



**ACTION AGAINST HUNGER  
IN LATIN AMERICA**

**FOR FOOD.  
AGAINST HUNGER  
AND MALNUTRITION.  
FOR CLEAN WATER.  
AGAINST KILLER DISEASES.  
FOR CHILDREN THAT  
GROW UP STRONG.  
AGAINST LIVES CUT SHORT.  
FOR CROPS THIS YEAR, AND NEXT.  
AGAINST DROUGHT  
AND DISASTER.  
FOR CHANGING MINDS.  
AGAINST IGNORANCE  
AND INDIFFERENCE.  
FOR FREEDOM FROM HUNGER.  
FOR EVERYONE.  
FOR GOOD.  
FOR ACTION.  
AGAINST HUNGER.**

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# FOR ALMOST 40 YEARS, ACROSS NEARLY 50 COUNTRIES, WE HAVE LED THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER

## CHARTER OF PRINCIPLES:

INDEPENDENCE

NEUTRALITY

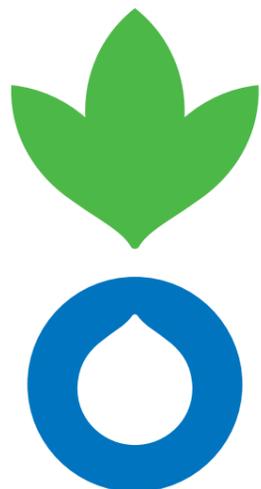
TRANSPARENCY

FREE AND DIRECT ACCESS TO VICTIMS

NON-DISCRIMINATION

PROFESSIONALISM

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Action Against Hunger is a global humanitarian organisation that takes decisive action against the causes and effects of hunger.

We save the lives of malnourished children. We ensure everyone can access clean water, food, training and healthcare. We enable entire communities to be free from hunger.

## WE ARE UNIQUE:



We are **experts in nutrition**. We have a solid technical team that has made great advances in the fight against malnutrition over the last 40 years. Our research is backed by an **international scientific committee** of recognised standing.



We are part of an **international network** which is active in more than 50 countries on five continents.



We apply an **integrated approach** to our work that combines programming from all of our technical areas: nutrition, health, agriculture and livelihoods, disaster risk management, water, sanitation, hygiene in order to tackle the consequences and causes of hunger.



We engage in support to **humanitarian emergencies as well as long term development initiatives**. We continue to support people after a crisis has happened.



We work with **governments** and local partners so that our work can be integrated into their policies and institutions, expanding the scope of our projects and ensuring **sustainability**.



We have an **Emergency Team** ready to be mobilised in **less than 24 hours** anywhere in the world.



We have **mechanisms for transparency** which allow us to track each and every donation made to our organization.



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## REGIONAL CHALLENGES

Latin America is one of the few regions in the world where hunger has been reduced this century. But the pace of progress towards ending malnutrition has slowed alarmingly over the past few years, at times making the desired goal for 2030 fade into the background.

In 2016, **42.5 million** people did not have enough food to cover their daily calorie requirements (6 percent more than the previous year), and chronic child malnutrition affected almost one in seven children under the age of five. This prevalence is much higher in rural areas and, in countries such as Guatemala, it soars to 46.5%, one of the highest rates in the world.

<sup>1</sup> The information cited in this chapter is from: FAO, ECLAC, WHO/PAHO (2017)

The fight against hunger and malnutrition is affected by the stagnation of economic growth in the region where there has been an increase in poverty (30.7%) and extreme **poverty** (10%), affecting 186 million and 61 million people respectively. These poverty levels, which in rural areas impact almost half of the population, most affect children, adolescents and young people. Furthermore, they increase the **climatic vulnerability** of the region, where agriculture is very vulnerable to the effects climate change and natural disasters frequently occur.

Action against Hunger operates using a multidimensional and comprehensive approach to hunger, addressing its causes and effects. We are convinced that progress can be much greater (and can happen much more rapidly) if the appropriate measures are taken.

We cannot solve these problems on our own. So in the region, we work predominantly in the construction of **partnerships** and the creation of links between the different stakeholders in the area, from public authorities and civil society organisations, to the academic world and the private sector. Only by joining efforts and capabilities can we generate lasting change in communities and countries.

We respond quickly and efficiently to **emergencies**, regardless of whether they are caused by natural disasters or more complex crises, such as the drought in the Dry Corridor of Central America, or displacements in Colombia. However, our humanitarian response is always contemporary and complementary to the background work with objectives for medium- and long-term change that we carry out.

