

# Working in Partnership in Latin America



**act:onaid**

**CAFOD**  
just one world



**christian aid** We believe in life before death.

**HelpAge International**  
age helps

International  
#W/ABS  
**Alliance**



**Oxfam**

**PROGRESSIO**  
CHANGING MINDS • CHANGING LIVES

**Save the Children**  
UK

**World Vision**



Cover image: Glaciers in Peru are in severe retreat as a result of global warming. Peruvians are highly dependant on glacial water supply and the majority of the population lives in areas where this is the majority water source.

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# Foreword

**Latin America has made good progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and is on track to halve extreme poverty by 2015. But despite positive achievements many development challenges remain.**

Even though Latin American countries are middle income, 4 out of 10 men, women and children live below minimum living standards and 88 million live in extreme poverty<sup>1</sup>. In addition the global economic crisis combined with the dependence of much of the region on primary exports, means that there is a strong likelihood of progress being halted and even reversed in some countries over the next few years.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is changing the way it supports the region and has committed to work with International Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) - significantly increasing funding through its Latin America Programme Partnership Arrangement.

DFID's partners in Latin America are: ActionAid; CAFOD; CARE; Christian Aid; HelpAge International; International HIV and AIDS Alliance; Oxfam; Plan International; Progressio; Save the Children; World Vision; and WWF. Through working together and embracing different approaches DFID and its partner CSOs will be able to make wider impact than would be possible from working alone.

This booklet shows the impact on people's lives that the partnership aims to deliver. It will help build the profile for a region that is important both for the inequalities and injustice that characterise it - and for the potential learning for other regions that can come from the enthusiasm and experience of development workers at all levels.



**Mike Foster MP**  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State  
for International Development

**The Department for International Development (DFID)** is the UK Government department responsible for promoting sustainable development and reducing poverty. Its central focus is a commitment to the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to be achieved by 2015.

<sup>1</sup> ECLA 2005

# Introduction

**Latin America is a region full of contrasts. It has a vast and unique mixture of cultures, impressive natural resources and varied landscapes, democratically elected governments throughout the continent, some of the biggest and most developed urban centres in the world, and emerging economies that are helping to shift the balance of world power.**

The region has the most unequal income distribution in the world. The richest tenth earn 48% of total income in the region, while the poorest tenth earns just 1.6%.

Regional progress towards achieving the MDGs masks marked variations within and between countries.

The poorest are most often those with the lowest levels of education and fewest physical assets, and similarly lack access to key markets and services. They don't reap the benefits of commodity intensive exports, little attention is paid to small enterprise needs where most of the poor are engaged, and participation of women, indigenous and black populations is often constrained.

Substantial pockets of the region's population have limited access to health care, poor educational outcomes, poor working conditions, and lack political representation. In Brazil, Peru and Bolivia, the poverty incidence for indigenous and Afro-descendants is twice the prevailing level for the rest of the population. Excluded groups have limited economic opportunities, little voice and minimal influence over the political system.

Inequalities in these areas are a major factor in the social tensions that have wracked the region throughout its history. Statistics suggest that only 20% of Latin Americans trust political parties, 29% trust Congresses<sup>2</sup>.

**The United Kingdom's bilateral funding to Latin America in 2007/08 was £31 million, of which the Department for International Development (DFID) gave £15 million. In addition, DFID contributes to the work of multilateral organisations in Latin America. In 2006/07 DFID's share of this work was estimated at £70 million.**

To build on its experience in the region and to better address persistent inequality and poverty in Latin America, DFID is changing the way its support will be delivered.

Firstly, in 2008/09, new funding for climate change and ecosystems research is being made available. In recognition of Latin America's role in paving the way of many innovative approaches to poverty reduction, funding for lesson sharing from the region will also be increased.

Secondly, DFID's programmes will no longer be delivered through our regional offices in the Andes and Central America, both of these will have shut by March 2009 though DFID will maintain a programme of £4 million per year in Nicaragua as it becomes a middle income country. We will switch the funding for the government of Nicaragua to providing support through alternative channels, including other donors and civil society. DFID will continue to work in Brazil, by focusing on climate change, work on HIV and AIDS and Brazil as a donor. This is in recognition of Brazil's important role in global development.

Thirdly, the most important change to the way DFID delivers financial support to the region will be the significant increase to International Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) funding. Funding will increase from £7 million per year to £13 million a year - in addition to funding through CSOs in Nicaragua.

<sup>2</sup> 2007 Latino-barometro poll.

# Introduction

Social exclusion underpins the persistent inequality and poverty in Latin America. Discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, geography and gender is at the heart of exclusion suffered by poor people in the region. For example, though many countries have taken action to tackle widespread gender inequality, there is still considerable progress to be made. A number of legislative changes are still required, discrimination against women is still widespread, and gender inequalities persist in all areas of life: economic, political, social, and cultural. In urban areas, poverty is highest among female-headed households, with children bearing the brunt of poverty. Gender inequalities are further compounded by ethnicity, with indigenous and Afro-descendant women in particular facing discrimination and social exclusion.

