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Innovation
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innovations

Poverty Alleviation Solutions
November 2011

Tupandi Fund for Agricultural Development

Tupandi, Brazil

The Tupandi Fund for Agricultural Development (FUNDAT) supports and provides incentives for agricultural activities in this small agricultural town in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, in the far south of Brazil. The fund established an agreement between City Hall and the tenant farmers whereby City Hall subsidizes the producers and the latter would agree to issue bills of sale for every transaction made. The economic dynamism provided by FUNDAT's direct and indirect results also played a role in increasing income and public investments in the township. The increase in collections generated a virtuous circle in the local economy that can be seen in all productive sectors. [More info](#)



Sunshine Aid Project

Qingda, China

With an emphasis on transparency, openness and fairness, the Qingdao's Sunshine Aid Project is a complete urban social security program in which different services are provided depending on the beneficiary's individual and family conditions through a five mechanism process. The program also explores temporary aid, housing, health, and education aid, and private mutual aid arrangements in order to increase the cohesion of urban social security. Preliminary exploration into integrating urban and rural social security has already begun. The initiative was established in 2002 and by the end of 2003, a total of 15,348 households, or over 36,000 individuals were receiving social security. This is about 1.5% of the urban population. [More info](#)

Toluca Municipal Small Enterprise Development Fund

Toluca, Mexico

In the last two decades, the municipality of Toluca has flourished into an important economic center, but there are many low-income residents who have difficulty obtaining credit from banks. FONTOL is a small enterprise development program which promotes income-generation projects that create employment. The program's seeks to guarantee permanent access to microfinance through the support of projects that improve the quality of life for the low-income population, and allows them to remain in the community. Through a revolving fund, FONTOL continually supports projects such as service providers, commerce, agri-business, handicrafts, mining and industry. The fund only supports autonomous projects that do not depend on an outside business to function, a restriction which supports the goal of building or improving families' self-sufficiency. [More info](#)



Promotion of Savings in Juntos Families

San Jeronimo and Coporaque, Peru

San Jeronimo and Coporaque are two districts in the Peruvian rural highlands considered amongst the poorest in the country. A conditional cash transfer program satisfies the basic needs of the poorest citizens, which helps to alleviate poverty in the short term but lacks the mechanisms to give beneficiary families alternatives for generating and/or accumulating assets to alleviate poverty in the long term. A pilot program, Promotion of Savings in Juntos Families, was launched to provide beneficiaries in both districts with financial tools through the use and management of savings accounts. The program has three components, including training and financial awareness for the women, financial accompaniment and follow-up, and incentives such as raffles that reward savings efforts with food baskets. [More info](#)



Munggo: The Black Gold of San Mateo *Isabela Province, Philippines*

In the Municipality of San Mateo, Isabela, the local government noticed a marked decline in the rice harvest yield, which was traced to the depletion of organic materials from chemically-intensive farming. Decreasing yields meant dwindling incomes for the farmers. To reverse the trend, the municipal government introduced a different cropping pattern involving rice and munggo (mung bean) production. Mung bean, a drought tolerant crop, was planted after the rice harvest, when lands are usually left idle to dry during summer. As a result of the program, farmers' income increased, malnutrition in the area declined, and the mung bean has revitalized the nutrients of the soil, thus increasing rice productivity. The municipality is now the mung-bean capital of the Philippines. [More info](#)



Professional Empowerment Program

Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Nation

After realizing that plentiful jobs did not always translate into employed citizens, representatives from a group of tribal services and businesses came together to address the underlying causes of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Nation's high employee turnover rate. The Professional Empowerment Program is helping create healthy citizens and better employees while improving its community through collaborative efforts, self-esteem building curriculum, and services designed to address the well-being of the whole person. [More info](#)

Ndlovu Care Group Rural Advancement Programme

South Africa

20%-40% of people in South Africa's northern-most rural province of Limpopo are HIV-positive and the delivery of basic services is severely lacking. In response, one Dutch doctor and his wife, a nurse: Hugo and Liesje Tempelman started a clinic to get people in the Elandsdoorn community healthy so that they could deliver their own services. After more than 17 years of improving the health of people in this area, the Ndlovu Care Group has proved that HIV is not a death sentence but a capacity-builder. [More info](#)



Family Resource Center Initiative

State of Michigan, United States

Recognizing the connection between service provision and school achievement, Family Resource Centers are school-based sites where customers can access services provided by the state's Department of Human Services and other partners. Department of Human Services staff who work in Family Resource Centers provide vulnerable families with cash assistance, food, clothing, shelter and prevention services; Medicaid eligibility; emergency assistance for utility shut-off, rental eviction and other housing issues; access to community-based mental health services, therapy and other services in agreement with local partner; and school-based parent-involvement programs. Evaluations and reports from partner agencies indicate significantly improved outcomes for children and families due to the increased accessibility of services. [More info](#)

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