraging the women to speak, as traditionally with the Aymara people only married men are the ones to do so) and in their local language. In these meetings, the conditions of the project and the members' concerns are "aired" extensively. (These communities have almost all had negative experiences of empty promises in the past, either from NGOs or from the government.)

The community participates in the topographic survey in selecting the route of the waterlines (with minimal technical guidance given only as needed), the formation of a drinking water committee responsible for calling meetings and directs trenchline excavation, pipeline and plumbing installation (learned on the job from the local NGO Suma Jayma).

Community members also collect each participating family's cash support to help buy materials (around \$10 to \$15 per family, which is one of the conditions we require), as well as monthly tariffs for maintenance after the system is installed (typically around 20 cents or so per family per month).

In the past, committees have also led community discussions in which certain families, either due to their severely impoverished situation or often for widows, decide together what would be a fair reduced cash contribution. The drinking water committee members have full access to the knowledge of how the funds received from the NGOs are spent. The committee has one of its member's names placed on the bank account opened for each project, as well as assists in the quoting and purchasing of construction materials. As mentioned earlier, follow-up courses have been given on an annual basis for members of drinking water committees from the same region to participate in developing their plumbing, accounting, health/hygiene practices, etc.

Many times the most exciting moments of the inaugurations (which always include plenty of food, drink and dance) are when community members speak of their renewed sense of communal confidence. If together, they can make the dream of obtaining access to safe water a reality, they might dare to dream of creating a cooperative for the wool products, or of installing latrines, or of any other number of development efforts to improve their lives and regain their sense of human dignity. This is not through the hope of receiving just another handout, but rather as an understanding of themselves as one partner among many working together.

Are there future plans for the project?

To continue, learning from past experiences, and improving the process. Two current obstacles include lack of funding options, and lack of time available on the design/budgeting/proposal preparation process. However with each project the local NGO Suma Jayma takes on more of these responsibilities with guidance from the Maryknoll missionary, who will be in Bolivia through 2006.

What changes happened in peoples' lives that let you know that the program is successful?

A few instances of hope that come to mind include:

- After a rural teacher of a one-room school (1st to 3rd grades together) had a tapstand placed in the schoolyard, she encouraged the parents of the school children to consider installing a public shower so that “two kids can take a shower each day”. The water is heated by black polyethylene tubing on the roof of the school building.
- A community member of Laymiri responded to my question, “How was life before the drinking water system was installed?,” by saying, “Without water, there is no life.”
- Women and children no longer have to walk down to (and back up from) the creek that passes below the village, where they had once drawn water daily alongside their livestock.
- A greenhouse project, installed earlier by an NGO in the schoolyard had been practically abandoned for lack of water to irrigate. Now such small-scale irrigation

projects (often depending on the amount of flow available for each community which varied widely) allow this child-driven project to flourish.

- The community members have a sense of accomplishment and a renewed willingness to take on other challenges in the future as a community.
- My hope is that more of the little ones who are dying before their time will live to see another day.

What was a major obstacle you met during this project?

Our inability to successfully encourage women to actively participate as acknowledged community leaders, i.e., to be members on the drinking water committees. To have active participation of women in the community meetings was difficult because typically only married men have the right to speak. Meetings already place a great emphasis, not so much on majority-rule, but achieving a community-wide consensus whenever possible. Besides the cultural bias, other obstacles for women committee members include their already heavy workloads and often the inability to read and write.

How did you manage that obstacle?

We have tried different approaches. In Pucara Pajchani, we set it as a condition that at least one woman should be on the committee in order for the project to be funded. The community members had the members' names written out including that of a woman. However, outside of that “paper” requirement, she never took an active role.

In most communities, there are typically a handful of women who do make their voices heard in the community meetings. When they are reluctant to do so, we often try to

encourage them by reminding the community how it is women who are the ones that are often fetching the water, using the water, and when the system fails (which they all will sooner or later), will be the first to demand that the system be repaired.

It is said that the woman has a lot to say in the Aymara culture. Community decisions are made through her discussion with her spouse in their own homes. The women have almost always been the ones to determine exactly where their household tapstand will be placed. Besides that, in our current drinking water system under construction in Chojñapata, we do have an older woman who was named by the community to be a member of the drinking water committee and she has taken an active role in its activities. I really do not know why we have been successful there and not elsewhere. One reason might be that this community is closer to the city than the others, and thus might have more “modernizing” effects upon the community thinking.

What advice would you give others considering a similar project?

If the “others” are from the north, I would recommend their resisting the natural instinct to want to assume the “head honcho” attitude. We need to be taking an active role, accompanying and encouraging local leaders who understand the local reality, speak the local language, and who will still be in the area well after we have completed our goodwill tour of duty. I have found the community members to be much more open and honest with their initial concerns with the local leaders (in my case, partners with the NGO Suma Jayma and the municipal basic sanitation superintendent) than they ever would be with me. Not to mention, besides knowing how to say “I want to eat potatoes” (Nayax choquenak manqañ

munta), I cannot communicate in their first language of Aymara, and that further restricts communication of expectations and trust building among the partner groups.