Because Civil Society Organisations are at the frontline of tackling this social exclusion and inequality responsible for persistent poverty in Latin America, channelling more support through them will help address these important issues. DFID's funding to CSOs working in Latin America will increase from £7 million to £13 million a year and be delivered through its Partnership Programme Arrangements (PPAs). This will become DFID's main engagement with organisations working on the ground - and a key mechanism by which DFID aims to address its priorities in the region and

feed lessons back to the international development community. The increase in funding recognises the important contribution CSOs can make in empowering civil society to reduce inequality and address social, economic and political exclusion.

DFID and the Latin America PPA will focus on those areas which will have the most impact on the underlying causes of inequality and poverty. Their shared purpose in Latin America is to reduce poverty and inequality through empowering civil society to address social, economic and political exclusion.

Through our PPA funding, ActionAid, CAFOD, CARE, Christian Aid, HelpAge International, International HIV and AIDS Alliance, Oxfam, Plan International, Progressio, Save the Children, World Vision and WWF will all be allocated an additional £1.4 million each over 3 years, for work in Latin America, between April 2008 and March 2011.

## DFID's Latin America partners have all signed up to the following development objectives:

- **More** accountable public and political systems for effective delivery of services and good governance in the region;
- Poor and marginalised people having a **greater** voice in decisions that affect their lives;
- **Reduction** in prevalence rates and the stigma and discrimination experienced by those living with HIV and Aids;
- **Increased** access to market and economic opportunities for poor people in the region;
- **Increased** capacity of poor people, communities and governments to reduce disaster risk and vulnerability to climate change and adapt to the impacts of climate change;
- Latin America to have a **strengthened** role in regional and South-South lesson learning; and
- **Enhanced** support for Development in Latin America among the general public and key interest groups in the UK.

In addition, partners have also agreed to work closely together to maximise their impact in the region. They will do so by working towards:

- **Enhanced** lesson learning and knowledge sharing between partners on thematic areas and approaches to achieving the development objectives;
- **Increased** effective communication from partners on the challenges and achievements of development in Latin America; and
- **Increased** influence and voice of the LA partnership on UK development policy.



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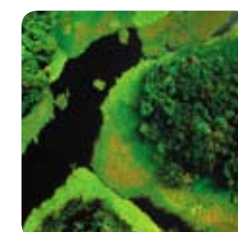
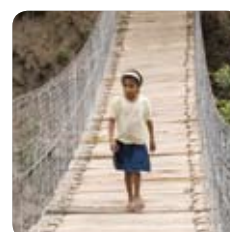
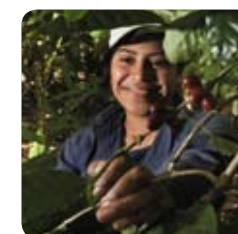
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ActionAid is an international anti-poverty agency whose aim is to fight poverty with a rights-based approach in over 40 countries around the world. The innovative relationship between ActionAid's local, national and international work has led to particular effectiveness in achieving meaningful change by strengthening poor people's control over governmental policies and practices. ActionAid is a truly international non-governmental organisation with a governing body drawn from and accountable to the countries it works in. A particular strength is building south-south shared learning processes among poor people's social movements.

In the Americas, ActionAid has worked for a decade with a regional co-ordinating office in Rio de Janeiro and country offices in Brazil, Guatemala, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela and the USA. It also works through partnerships in Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Peru. In the coming 3 years ActionAid will start two new offices in Latin America, with at least one in the Andean region. ActionAid also develops sub-regional initiatives in the Pan Amazon and Central America.



▲ The Sayaxché community in Guatemala where ActionAid supports indigenous women.  
Credit: ActionAid

ActionAid believes that, as rights holders, poor people are the key agents of change and when they organise and mobilise they can create alternatives, develop new policy frameworks and hold governments accountable for implementing pro-poor policies. ActionAid has built a reputation for transparency, innovation and good practice around the world for a variety of reasons, including its bottom up approaches, grassroots connections, high ethical standards, good fiscal policies and a constant drive to innovate based on lessons learned in the field.

Paramount to ActionAid's work is the need for women as the most consistently disempowered people to gain the power to claim their rights. In Latin America ActionAid's work is based on bottom-up generation of new knowledge on poverty issues that strengthens its national, regional and international advocacy work. ActionAid is committed to building and strengthening national, regional and international social movements, forums and networks, and conducting national and international advocacy work based on lessons learnt during quality grassroots work.