We work to prevent and reduce child malnutrition, in particular **chronic malnutrition and anaemia**, applying research and methodological innovation and improving access to **safe water** and sanitation systems. We also carry out programmes for **productive transformation** in rural areas and for **social inclusion**, especially of women and young people who make up one quarter of the population (and who are the largest group in a situation of poverty or economic vulnerability).

We have added new lines of intervention to this integrated approach in order to respond to emerging regional challenges such as the **adaptation to climate change**: we promote more resilient production systems, better management of water resources and water governance, and we have developed new monitoring systems at both community and national levels for disaster risk management.

This ambitious target which the world has set for 2030 requires, needless to say, political, economic and social solutions. However, while we wait for them to arrive, we can move forward if we manage to replicate and scale up an intervention model that is already bearing fruit on the ground. This proposal, which we set out in detail in these pages and for which we are seeking partners, is our contribution to a hunger-free Latin America.

**Benedetta Lettera**  
Regional Desk Officer for Latin America  
Action Against Hunger



**GUATEMALA**

START OF THE MISSION: 1998  
 👤 NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES: 98,574  
 💰 FINANCIAL VOLUME: 5,122,278 €



**NICARAGUA**

START OF THE MISSION: 1996  
 👤 NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES: 56,562  
 💰 FINANCIAL VOLUME: 3,492,565 €



**ECUADOR**

PERIOD OF ACTIVITY: 2007, 2010 and 2016  
 👤 NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES: 59,942\*  
 💰 FINANCIAL VOLUME: 902,154 €\*



**COLOMBIA**

START OF THE MISSION: 1998  
 👤 NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES: 329,588  
 💰 FINANCIAL VOLUME: 14,530,785 €



**BOLIVIA**

PERIOD OF ACTIVITY: 2007-2017  
 👤 NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES: 93,692  
 💰 FINANCIAL VOLUME: 3,863,289 €



**PERU**

START OF THE MISSION: 2007  
 👤 NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES: 103,255  
 💰 FINANCIAL VOLUME: 3,465,705 €



**PARAGUAY**

PERIOD OF ACTIVITY: 2007-2015  
 👤 NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES: 15,884  
 💰 FINANCIAL VOLUME: 1,062,291 €

**BETWEEN 2013 AND 2017 WE HAVE SUPPORTED MORE THAN 750 000 PEOPLE, AND WE HAVE MANAGED A VOLUME OF 32 MILLION EUROS**

● We have also worked in Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico and Argentina and we continue to be present in Haiti under the coordination of Action Against Hunger in the United States.

Figures for 2013-2017, except Ecuador, which corresponds to 2016.

# OUR PROJECTS





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## VALUE CHAINS AND PEACE CONSTRUCTION IN COLOMBIA

### WHAT IS IT?

We have identified processes of production, transformation and links with regional and national markets to strengthen the value chain and increase the income generated in families in areas affected by the conflict in Colombia.

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

With the value chains, alternatives to illegal economies, especially those linked to illicit crops, are provided for rural families and families in peri-urban environments. The resources cover immediate and basic needs and support families in transition to development.

### HOW DO WE DO IT?

The organisation of public-private partnerships is a factor in success. The initiatives are identified from the territory, usually in the form of pre-cooperatives or incipient economic initiatives. To identify the opportunities for and barriers to success, we conducted a social and organisational feasibility and market analysis.

Initiatives are selected based on the principles of opportunity and include different sectors e.g. waste management for composting and the generation of fertilisers for agriculture, links with cocoa-buying markets or the dairy sector, among others.



© Acción contra el Hambre

## GRADUATING FROM POVERTY IN GUATEMALA

### WHAT IS IT?

The “graduation from poverty” methodology consists of providing sequential support to the poorest households, following a progressive logic in which each phase lays the foundation for and leads to the subsequent one.

This sequence, usually developed over 24 months, provides for, in this order:

- Monetary transfers to cover basic needs in food and health.
- Start-up of savings and loan groups with small weekly or monthly contributions of money
- Technical training to improve occupational skills focused on starting a business or getting paid employment.
- Training in personal skills that boost self-esteem and community bonds.
- Transfer of productive assets so as to set up a sustainable business in agriculture, crafts, small livestock, trade or transport.

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

This gradual roadmap is an alternative to more traditional aid approaches which have not managed to reduce chronic malnutrition or poverty in countries like Guatemala in recent years.