I think a major obstacle to such successful grassroots efforts is the frequent distrust (prejudice?) that international donors have with local NGOs, i.e., there must be a gringo present to make sure the money is being spent correctly. Hopefully this will change with time, but better networks involving international funding groups and local NGOs would be a step forward to building that trust.

Based on your experiences, what ideas do you have that could be useful to government decision-makers?

That’s a tough one. Corruption is so rampant. Perhaps promoting more transparency at all levels would be a first step to help build confidence in the political system. I think that foreign aid is often used to promote the national interests of the donor country, as well as an excuse for that country not to do more for these developing countries (How many times have I heard from people back home, “but we already give so much”?) Aid is much less effective than outright foreign debt relief with some kind of social control put in place.

Finally, hopefully the governments would have some kind of priority-setting process for their development spending based on input from the local people at the “base.”

Contact information:

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, Jfgehrig@yahoo.com

Survey on Best Practices in Poverty Eradication

Name of poverty reduction project:

Rabouré Agricultural Co-op

Name of NGO affiliated with project:

Elizabeth Seton Federation

Location of project:

Cap-Haitien

HAITI

What is the purpose of the project/program?

- To enhance the image of farming as an honorable profession.
- To make it possible for poor individual peasants to band together in order to acquire the necessary materials and skills to develop a co-operative community garden which will generate income for its members.
- To increase the availability of nutritious vegetables for the farmer's family members and thus improve their nutritional status.

What are the project characteristics?

- **Number of participants served** each year: 60 peasants
- **Rural or Urban:** The location of Rabouré Co-op is in the rural area of Terrier Rouge. This village is situated halfway between Cap Haitian and Dajabon on the Dominican Republic border.

- **Source of funds:** Initial funding came from (1) Prince Edward Island Co-op (Canada); (2) Development and Peace, headquartered in Montreal and spearheaded by the Council of Canadian Catholic Bishops; (3) Canadian Embassy in Port-au-Prince which manages funding for small projects; (4) Rotary International, under the leadership of Rotarian Edward Hall from Holden, MA, USA, who provided the co-op with solar panels to pump the water used on the vegetable farm.
- **Average income of participants:** In 2000, the Haitian average national income per capita was \$510/yr or \$1.40/day. The daily income of the Co-op members was probably around \$1.40 to \$1.50 per day.
- **Characteristics of participants (gender, age, etc.):** The ratio of men to women in Rabouré Co-op is approximately 60% men and 40% women. The age of Co-op members ranges between the mid 20's to the late 60's, with the average age being around 50.

Please describe what your project/program has done that you consider successful in improving the living conditions, quality of life or environment of the participants.

- Members have converted arid land into a very productive vegetable farm. They harvest around 20 different varieties of vegetables.
- The agricultural technician responsible for the training of the peasants succeeded in changing some of their less productive working habits into more efficient ones.
- The Co-op has served as a model and a motivational factor for the development of several other food producing co-operatives in North Eastern Haiti: (1) *Cooperative de transformation de Terrier-Rouge* with a

membership of approximately 30 peasants who are now planting peanuts, beans and other staple crops; (2) the *Terrier Rouge Young Peasants Co-op* which regroups 50 young people; several of them have a technical college degree in agriculture from St Barnabas Agricultural College in Terrier Rouge; (3) community gardens which have sprung up in the North East zone of Haiti since 1998 (Derac, Paulette, Grand-Bassin, etc.) where the Rabouré agricultural technician has given advice and some training in vegetable production.

- Peasants at Rabouré Co-op grow vegetables without the use of chemical fertilizers. They also make use of biodegradable pesticides.

How were participants involved in each stage of the project?

All members of the co-op are involved in the operation of their organization. They meet on a weekly basis to discuss key issues concerning the running of the Co-op. On a rotational schedule, they take responsibility for the surveillance of their land and buildings on a 24-hour basis. They also rotate the responsibility of promoting and selling the Co-op's vegetables.

Are there future plans for the project?

Rabouré Co-op is going to continue to operate as an effective co-operative. It is such a visible success that groups from many regions of Haiti come to witness its accomplishments. In this respect, Rabouré Co-op has become a model which is being replicated in several areas.

What changes happened in people's lives that let you know that the program is successful?

- Improved health and reduction of disease among members, including their own families. Members bring home various vegetables, including the leafy variety ones. Given the high content of vitamins and minerals of these foods, they reinforce their immune systems so that members and their families are less prone to disease.
- Source of income. Sale of vegetable products has brought an income to the Co-op members. With this money, they have been able to send more children to school and buy essential items for their households, etc.
- Creation of employment. Terrier-Rouge has a high unemployment rate. The fact that Rabouré Co-op provides 60 jobs makes a significant contribution to the overall welfare of the community.