Over the next three years, and to strengthen its poverty reduction efforts further, ActionAid plans to undertake the following;

- Comparative participatory analysis of poverty eradication policies deepened in Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, and Venezuela, scaled up to Ecuador, El Salvador and Mexico and disseminated to governments and international bodies and networks through the publication of 2 books and one policy recommendations booklet, 7 national and 2 international seminars, maintenance of a web page and the creation of one poverty eradication research group
- Capacity Building work conducted with 8 national and regional networks and forums, such as the Brazilian Food Security Forum, to strengthen advocacy work for implementation of finance platforms for education, food security and cash transfer policies in 18 countries
- Advocacy work to influence pro-poor policies in regional integration processes in Central America, the Andean Region and Mercosur through the development of three sub-regional policy watchdog action groups made up of community and social movement activists, academic NGOs, and governmental and IFI stakeholders
- Capacity building and enforcement of Women's Movements against violence and femicide. Monitoring and following up the public policies being implemented, in order to promote the fulfillment of women's rights and empowerment
- Capacity building and strengthening of the grass roots organizations and Peasant Movements in their demand of access to land and natural resources, and their advocacy work for a Rural Development Law to be approved
- Building and strengthening networks within social movements in the Americas region, focusing on women's access to land and natural resources
- Support for citizens' councils, policy watchdog groups and social auditing boards to strengthen social control over pro-poor public policies and improving their efficiency; in 15 development areas and 81 communities, representing a population of approximately 285,000 in Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala and Nicaragua
- Mitigate effects of desertification through financial and technical support and international knowledge exchange activities for agro ecological networks like Articulation for the Semi Arid region (ASA) in Brazil
- Sponsoring research and promoting public debate about the pros and cons of biofuels and their effect on poverty, food crisis and climate change issues through an international campaign called Hunger Free, which will be scaled up to Bolivia, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Peru during the next 18 months with the objective of influencing media, international financial institutions' (IFIs) national and regional policies



◀ ActionAid training family farmers on how to assess the effectiveness of pro-poor government schemes in Pernambuco, Brazil.  
Credit: ActionAid / Pernambuco / Brasil

- Support for intensifying research, mobilization and consciousness raising activities on the impacts of the encroachment of agribusiness and large-scale construction projects in the Amazon region with civil society partners in Bolivia, Peru and Brazil
- Support for research and consciousness raising on the concentration of land ownership and the destruction of remaining forests and biodiversity in Guatemala
- Support development of technologies for aggregating value, such as organic certification, fair trade and simple processing techniques for agro ecological products and facilitating market linkages for small farmers and extractivists with 12 local civil society organizations (CSOs) in Brazil, Guatemala and Venezuela
- Support national campaigns within Food Security Networks in Bolivia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela to develop national government procurement policies focused on promoting poor farmers access to land, natural resources and markets
- Consolidate the development of trade facilitation proposals focused on poor farmers' market access through strengthening the Latin American trade and agriculture network (a joint initiative of the regional office and the Hemispherical Social Alliance -ASC)
- Support impact studies of European Union and USA trade agreements with Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Venezuela to build family farmers organizations capacities to influence them
- Developing participatory budgeting and planning with local communities, to promote awareness and actions to claim accountability in public institutions

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The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) is the official development and humanitarian relief agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. It is part of the global Caritas network, a confederation of over 160 Catholic relief, development and social service organisations in over 200 countries and territories.

CAFOD's primary constituency in the UK is the Catholic community of England and Wales, working through 21 dioceses, 3,000 parishes and 2,000 schools. Latin America forms a cornerstone of CAFOD's outreach work with its supporters in England and Wales, given the majority faith-base of the region and its relevance to CAFOD's constituency within the Catholic community. Each year CAFOD organises visits to the region for key staff and opinion-formers, such as journalists, educators and Church leaders.

Latin America has been a major focus for CAFOD for some forty years with programmes in a dozen countries of the region, supporting long-term development, advocacy and humanitarian relief. The overall aim of CAFOD's work in the region is to combat poverty, exclusion and injustice through programmes which contribute towards building an aware, informed and empowered civil society. CAFOD and its local partners support poor and marginalised communities in their efforts to assert basic rights and to enable them to challenge structures which keep them in poverty.



◀ Maria (pictured right), teaches weaving and handicrafts to members of her community in the Amazon region of Brazil. Selling products made from seeds and coconut shells helps diversify their sources of income.  
Credit: Marcella Haddad / CAFOD

CAFOD is committed to working in Latin America because of the strength, potential, and unrivalled reach and access of the Catholic Church as a leading social actor in combating poverty and inequality and its strong relationships with civil society organisations in the region. CAFOD works principally, but not exclusively, through the social action and development agencies of the Catholic Church in the region.

CAFOD has a partnership approach, meaning that it does not implement its own programmes, but works to support and strengthen local responses. CAFOD also carries out advocacy on behalf of partners where appropriate.