### HOW DO WE DO IT?

We are adopting this approach in our projects in the Department of Chiquimula and advising the Government of Guatemala and The Spanish Cooperation Agency in the launching of a pilot project in Sololá.



© Marc Guillen (VIVES project in Spain)

## EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN NICARAGUA

### WHAT IS IT?

Since 2013 we have been working on employment and entrepreneurship projects focused on the strengthening of individual capacities. These interventions aim at facilitating access to employment of people at risk of socio-labour exclusion through the improvement of employability and the acquisition of skills for employment and entrepreneurship.

The VIVES programme, with more than 192 projects running in Spain, has benefited nearly 6,000 people to date, with a result in employment of 52% labour reintegration and, in entrepreneurship, 41% of business plans were carried out. This programme is based on:

- Encouraging personal development.
- Increasing the level of employability and the entrepreneurial skills of participants based on their personal skills, assisting them in setting out their personal and professional objectives and mobilising themselves to achieve them.
- Promoting the creation of networks and synergies through enhancing people’s skills and talents and fostering cooperation amongst them in order to facilitate the processes of change in the environment.
- Mobilising the resources and tools available in the environment.

- Acquiring technical skills.
- Outlining business plans and facilitating financial mediations.

In Nicaragua we are applying this methodology in the Department of Madriz, where we are working with 108 unemployed people (64 of them women) and promoting the implementation of different crafts, tour guide and candy making cooperatives.

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

We approach social inclusion from the perspective of personal skills, providing the most vulnerable groups with tools in order to gain access to sustainable livelihoods, while promoting personal, community and regional development.

### HOW DO WE DO IT?

We organise teams of up to 25 unemployed people who work in a coordinated and collaborative manner in order to find a job or to promote individual or cooperative business ventures. The groups receive technical-professional training and participate in sessions aimed at improving their personal skills. The methodology involves support from socio-labour counsellors throughout the process, in addition to providing supplies and equipment which help launch the business ventures.



© Santiago Villamediana

## PROMOTION OF FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN PARAGUAY

### WHAT IS IT?

Food sovereignty promotion is a project which, through various local alliances, allows us to assist agricultural production and commercialisation, and to empower rural collectives in Paraguay.

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

During the eight years of the programme (2006-2014), a great diversity of agricultural techniques was validated. This increased by about 25% the harvests of farmer families in the Department of Caazapá while diversifying plots and assisting production and commercialisation in the form of a cooperative for new products such as citrus and passion fruit.

This programme also strengthened both the organisational capacity and the services provided by the Coordinator of Rural and Indigenous Women (CONAMURI), while supporting and providing technical advice in the process of formulating a Food and Nutritional Sovereignty and Security Act.

### HOW DO WE DO IT?

We act as a link between various local institutions, such as small farmers' cooperatives, women's organisations, indigenous communities, universities, public services in rural areas and producers.



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## SCHOOLS FOR PEACE AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE IN COLOMBIA

### WHAT IS IT?

The Schools for Peace programme, implemented in more than 40 rural communities in Colombia, promotes the reconstruction of the social fabric through the improvement of the school infrastructure (water and sanitation systems, farms, canteens). In many communities, we also rehabilitate and build social infrastructures so as to improve access to services and development opportunities.

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The school is a relay for the construction of peace in rural areas, since it is a space where the community comes together, generates dialogue and coexistence for its development. The Schools for Peace programme focuses on improving the conditions of the schools, providing children and adolescents with essential basic services in order to maintain and improve their health status, fostering community cohesion and responsibility over their own wellbeing. Furthermore, the improvement of other key social infrastructures also strengthens social cohesion by improving access to services.

### HOW DO WE DO IT?

We install sanitation systems in the schools, and improve water distribution systems, while promoting good hygiene habits and health education with the students and in the communities. We also build and rehabilitate key infrastructure at the community level, such as primary health centres, community centres and rural aqueducts for the distribution of water.



© Boa Mistura

## TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN NICARAGUA

### WHAT IS IT?

We work with communities and municipalities in order to increase the range and promotion of tourist attractions in the Department of Madriz, as an alternative strategy of socio-economic development to subsistence agriculture.

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The majority of families in these communities depend on agriculture as their main source of income. The precariousness of their means of production (scarce land, most of them on dry hillsides) coupled with the effects of climate change make harvests increasingly smaller. This affects both the nutrition of these families and reduces their option chances of receiving an income from selling produce.