What was a major obstacle you met during this project? How did you manage that obstacle?

- Interpersonal relations. In the first years of operation, conflict erupted around suspicions of dishonesty on the part of a key member and this caused major difficulties. The suspected fraudulent, but influential member was asked to withdraw from the Co-op and thereafter, this person placed obstacles in the path of our development.
- Low level of literacy of the members. Only around 10% of the membership is able to read and write so this limits the number of candidates who can act as president, vice-president, secretary or treasurer. However, the Co-op has managed to surmount this obstacle by actively encouraging those members who are literate and willing to serve on the Co-op Board.

- Theft of solar panels. The Co-op was robbed of some of its solar panels by a group of organized criminals who targeted community vegetable co-operatives. Intensive efforts were made by Co-op members to catch the robbers and they were successful. A 24-hour guard is now in place to protect the property of the Co-op and any newly installed solar panels are now placed in a secure cement base.
- Expansion of land titles. Presently, the Co-op is restricted to 5 acres of land owned by the Saint Peter Church Council of Terrier-Rouge. This is a limiting factor for our expansion. Difficulties in accessing public land are still present but, given its excellent track record, Rabouré Co-op hopes to be able to access some public land in the future.
- Access to seeds. Seeds are expensive and not always available nor appropriate for a tropical climate. Efforts are made to collect seeds from the regular seed-yielding crops. Solutions to this problem still remain to be worked out.

What advice would you give others considering a similar project?

- Place a great deal of emphasis on the education of members regarding the operating principles of a co-operative and have them participate in the formulation of statutes which are adapted to their needs. Several years are required before co-operative principles become internalized by the membership and act as a guide for their behavior.
- Identify a competent agricultural technician to oversee

the activities of the peasants. The current success of Rabouré Co-op is largely due to the skills and the progressive developmental approach of its current agricultural technician.

- Monitor the financial management and accounting of the co-operative.
- Aim for vegetable production without the use of chemical fertilizers through composting, use of manure, crop rotation, etc. Avoidance of synthetic pesticides is also possible through the use of natural insecticides.

Based on your experiences, what ideas do you have that could be useful to government decision-makers?

- The government should invest in the provision of free technical advice to peasants by paying the salary of regional agricultural technicians.
- Land reform should be implemented in a just manner so that peasants have access to a reasonable plot of land on a sufficiently long-term basis to encourage investment.
- Government assistance in the development of marketing strategies and in the development of adequate roads is vital for the future of agricultural production of Haiti.

Contact information:

Elizabeth Seton Federation, Fedngo@aol.com

CONCLUSION

"Eradicating poverty is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind."

--General Assembly Proclamation for the
First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

The members of the NGO Sub-Committee for the Eradication of Poverty undertook this project to help meet our own "Millennium Development Dream" to eliminate poverty. When we surveyed our networks for their best practices, we were struck with their creativity and eagerness to tell their story to help others. While individual projects might address a single cause of poverty, the surveys give an overview of how multifaceted, complex and embedded poverty really is.

We were also faced with the reality that poverty is by and large a women's issue. Local NGOs have invested their energy, time and resources with this social group, understanding that rural women have a great role to play in poverty eradication. Two-thirds of our survey returns came from rural areas with half from programs for women. Capitalizing on the collective strength of rural women would be an effective strategy for governments. Governments would provide rural women with needed infrastructures to access water, energy, basic health care, micro-credit, adult literacy programs, training for capacity building and useful technology. Rural women should be included in all phases every program governments undertake on their behalf and on behalf of their communities.

The primacy of local community relationships and participation was stressed repeatedly. Sadly, some surveys implied that NGOs and government officials were not always cooperative partners: we noted mistrust, aloofness, and corruption as obstacles. Other surveys made concrete suggestions as to how NGOs and governments could assist and support each other in pursuit of their common goals. Governments were encouraged to share relevant information regarding rural development goals, projects, assets and problems with NGOs, to involve local NGOs in planning programs, and to tap the expertise of NGOs, as well as include them in the monitoring, evaluating and analyzing of rural development projects.

The importance of education was highlighted in all its aspects: for self-respect, for job training, for sustainable development, for community empowerment, for family improvement, for capacity building, for specific knowledge, for technological literacy, etc. NGOs provided both formal and informal education in a variety of ways, and through this promoted local inspiration and creativity to solve a global problem.

While our survey questions focused on individual poverty eradication projects, respondents also noted how international financial institutions (IFIs) affected development initiatives. They pointed out a lack of coherence in policies of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization, Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiatives, etc. They were particularly concerned about the pressure on developing nations to cut essential development projects or social programs in order to service unsustainable debts, trade subsidies that protect northern agribusiness at the expense of farmers in developing nations, and the need for “good leadership to face the negative aspects of the actual world markets.” While macro policies may have helped to improve the overall economies of some of the developing countries, they have done little to improve the lives of the most destitute. An *integrated approach* to development, both at the national and international levels, must have macro and micro development policies that work in unison.