In these communities, employment opportunities for young people are almost non-existent, which is why most of them are forced to migrate. The promotion of tourism, when adequate resources and attractions are available, as in the case of the Department of Madriz, becomes a key opportunity to improve the conditions of the families, creating alternatives for employment and entrepreneurship, especially for women and young people.

### HOW DO WE DO IT?

We support the launching of economic, environmental and cultural activities that strengthen the Geopark of the Coco River Canyon, providing technical assistance so that this Geopark, the first of its kind in Central America, can be recognised by UNESCO:

- We oversee the design of tourism products which place a value on the natural, artistic, cultural and gastronomic heritage of the Madriz Department.
- We train young women and men, equipping them with knowledge and skills to improve their businesses and/or start one.
- We strengthen tourism and agro-food cooperatives.
- We improve the basic infrastructures in the surroundings of the Coco River Canyon by means of temporary employment for fathers and mothers of families in a situation of food insecurity.
- We improve the appearance of the urban centre of Somoto and the surroundings of the Coco River, through an artistic intervention based on local culture and colours.
- We provide training courses and equipment to young people who will act as tour guides.
- We facilitate the exchange of experiences with other Geoparks in Andalusia.



**SENTINEL SITES AND SITUATION ROOMS IN GUATEMALA**

**WHAT IS IT?**

The number of days without rain in the corn sowing period, the price of basic foods and the number of children with acute malnutrition, are indicators that allow us to identify the food and nutritional security situation of rural communities in Guatemala. Since 2008, Action Against Hunger has been working on the development of Sentinel Sites. This tool allows the inhabitants of the community to collect and analyse information in order to determine their own nutritional status.

Based on this experience, we launched another similar tool in tandem with Bioversity International and Guatemala's Secretariat of Food and Nutrition Security. The Municipal Situation Room allows data collected on food and nutritional security to be subsequently integrated, analysed and disseminated. This information thus becomes the basis upon which the different actors included in the National System of Food and Nutritional Security (SINASAN) make decisions.

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

These tools contribute to food and nutritional security governance. They allow each territory to identify its own problems, outline mechanisms to deal with the situation and decide on the most appropriate actions in order to resolve it.

**HOW DO WE DO IT?**

We train and provide equipment to community leaders so that they can gather relevant information. Based on the information gathered, the community puts different measures in place to mitigate the impact of a drought or any other threat that reduces the availability of food. Then, the community has at its disposal data and arguments with which to request and plan external support from municipalities, national governments or NGOs. In the last 5 years, different entities have adopted and replicated the Sentinel Sites in more than 100 communities throughout Guatemala.



**DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL CAPACITIES IN PERU**

**WHAT IS IT?**

In the face of meteorological threats in rural communities, such as droughts and frosts, we are strengthening community and institutional capacities, as well as practices for disaster prevention, preparedness and response.

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

Working with rural communities to consolidate their organisational structure, enhance their knowledge concerning disasters, and strengthen their capacities in order to cope with disasters, are essential activities in a more global process of development that is sensitive to an environment subject to adverse events.

**HOW DO WE DO IT?**

In Peru, this model of intervention has been applied with great success, connecting national policies with the local and regional level in order to:

- Protect traditional livelihoods against recurrent climatological threats. In the Andean communities, we have worked with peasant families to protect and facilitate the raising of llamas in the face of cold spells.
- Strengthen risk management at the community level with instruments and spaces for dialogue, taking significant steps towards better risk governance at the local level.



**ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN COLOMBIA**

**WHAT IS IT?**

We mainstream a focus on environmental sustainability in all our projects as part of our work with communities to prevent and reduce environmental and climate change impacts in post-conflict priority areas.

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

In the Colombian department of La Guajira, climatic variability has had a negative impact on acute malnutrition which has risen to five times the national average. For this reason, we are developing actions to mitigate its effects and to strengthen the capacity for adaptation of the means of production of the rural indigenous Wayuu population.

**HOW DO WE DO IT?**

We work on strengthening communities with public-private partnerships in the management of micro-watersheds, reforestation, operation and management of wetlands, and the collection of evidence concerning the impact of their resources. We contribute to risk reduction, increasing community and family resilience.

In coordination with local municipal and environmental institutions, we implemented in Colombia, the same Sentinel Sites strategy we use in Central America. As a result, 1,200 people from five communities have access to knowledge and tools to measure the impact of the climate on their livelihoods, while improving goat livestock management capacity, the main source of animal protein and economic income in the region. These actions are also combined with the provision of water filtration systems and activities of a nutritional nature.



**REDUCTION OF VULNERABILITY TO DROUGHT IN BOLIVIA**

**WHAT IS IT?**

We have been working for more than 5 years on the reduction of vulnerability to drought in the eco-region of the Bolivian Chaco. In this region there are advanced levels of deforestation, soil degradation, as well as high recurrence of disasters (droughts and localised and specific flooding).

The model applied has been that of Management of the Drought Cycle, emphasising the need for continuity between development, rehabilitation and emergency activities, with work revolving around four stages of this cycle: i) normality, ii) warning, iii) emergency and iv) recovery.

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

Working under the “drought cycle” approach facilitates the understanding of drought itself, and helps to determine with greater detail the actions that can be carried out in each of the stages of this cycle, at different levels and with different actors.

**HOW DO WE DO IT?**

In our projects, particular emphasis has been placed on three areas of work:

- Strengthening public and private capacities at national, departmental and municipal levels: contingency planning, preparation of plans and budgets taking into account risk management and monitoring of hydrometeorological threats to improve warning systems.
- Developing community capacities through organisational strengthening and the promotion of the use of low-cost technologies to regenerate watersheds, capture and store water.
- Increase knowledge and social awareness among schoolchildren and the population in general concerning the need to adequately prepare for and mitigate droughts, within the framework of a sustainable management of natural resources.



**YOUTH IN ACTION IN GUATEMALA**

**WHAT IS IT?**

We have developed an advisory council led by young Chortí Mayans in order to improve mother and child health in the communities of the municipality of Jocotán, within the Department of Chiquimula.

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

In Mayan indigenous communities in the rural areas of Guatemala (who make up over half of the population), chronic malnutrition can affect up to 80% of the child population.

In the pursuit of better health and nutrition for children, it is highly beneficial to train and involve young people who in a few years’ time will be parents themselves and, at the same time, to provide them with an opportunity whereby they can educate themselves, interact with their peers and contribute to the development of their own communities.

**HOW DO WE DO IT?**

In partnership with McGill University and with the financial backing of Grand Challenges Canada, we train Mayan youths to act as community advisors on the basic guidelines for feeding and child care. These young people are provided support from our staff and they have an internet connection in their communities, as well as access to a tele-training platform which has been designed for them.



**CHILD NUTRITION IN PERU**

**WHAT IS IT?**

We have been working in Peru for over a decade to eradicate chronic malnutrition and anaemia among children. Our interventions include actions in health and nutrition, food security, water, sanitation and hygiene, and local governance, with a strong sociocultural and gender focus that is adapted to the context.

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

Child malnutrition – and, more specifically, high rates of anaemia – represents a severe public health problem in Peru. 43% of children under the age of three are affected, and this figure increases to 80% in rural areas.

Between 2011 and 2015, our programmes for combating child malnutrition allowed us to reduce the prevalence of childhood anaemia from 75% to 25% in some communities.

**HOW DO WE DO IT?**

We work towards reducing anaemia due to iron deficiency in girls and boys under the age of three through the improvement of family based prevention and monitoring, which are culturally accepted by the community. Our intervention strategy strengthens the work done in tandem with the different stakeholders in the region: public, private and civil society.



**REDUCING CHRONIC MALNUTRITION IN GUATEMALA**

**WHAT IS IT?**

Our programmes tackling chronic malnutrition in Guatemala target the factors that lead to slow growth and development: poor maternal health and nutrition, inadequate feeding practices for breastfeeding women and for children, clinical and subclinical infections, insufficient food and poverty.

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

Guatemala has the highest chronic malnutrition rate in Latin America, and one of the highest in the world (46.5%). This figure is as high as 80% in some rural areas, such as the Department of Chiquimula, and in a large part of the so-called Dry Corridor, a region in Central America where nutritional problems are concentrated.

Slow growth has negative consequences for the physical and mental development of a child, in particular if it occurs in the critical period of their first 1,000 days (from conception until they reach 2 years of age). Slow growth carries an increased risk of illness and short-term mortality for a child, reduced ability to learn and a decrease in their productivity during adulthood.

**HOW DO WE DO IT?**

Preventing malnutrition requires the implementation of a combination of actions that takes into account the various factors that cause it. This multi-sectorial approach has provided the best results in the fight against malnutrition. It is also the approach that we are applying in the Chortí region where we are working in an integrated manner through a four-year project funded by the Government of Canada. This programme includes activities to improve health and nutrition, agricultural production, access to other sources of employment, and the strengthening of community organisations and municipal services.