Because of widespread interest in this project, we will continue to accept surveys and examine the data in various ways. For instance, further study of the surveys received from the Least Developed Countries, or those focusing on women or youth, will deepen our insight for each specific sector. After analyzing the projects from rural areas, we were able to present our results at the 2003 High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council: “Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development.”

The members of the NGO Sub Committee for the Eradication of Poverty are pleased and privileged to be able to present this array of voices. We believe that our project has taken a step toward meeting our own “Millennium Development Dream” of eradicating poverty by creating a tool to put ideas into the hearts and heads of people who can make a difference.

APPENDIX I

SURVEY ON BEST PRACTICES IN POVERTY ERADICATION

Name:

Position:

Name of Poverty Reduction Project/program:

Name of NGO or other organization affiliated with Project/program:

Address of Project/program:

What is the purpose of the project/program?

Project/program characteristics:

Number of participants served each year:

Annual program budget:

Source of funds (one to three main sources):

Rural or urban:

Average income of participants:

Special characteristics of participants (gender, age, etc.):

Please describe what your project/program has done that you consider successful in improving the living conditions, quality of life or environment of the participants.

How were participants involved in each stage of the project (planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation)?

Are there future plans for the project?

Stay the same? Expand? Close? Be replicated?

Comment:

What changes happened in peoples' lives that let you know that the program is successful? (please be as specific as possible)

What was a major obstacle you met during this project?

How did you manage that obstacle?

What advice would you give others considering a similar project?

Based on your experiences, what ideas do you have that could be useful to government decision-makers?

Additional comments:

This survey is also available in French, Spanish, and German.

APPENDIX II

Chart of All Projects Submitted

#	Name of Project (NGO)	Service	Region/ Location	Rural/ urban	Beneficiaries	No. per year	Budget (\$US)	Funding Source	Obstacles	Voice
1	St. M. Euphrasia Self Help Projects (Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd)	Training courses resulting in small projects, where women work from their home selling breakfast, sewing...	Khartoum, Sudan	Rural	Majority Women, illiterate, from North and South	50	Approx. \$5,800	Caritas, Spain, Aid Link, Ireland, Friends of the Good Shepherd, Germany	Poor market, impatience to perceive gain immediately so capital disappears.	“Changes: Willingness on the part of the women to express their views in public; houses are better kept.”
2	Guaraní Peoples Assembly (Hermanas de la Presentación, Bolivia)	Support assembly in production, infrastructure, health, education and territory.	Bolivia	Rural	Indigenous Farmers	3,000	\$100,000	Catholic Church Foundations	Lack of funding; alcoholism of men.	“Alcoholism decreased when major projects and frequent meetings ... tended to give home to Guaraní men and their families.”
3	Presentation Partners in Housing (Presentation Sisters)	To assist those who are, or are at risk of, being homeless.	Fargo, ND	Both	Young, female, single, head of household, mentally/physically ill, elderly, refugees	420	\$68,879	Alex Stern Foundation	Finding private landlords that do not require background checks.	“What is it like for someone to have to decide between paying for a car repair or paying the rent – Do they go to work or have a roof over their head?”
4	Committee for the Orphans (Presentation Sisters)	To support relatives to take care of orphans. Women’s co-ops sewing, farming.	Southern Province, Zambia	Rural	Housewives, women above 30, 230 orphans, 120 families	500 +	\$4,000	Different donors, local fundraising	Last years rains were not enough, now people are starving; lack of interest and hope in new project.	“In the case of agriculture, the govt. needs to give enough information to the people about climate change and its effects.”

#	Name of Project (NGO)	Service	Region/ Location	Rural/ urban	Beneficiaries	No. per year	Budget (\$US)	Funding Source	Obstacles	Voice
5	Youth Community Training Center (Catholic Diocese of Livingstone)	To provide youth training and business opportunities.	Zambia	Urban	15-25 girls and boys, orphans and vulnerable youth	100 every 2 years	\$15,000	Italian Govt.	Poverty; hunger; sick and dying relatives.	“At the end of the course, some of the youth initiated discussions with the staff on whether they should take an HIV test.”
6	Alay Kapwa Christian Community (Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd)	To develop self-reliance for the poor by developing income generating activities.	Manila, Philippines	Both	Mostly women, all ages	20,000	\$20,000	Profit from income generating projects, donations, membership fees	Govt. accusations that project was communist; the subculture of the poor; over-dependency; weak political will; tendencies to cheat; interpretation of religion as oppressive.	“Weekly meetings, seminars, etc., help the members unite towards a common vision. The entry point was the need for water” ... “The stink of the slum has lessened considerably.”
7	Rural and Community Dev. (International Association of Charities)	Improve child and family nutrition, promote community responsibility and solidarity, create employment.	Burkowna, Chernivtsi, Ukraine	Rural	Men, women, children	5,000	\$48,000	Donations and partnership with AIC Italy and Germany	Post-Communist countries do not have tradition of volunteerism or NGOs; lethargy; hopelessness of population.	“To remember that the starting point is not financing, but the poverty existing, to include in training not only technical skills, but raise mental and spiritual awareness...”
8	Giving Attention to a Group of Older People in Miraflores (International Association of Charities)	Giving complete attention to group of older people to improve quality of life, physically and mentally.	Lima, Peru	Urban	Age 70+, mostly women	60	\$60,000	Some international partners, local donations, institutions	General indifference shown to the problems of seniors on the part of the government, their relatives and the community.	“The older people follow various courses of handicrafts, take part in excursions in the country... allowed them to make friends.”

#	Name of Project (NGO)	Service	Region/ Location	Rural/ urban	Beneficiaries	No. per year	Budget (\$US)	Funding Source	Obstacles	Voice
9	Community Dev. National School Cafeteria (International Association of Charities)	National school cafeteria, health component, agriculture, micro-credit.	Madagascar	Urban	Children 5-17, orphans or abandoned, women 30-63	2,225	\$35,612	AIC National associations, occasional donors	Lack of consideration for women as heads of single-parent families.	"...drought destroyed our sowing, grass-hoppers invaded... such difficulties turned the women into genuine participants... they found pride in knowing that they could provide food for their children."
10	Diocesan Social Service Centre, (Elizabeth Seton Federation)	Facilitate basic literacy, health education, knowledge of opportunities available in society.	Suchetna, Bareilly Uttaranchal, India	Rural	Illiterate, adolescent girls, who have dropped out or never been in school	40	\$6,000	Caritas India, local contributions	Program must work hard to convince parents to let girls come since they contribute to family income.	"Today some of the girls have the courage to stand up at government meetings and speak up for the good of others."
11	Timoun Byen Vini Centres (Elizabeth Seton Federation)	Daycare/ kindergarten for infants to 6 years old.	NE Haiti	Rural	Women 23-45 and their children	150	\$6,000	Bishop of Fort Liberté, Haiti, Benefactors coordinated by Sacred Heart Canada	None. (More children up for admission than spots available.)	Daycare teachers received 6 weeks of training from the center... "The alertness level of children has increased."
12	Rural Drinking Water Systems & Health/ Hygiene Charlas of Andean Antiplano (Maryknoll)	Provide basic sanitation, better hygiene practices and safe drinking water.	Andean Altiplano of Bolivia	Rural	Often made up of an older population, since many young leave to look for better life	1,000	\$10,000 to \$15,000	Water and hygiene NGOs, local municipality, Maryknoll	Having women on the drinking water committees was difficult, since only married men have right to speak.	"... my question, 'How was life before the drinking water system was installed?' His response, 'without water there is no life.'"

#	Name of Project (NGO)	Service	Region/ Location	Rural/ urban	Beneficiaries	No. per year	Budget (\$US)	Funding Source	Obstacles	Voice
1 3	Cooperativa Central de Servicios Multipales / Campesinos Activos	To use Sandinista cooperative designated land, and market products.	Jalapa, Nicaragua	Rural	Average age 43, grain farmers and coffee producers	985	\$450,000	Bank loans, Various NGOs from Holland, Spain, UN, US	Neo-liberal economics of the 1990s.	“The purpose is not to grow so much, but to integrate itself with other grassroots groups in the region.”
1 4	Workshop Nutri Soya, (Elizabeth Seton Federation)	To create, distribute and sell protein-rich food to fight malnutrition.	Manakara, Madagascar	Rural	Children, and many single mothers with several children	100 per day	61.5 million FMG	Cooperation Française	Lack of knowledge about soy from the local population.	“This is a soy and rice-based flour; all the elements, except imported vitamins and minerals, are from Madagascar.”
1 5	Empowerment of Women/ Development Among Rag Pickers (UNANIMA International)	Create women leaders, who understand the importance of savings.	Gujarat, India	Rural and semi-urban	Unemployed and uneducated women age 22-50, farmers, rag pickers	2,500	R.S. 13,000, 000	MANOA UNIDAS, CARITAS, Diocese of Ahmendabad, local contributions	Political disturbance; domestic abuse.	“They have to have their own savings thus giving them their own identity.”
1 6	Kyengera Biyinzika Farmers (The Grail)	Improve nutrition and income through sustainable agriculture.	Kampala, Uganda	Semi-urban/ rural	Mostly women between 20-80, Christians	700	\$1,500	Sale of surplus farm products, odd jobs, small loans, Dutch and Grail friends	Convincing participants that small over-used land is useful after compost fertilizing.	“...team work in making compost for organic fertilizers, planting, weeding, harvesting, plus improving on bird/animal shelters...”
1 7	Central Asistencial Verdruna (UNANIMA International)	Feeding children, education, counseling.	São Paulo, Brazil	Urban	Children, families	140 children	--	Federal, local and women religious	Finance; violence; drugs in area.	“In order to receive assistance the children must be in school.”