**COMMUNITY TREATMENT OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION IN COLOMBIA**

**WHAT IS IT?**

Community treatment of malnutrition consists in involving the community in the diagnosis and treatment of children with acute malnutrition who do not present medical complications that require hospitalization. Evidence shows that about 80% of children with acute malnutrition can be treated at home.

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

Disassociating the treatment of malnutrition with hospital admission allows a large-scale treatment of acute child malnutrition, thus increasing the coverage and access to treatment for sick children and reducing the social cost that hospitalization of these children would incur. This in turn allows parents to care for them at home without having to travel or leave the rest of the family.

**HOW DO WE DO IT?**

Over 12,000 children were assessed from April 2014 to March 2016 in the Departments of Córdoba, Putumayo and Nariño for the diagnosis of malnutrition. These anthropometric assessments

took into account weight, height, age and brachial circumference. Screening tests for the presence of bilateral oedema were also administered.

After the diagnosis, we carry out the following assessments in order to identify treatment:

- Appetite test
- Inquiry into clinical complications
- Verification of the adequate consumption of micronutrients in powder form and of the ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF)

These activities were done, on a weekly or biweekly basis, directly in the home by staff from local institutions or with the support of volunteer community workers trained by a health professional with the support of our teams.



## MEASURING ANAEMIA IN COLOMBIA

### WHAT IS IT?

Anaemia, or red blood cell deficiency, is a significant dysfunction in a person's nutritional health. In Colombia there are currently two main sources of information: children entering the health system – where they are measured – and who already have anaemia-related problems, and the National Nutrition Survey, which is carried out every five years. The former only recognises anaemia when it is linked to other health problems, while the latter provides a statistical overview.

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Anaemia is a nutritional disease which has gone under the radar in Colombia and which has only recently appeared on the national public agenda. Understanding the magnitude of the problem is the first step towards the design and application of public policies to prevent and treat it.

### HOW DO WE DO IT?

Since 2015, over 14,000 children under five years of age and pregnant and breastfeeding women have been screened for anaemia by our teams in four departments where the population is ethnically diverse (Cordoba, Nariño, Putumayo and Guajira). This has enabled us to conclude that, in rural populations, one in two children under the age of five, and one in five pregnant or breastfeeding mothers suffer from anaemia. Becoming aware of this situation is the first step towards being able to address it.



## EVALUATING CHRONIC MALNUTRITION IN BOLIVIA USING SMART METHODOLOGY

### WHAT IS IT?

SMART is an international, inter-organizational (United Nations, universities and international NGOs, among others) methodology that was set up in 2002 with the aim of developing a standardized method of providing nutritional and mortality assessments. As well as providing short-term results, it ensures accuracy and quality regarding the data collected, it is comparable with other surveys, and it is recognised around the world.

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

In Bolivia, despite the public health and nutrition policies that have achieved significant results since 2008, the main nutritional problem in the departments of La Paz-Altiplano and Potosí is chronic malnutrition. Its severity remains at an intermediate level in both departments, with a particularly high incidence rate in the rural area of Potosí.

### HOW DO WE DO IT?

During July and August of 2015, together with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health, we carried out a survey based on the SMART methodology in the highland region of La Paz and in the department of Potosí.

The results showed a 22.6% prevalence of chronic malnutrition in children under 59 months-old for the departments of La Paz-Altiplano and of 28.5% for the Department of Potosí, with the rural area of the Department of Potosí showing the highest prevalence (29.9%). This more precise data, on a local level, will allow for the design of comprehensive actions to address the problem.



## PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR RISK MANAGEMENT IN GUATEMALA

### WHAT IS IT?

Since 2009, we have provided humanitarian aid to families severely affected by floods in the Department of Escuintla in Guatemala. Based on this experience, we believe that it is a priority to improve disaster preparedness with the inhabitants and institutions of this region.

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

For us, it is key that the companies operating in the Department of Escuintla participate in the processes of risk management and reduction, given that in some cases (for example in sugarcane production) the private sector takes up 85% of the land.

### HOW DO WE DO IT?

Between 2016 and 2017 a partnership was set up with the association of companies committed to Corporate Social Responsibility in Guatemala (CentraRSE). Together and with the support of the Humanitarian Aid Department of the European

Commission (ECHO), a methodology has been ratified so that companies can self-diagnose their capacity to prevent, mitigate and respond to natural disasters.