#	Name of Project (NGO)	Service	Region/ Location	Rural/ urban	Beneficiaries	No. per year	Budget (\$US)	Funding Source	Obstacles	Voice
18	Bribie Island and District Neighborhood Center (Presentation Sisters)	Emergency referral services.	Bribie Island, Australia	Both	Mainly families with children under 18	50 per day	AU \$150,000	State Dept. of Families, Federal Dept of Family and Community service	Funding; steady volunteer base; burnout of volunteers; participant morale.	“We do not need more large bureaucracies— this is ineffective model for human service provision.”
19	Empowerment of people in the villages of Rajgir, (Elizabeth Seton Federation)	Empowerment of members of the lowest caste through self-help, education and organization.	Chetanalaya, Bihar, India	Rural	Men & women 20-50, children 6-14	5 to 7,000	\$20,000	Diakonia, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Central and State governments	Illiteracy, caste system, lack of funds, delays in release of government funds.	“Literacy makes the people have dignity and self-worth, and confidence...less victims manipulated by the upper class.”
20	Hospital Sacre Coeur (by Crudem Foundation, St. Louis, MO)	To provide primary, secondary healthcare and immunization of children.	Milot, Haiti	Rural	Healthcare services are provided without regard to age, state of health, economic status.	32,000	\$72,000	Patient revenues, Crudem Foundation (St. Louis)	Staff have never worked in a well-managed organization so they have no experience of what that is like.	“no generally available statistics that measure the general health status of the pop” makes it hard to tell if services are effective.
21	Coopérative Agricole Rabouré de Terrier Rouge (Elizabeth Seton Federation)	Enhance image of farming as profession, improve nutrition, coordinate individuals, materials and skills for a community garden.	Cap-Haitien, Haiti	Rural	Terrier Rouge villagers-farmers, many unemployed	60	---	(Initially) Prince Edward Co-op (Canada), Development and Peace (Montreal), Canadian Embassy, Rotary International (MA, USA)	Initial mistrust & fraud by one of leading members, illiteracy, theft, access to seeds, land restrictions.	“Members spontaneously verbalize the health improvements...” “Sales have brought income, with this money they have been able to send more children to school...”

#	Name of Project (NGO)	Service	Region/ Location	Rural/ urban	Beneficiaries	No. per year	Budget (\$US)	Funding Source	Obstacles	Voice
2 2	Thrift and Credit Saving Schemes through Self Help Groups (Elizabeth Seton Federation)	Savings and credit groups, empowerment and human rights education.	Chetna Bharati, Jharkand, India	Rural	Members of the lowest caste who are daily wage earners (women and girls)	2,500	\$15,000	Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Diakonia and Government	Male-dominated society; small staff; illiteracy.	“Organizing women through saving schemes is very good provided they have a scope to sell their products made due to their savings and credit.”
2 3	Animation in 10 Villages of Birdha Block (Elizabeth Seton Federation)	Literacy, health care for pregnant mothers, savings and credit.	Birdha Block in Lalitpur District, Jhansi diocese, India	Rural	Men and women 18+	15,000	\$6,000	Caritas India	Opposition from landlords when tenants become empowered.	“People realize and speak out about the importance of education of self and the children. Women start asserting rights in the family. Self help groups are formed and common issues are taken up and solved.”
2 4	Margaret House (Elizabeth Seton Federation)	Education assistance and activities for youth, services for mothers, home visits for sick and disabled.	Seoul, Korea	Urban	Boys and girls, aged 8-16 in study program, 45-80 years in home visit program	12,000	\$25,000	The children, city government, donations, sales, salaries of the Sisters of Charity	Finding good volunteers; funding; little personal space for Sisters in residence.	“After the children study at our center they are much better persons... They have a feeling of community and being together.”

#	Name of Project (NGO)	Service	Region/ Location	Rural/ urban	Beneficiaries	No. per year	Budget (\$US)	Funding Source	Obstacles	Voice
25	Unidad Academia Campesina de Carmen Pampa (Franciscans International)	Making higher education accessible to rural youth by offering degree programs and preparing those interested in vocational studies (religious).	Carmen Pampa, Bolivia	Rural	Regional youth	570 students 440 other	\$492,000	Carmen Pampa Fund, private donations, religious institutions and foundations	The belief that campesinos should not be educated at this level; financing; attempts to water down the academic challenge.	“The untapped excellence of the poor is being wasted in the need to survive.”
26	Self-sustainability (Presentation Sisters)	Empowerment through self-reliance and increased quality of life enables widows to send kids to school.	Kaoma, Western Province, Zambia	Rural	Subsistence farmers, mostly women and village communities	500 +	Dependent on projects and donors	Presentation Sisters and friends	Uncertain funds; challenge of projects (i.e. building a fishpond).	“There is a big need to dig wells...chicken runs and fishponds...”
27	Income Generating Activities Micro-credit Facilities (University Village Association, The Grail)	Provide training in record keeping, savings, market networking, and small industry development.	Ibadan, Nigeria	Rural	Men and women, 21+	500	800 Naira	UNICEF, International. Foundation for Self-Help Projects, Centre for Development and Population Activities	Funding.	“250 participants through soft loans have been able to establish their own small scale industries in the areas of soap making, pomade making, tie dye, candle making, agriculture, etc.”
28	Tierra Madre Sustainable Community (Elizabeth Seton Federation)	Affordable, earth-friendly housing in a supportive community.	Sunland Park, New Mexico, USA	Both	Mexican immigrant population, Spanish speaking, all ages	250	\$150,000	Foundations, individuals, some govt. funds	Local developer was afraid of competition; ignorance re: alternative development.	“Families who never dreamed they would own a home now have energy-efficient, attractive homes.”

#	Name of Project (NGO)	Service	Region/ Location	Rural/ urban	Beneficiaries	No. per year	Budget (\$US)	Funding Source	Obstacles	Voice
29	Women in Self Help (WISH) (Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd)	Job-readiness and training (computer skills, resume writing, interviewing skills, academic review).	Brooklyn, NY	Urban	Females, aged 27-60	165	\$378,000	NYS Dept. of Labor Displaced Homemaker Program	Recession and scarcity of jobs.	“Self-confidence/esteem issues are as important as training.”
30	Fundación Nuevo Nacimiento (Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd)	Support girls involved in, or at risk of prostitution with education, some health care. Psychological help for reintroducing adult prostitutes to society.	Medellin, Antioquia, Colombia	Urban	Girls, aged 7-14 Adult prostitutes 20+ (women)	130	\$25,500	Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar, private entities	Funding.	
31	Mountain Maid Training Center (Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd)	Provide training and job opportunities, alternative income and Christian formation to poor working (college) students & financial aid to sisters' apostolate.	Baguio City, Philippines	Urban	Indigenous young men and women, economically deprived working students 16-24 yrs Widows, single mothers 27-58 yrs	250 - 300	P 62,780,666	Sales from the production and bank interest income	Tribalism, materialism and consumerism among youth; deteriorating education system; “death dealing values” and lack of employment.	“Graduates have returned to their own communities to serve their own people.”
32	Maternal and Child Empowerment Program (Catholic Women's Organization, The Grail)	Help young or widowed mothers care for children and finish their schooling, AIDS prevention, skills training, emergency relief.	Idah, Nigeria	Rural	Young or widowed mothers	All parishes	\$10-15,000	Catholic Women's Organization partners in Idah, Nigeria and Fulda, Germany, funds from members	Communications (mail services).	“Youth learned how to develop the spirit of self-control...effects of drug and sex abuse, abortion and its prevention and sex education.”

#	Name of Project (NGO)	Service	Region/ Location	Rural/ urban	Beneficiaries	No. per year	Budget (\$US)	Funding Source	Obstacles	Voice
3 3	O.S.C.A.R. Social Program of Construction of Rural Access Roads (Franciscans International Bolivia)	Construction of roads; formation of health educators and teachers; sustainable agriculture/soil protection, and its the only alternative to military service	Bolivia	Rural	Men who lost their jobs in the mining industries, who later bring their families to areas for rural farming.	600 families	\$800,000	Alternative Development, USA, Ayuda en Acción, Spain, Cardinal Leger, Canada	People's expectation that all changes in their living situations must come from outside and that someone else is responsible for their suffering.	"For the really poor people, basic formal and non-formal education on a personal and communal level must come first."
3 4	Navjyoti Training Centre, (Elizabeth Seton Federation)	Group formation, skill development, ex: smokeless stoves, nylon bag making, and literacy.	Western Nepal	Rural	Poor women, illiterate, landless or with little land	120 women 32 girls	\$7-10,200	Caritas Nepal, Local contributions	Men not allowing wives/daughters to participate.	"Transparency in our dealings and tireless visits by field workers participating in village functions convinced the people of the genuineness of the organization."
3 5	Fishers Project Aja/Apapa Catholic Communities (The Grail)	Promotes awareness of, healthy eating of fish and seafood, selling of some fish.	Lagos, Nigeria	Rural	Men, women and children, 5-50	45 families	\$1,000	Grail, Jesuit Society	Funding.	"Through meeting with the leaders-fisher men and women – the work is then divided out and shared..."
3 6	Art and Cultural Activities with Children (International. Movement ATD Fourth World)	Educational and cultural activities with children living under a bridge.	Bangkok, Thailand	Urban	Children ages 12-15 and their families	100 children	\$30,000	Individual donations, local and international, some sales of cards and books, donated materials	Building trust with parents, giving priority to children viewed as "less capable;" including the most marginalized.	"Families who live in the open air suffer as much from lack of dignity and from being cut off from society as from all the material lacks in their lives."