Based on this experience, 11 large companies from different sectors have put disaster contingency plans in place, and public-private roundtables have been established in the Department of Escuintla with the aim of coordinating mitigation actions to deal with flooding. In 2018, Action Against Hunger –in partnership with Central American universities, public civil defence bodies, NGOs and tourism company associations– prioritised the improvement of risk management in the tourism sector in Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua, given its huge importance as a source of employment and trade for thousands of families with no other work alternatives.



© Luis Restrepo

## ACTIONS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN COLOMBIA

### WHAT IS IT?

Within the framework of building partnerships with private companies in Colombia, and with their Corporate Social Responsibility actions, we have established a collaborative relationship with Fundación Éxito, launched by one of the largest food retail companies in the country.

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Joint work with the private sector is essential for raising awareness and creating public promotion campaigns, having an impact in the area of nutrition and nutrition-related interventions.

### HOW DO WE DO IT?

In just a short time, this partnership has been successful with its widespread public campaigns to promote and raise awareness about breastfeeding. One such example is “LACTATONES” in remote departments such as Guajira, Nariño and Puerto Asís, where over 900 women participated in public events.

In addition, we carried out joint interventions in support of the Zero Chronic Malnutrition in Children (GenCero) campaign, and for the promotion of the global initiative Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) in Colombia. Thanks to the funds raised by Fundación Éxito, we were able to reach over 640 people who were directly affected by the landslides in Mocoa in 2017.



© Pablo Pérez para Planeta Futuro de El País

## RURAL HOUSING AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN PERU

### WHAT IS IT?

In Peru we are establishing partnerships with major companies for the eradication of child malnutrition:

- Together with the MINSUR mining company and the Fund for the Americas, we are improving the living environment and thermal comfort of rural homes in the Andean municipality of Ajoyani, in the region of Puno.
- With the TASA fishing company, we are promoting the inclusion of fish in the diet of High Andean families in the central highlands of Peru. This was based on a social business model carried out by women on the sale of pressed and salted fish.

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

In Peru, inequality in the rural areas of the Andean region continues to rise. This, added to the pressing crisis of international development in the country, means that corporate partnerships are vital in order to combat chronic malnutrition.

### HOW DO WE DO IT?

- **Housing improvements in Ajoyani:** the living environment and thermal comfort of rural dwellings are improved with the use of local resources. This helps to increase the families’ resilience to low temperatures, as well as improving domestic hygiene. At the same time, agricultural production is improved through innovative technologies that allow the production of nutritious foods at very high altitudes.
- **The economic empowerment of women:** this model achieved the ratification of a plan for production, the setting up of a production plant, and the establishment of a company run by women for the production and sale of salted, pressed fish.



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## RESPONSE TO THE FLOODING IN PIURA, PERU 2017

The coastal El Niño phenomenon produced heavy rains, which resulted in significant flooding and landslides on the northern coast of Peru. The government declared a state of national emergency for the region of Piura on the 29th of March, 2017, and the international community mobilised in order to provide aid.

The landslides caused significant damage to infrastructure, as well as the disruption of basic services for the affected population, estimated at more than 1.5 million people throughout the country.

### OUR RESPONSE

We immediately began work on the rehabilitation of damaged drinking water supply systems in rural areas, in close collaboration with the local Water and Sanitation Boards, in order to strengthen their capacities and to ensure the continuation of the service in the medium term.

In addition, we improved access to sanitation in shelters for people who were left homeless, as well as in the affected rural communities. All of the interventions were accompanied by hygiene promotion campaigns to encourage the adoption of practices to help deal with the temporary change of living arrangements caused by the flooding. In total, we provided aid to more than **50,000 people** in the form of water, sanitation and hygiene services, nutrition monitoring and improvement of food security.



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## RESPONSE TO THE FLOODING IN MOCOA, COLOMBIA 2017

The landslide caused by the overflow of two rivers surprised the sleeping city of Mocoa on the morning of the 1st of April, 2017. Mocoa was already vulnerable before the disaster due to it being an arrival centre for people displaced by violence in Colombia. 40% of the city was completely devastated by the landslide, which left more than 300 dead.

### OUR RESPONSE

We mobilised our technical teams and materials, and began providing humanitarian aid 12 hours after the tragedy. Our actions were essential to ensuring humanitarian aid reached more than **3,500 people**, in both the emergency and recovery phases.

We facilitated the supply of water through distribution points in the city, the provision of night kits consisting of blankets and mattresses, and hygiene in the shelters. During the first hours we distributed food and participated in the reconstruction of aqueducts. We also coordinated actions to improve disaster risk management for the prevention and mitigation of the effects of possible future events.