#	Name of Project (NGO)	Service	Region/ Location	Rural/ urban	Beneficiaries	No. per year	Budget (\$US)	Funding Source	Obstacles	Voice
37	The Courtyard of a Hundred Trades (Intl. Movement ATD Fourth World)	Working with children living in the streets, street library program, teaching professional skills, and supporting family relationships.	Burkina Faso, Ougadougou and villages	Both	Children 8-18, living in the streets and their families	250 children	\$53,000	Local and international individual donations, UNICEF	Urbanization; separated families; family roles are less clear as country evolves from a rural to urban economy.	“We have learned it is false to imagine that children in the streets have been abandoned or that their parents have given up on them.”
38	Maison Quart Monde-Marseilles (Intl. Movement ATD Fourth World)	Cultural activities with children.	Marseilles, France	Urban	Algerian, Bosnian, Comorian, Gypsy, French, Iraqi, Mauritanian, Moroccan, Spanish, Tunisian, Turkish children and their families	70	\$45,000	General Council (Regional Govt.), Ministry of Youth and Sports, individual donations	Tension in housing projects; limited resources.	“We also need to learn a great deal about people’s cultural origins to even know what poverty means in their culture and to understand who might be having the most difficult time.”
39	Social Earth Project/ Proyecto Social Tierra (Franciscans International Bolivia)	Boric Acid Cooperative, provides basic health care, year round paid employment and scholarships for students.	Sud Lipez, Bolivia	Rural	Men, 30 yrs old	300 workers and families	Project earns \$4 million per year	Loans from Inter-american Corporation of Investments, Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society, Holland and the Mineral Bank of Bolivia.	Accusations that the project was selling boric acid in narcotics trade.	All the workers demonstrated for 7 months in the capital. During this time the Chilean Boric Acid business was trying to buy the deposits of the company.
40	Self-Help Groups (Samaj Vikas Sanstha-Chndwa) (Elizabeth Seton Federation)	120 self-help groups are monthly meetings that provide support, collective emergency funds, and small entrepreneurial businesses.	Jharkhand, India	Rural	Women ages 20-50, most with elementary education	10,000 direct 50,000 indirect	\$300,000?	Catholic Charity Fund	Lack of funds; lack of convenient access to villages to collect funds; lack of office or building for volunteers to coordinate activities.	“The women learn to make their own decisions, make rules and regulations for their group management.”

Additional projects received:

- A. General Comments from International Association of Charities regarding poverty eradication: What role NGOs should have in projects as well as advice for relations between volunteer organizations and projects.
- B. Presentation Sisters project in Philippines with Australian sponsors. The activities of the program are unclear. Some sort of broad-based well-funded family sponsorship.
- C. Letter from Zimbabwe that does not describe project, location etc., but says that the situation in Zimbabwe is dire.
- D. Triple L Model for Action Research with Grassroots women. From Philippines: Listening, Leadership, Livelihood.
- E. Training of Trainers. Comments about a book, Training for Transformation—A Handbook for Community Workers. The Grail, South Africa.
- F. Education Center for Preventative Health & Education Center for Leisure Time, Bolivia. Not enough info on projects, good comments on continuity and grass roots centered organizing. Specific obstacles since project is near guerilla areas.

*To find out more information on any of the projects listed, contact FranIntl@FranciscansInternational.org, or see page 54 for a complete listing of NGO contact information. This report, as well as more individual project information, is available online at www.FranciscansInternational.org and www.ngocongo.org.

Or write to:

Franciscans International
211 E 43rd St, Rm 1100
NY, NY 10017
USA

APPENDIX III

The following NGOs worked actively to create this report:

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Cnolan8345@aol.com

Congregation of the Mission, Jpfc@netscape.net

Elizabeth Seton Federation, Fedngo@aol.com

Franciscans International, FranIntl@FranciscansInternational.org

The Grail, Grailconh@igc.org

International Association of Charities (AIC), fax: 1-212-585-1987

International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, Crlubin@erols.com

International Movement ATD Fourth World, c/o Diana Skelton, NYCteam@4thworldmovement.org

International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation, Pbvmipa@msn.com

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, Jfgehrig@yahoo.com

Medical Mission Sisters, Philoa@MedicalMissionSisters.org

School Sisters of Notre Dame, Ssdunngo@earthlink.net

Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, c/o Lauren Appelbaum, Spssi@spssi.org

UNANIMA International, Fergcf@earthlink.net

VIVAT International, Larry@VivatInternational.org

ABOUT THE NGO SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

The NGO Sub-Committee for the Eradication of Poverty was founded on October 13, 1999, by members of the NGO Committee for Social Development, to aid the United Nations in working toward Goal 2 of the Social Summit of Copenhagen: "Eradicating poverty in the world, through decisive national actions and international cooperation, as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative." The Sub-Committee chose to focus on human poverty, which is measured not only by economic indicators, but by indicators related to health, education, access to water, etc. The Sub-Committee has authored numerous position papers for UN conferences, has maintained dialogue with the UN Secretariat and with government representatives at the UN, and has sponsored events at the UN for young people to speak about their role in fighting poverty.

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