### RESPONSE TO THE EARTHQUAKE IN ECUADOR, 2016

On the 16th of April, 2016, an earthquake measuring 7.8 on the scale shook the coast of Ecuador. More than 7,900,000 people were affected and 660 people died. Material damage was extensive with the destruction of buildings, water and health infrastructure, as well as people's means of production.

Although the response of the Ecuadorian government was wide-scale and rapid, there were gaps where our response was important to order to complement the work of the government.

#### OUR RESPONSE

Within 24 hours of the disaster, our multi-sectoral team from Madrid, -Spain-, and Colombia were in Ecuador, and we immediately mobilised the material from our contingency stock in order to help manage the disaster. Our priority was coordination with institutions and other organisations to provide support in the planning of an intervention adapted to the needs of the context.

We provided shelters for people in several affected communities. We distributed basic hygiene items, and filters and tanks for domestic water storage. We constructed hygiene and sanitation infrastructures in the shelters and carried out activities to promote healthy habits during the emergency.

In the area of nutrition and health, we carried out psychosocial support activities for families through "Baby friendly spaces" in the shelters, as well as training activities related to feeding babies, boys and girls. We provided aid to more than **56,000 people**.



### COMPLEX CRISIS AND CONFLICT IN COLOMBIA

Since 1998, we have been providing aid to people affected by the conflict and armed violence, increasing their resilience and promoting development. We look to find effective and sustainable solutions in tandem with the Colombian authorities and local organisations, sharing our accumulated knowledge and experience. We push for changes in the long-term: it is our contribution to peace.

#### OUR RESPONSE

In Colombia, we work with people displaced by the conflict and armed violence, as well as the families and communities living in those zones. We combine essential humanitarian principles in order to gain access to people, such as neutrality, impartiality and independence, with the strengthening of local capacities, both of the people and of local institutions. This enables us to provide aid each year to some **35,000 people** affected by the violence.

The programme includes actions related to protection, access to quality water in sufficient quantities, access to adequate sanitation facilities, the promotion of hygiene practices and the treatment and recuperation of children with malnutrition. It also includes monetary or in-kind transfers in order to cover the basic housing and food needs of men, women, boys and girls during emergencies.



### CONSORTIUM OF HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATIONS IN GUATEMALA

Between 2014 and 2016, the area known as the Guatemalan Dry Corridor endured a period of continuous drought that resulted in 150,000 rural families falling into a food crisis situation. Given the magnitude of the problem, the NGOs present in Guatemala decided to join forces and strengthen the coordination of their work with the aim of reaching as many households as possible, while at the same time agreeing on diagnostic procedures for humanitarian needs and criteria to guide the distribution of aid.

#### OUR RESPONSE

Since 2015, we have provided aid to about **10,000 families** with the highest level of food vulnerability during the months of seasonal hunger (April-August). We deliver food aid using cash transfers. After each cash delivery, we carry out post-distribution monitoring in order to identify the effects of the aid on access and consumption indicators.

We also carry out nutritional monitoring of children under five years of age while aid is ongoing, referring detected cases of undernutrition to health services and following up on cases of acute malnutrition. In addition, we support the agricultural production of families receiving food aid through the distribution of agricultural supplies, and provide technical assistance through training sessions.



### NEW SYSTEMS FOR MONETARY TRANSFERS IN COLOMBIA

#### WHAT IS IT?

"KACHE" (Kit for Accountable Cash Transfers and Humanitarian Effectiveness) is a system that allows electronic transfers of money to a large number of families in remote areas where there are no banks, ATMs or other cash delivery services.

#### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The beneficiary families have been displaced to locations other than their area of origin. In most cases, these families do not have the economic opportunities in order to be able to cover their basic needs of food, water and hygiene.

We provide each of these families with an electronic credit card so that they can do their shopping in supermarkets and shops in the area, during the estimated three-month period of resettlement in the new location.

One of the main advantages of the KACHE system is its operational flexibility, that is, the ability to make electronic transfers and purchases in areas with no Internet coverage.

#### HOW DO WE DO IT?

The KACHE electronic system consists of three main parts:

- The electronic cards that the families receive, to which a monthly amount is transferred.
- Smartphones or electronic tablets, which are distributed to businesses contracted for the program.
- A digital platform: the "brain" of the intervention. All the credit and purchase transactions are recorded on this platform, while it also enables detailed monitoring of the most in-demand products, the times with greatest amount of sales, and remaining balances, among other things.



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