CAFOD is committed to reducing poverty and bringing about sustainable change through development and humanitarian programmes by providing funding, facilitating training and encouraging networking and learning exchanges, combined with education, campaigning and advocacy in the UK. Through its local partners CAFOD works at different levels of Church leadership and grassroots communities to strengthen the capacity of poor and marginalised people as protagonists in their struggle for greater social justice. CAFOD's target populations include small-scale farmers, indigenous peoples, women, young people, victims of conflict and people affected by HIV and AIDS.

Geographically, CAFOD supports programmes at regional, sub-regional and country level through partners in Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Paraguay and Guyana. It has offices in Nicaragua and Bolivia and key partners and advisors in all countries of the region.

## Statistics

Colombia has the highest number of internally displaced people after Sudan. According to the Catholic Church and the Human Rights and Displacement Consultancy (CODHES), almost 4 million people have been displaced between 1985 and 2007.



CAFOD's Latin America programme addresses the issues of Economic Justice, HIV and AIDS, Sustainable Livelihoods and Peace and Conflict Resolution. These themes reflect the overall priorities of the organisation.

**Economic Justice** – this programme focuses on corporate social responsibility, aiming to improve employment practices and social and environmental standards in the electronics and extractive industries. Recent successes include the introduction by Dell and IBM of codes of conduct for suppliers in the electronics industry in Mexico, and the suspension of gold mining concessions in Honduras, pending the reform of the mining law. The programme also extends to support for citizen participation, the monitoring of legislation and government budgets, social protection and transparency in the use of public funds.



**HIV and AIDS** – this programme supports the work of HIV specialist partners as well as encouraging the mainstreaming of an HIV perspective within more general programmes. CAFOD accompanies partner organisations in developing holistic responses to HIV in care, mitigation and advocacy. It also helps develop comprehensive approaches to HIV prevention that aim to address vulnerability, minimise risk and combat stigma and discrimination. The Catholic Church is a key actor in tackling HIV in the region and is an influential player and shaper of public opinion and attitudes.

**Sustainable Livelihoods** – this programme focuses on agricultural production, small businesses, access to land and markets, disaster risk reduction and urban community development. In Brazil, CAFOD's assistance to organisations working with marginalised communities in Sao Paulo has led to far-reaching change in municipal housing legislation and direct benefits of improved housing for 3,400 families. In the Amazon region, CAFOD's work with landless farmers and indigenous communities has resulted in improved rights and access to land, the recognition of traditional territories and the conservation of the rain-forest on indigenous reserves.

◀ Antonio Velez lost his home and all his possessions after being threatened by guerrillas in Colombia. A shoemaker by trade, he is starting to rebuild his life with the support of CAFOD who are assisting displaced families in the south of the country.  
Credit: Paul Smith / CAFOD

◀ Children from the communities affected by open cast gold mining in the Siria Valley, Honduras, join in the launch of the Unearth Justice Campaign.  
Credit: Erin Condit-Bergen / CAFOD

**Peace and Conflict Resolution** – this programme covers CAFOD's support for regional and national Justice and Peace commissions and human rights organisations working on issues of impunity, reparations and restorative justice. Processes of peace-building and reconciliation are a priority for partners working with communities affected by conflict and war, particularly in Colombia where church partners play a pivotal role in advocacy as well as direct support to victims of violence. In Central America, where post-conflict violence and crime are endemic, CAFOD supports programmes of rehabilitation aimed at reintegrating gang members into society.

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**CARE International works in more than 70 countries around the world, tackling poverty and injustice where the need is greatest. Across five continents, CARE's work has an impact on more than 65 million people, helping them to transform their lives – to earn a living, to become less vulnerable to disaster and to speak up for themselves.**

CARE International UK is part of the global CARE International confederation of 12 member organisations which has its secretariat in Geneva.

CARE has been active in Latin America and the Caribbean for nearly 50 years and its capacity centres around seven country offices (Central America – covering Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua; Ecuador; Bolivia; Peru; Brazil; Haiti and Cuba) and their respective partners. CARE has some 870 staff working in Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Central America. Staff are almost exclusively nationals of their countries, represented at all levels of management. CARE Brasil is an autonomous institution with a local board, and CARE Peru is evolving in this direction. A Regional Management Unit provides support, strategic leadership and coordination across the countries, particularly on issues of programme quality.



◀ Supporting small business in São Paulo, Brazil.  
Credit: Care International

The overall programmatic goal of CARE in Latin America is to demonstrate significant impact on poverty and social injustice - in particular on women and girls - by 2015. This timeframe is in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Based on a detailed analysis of the underlying causes of poverty in Central America, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, CARE has identified two key issues which will provide the focus of all its work in the coming years: discrimination and social exclusion, and inadequate or poorly implemented public policies.



▲ Women writing together in Bolivia.  
Credit: Care International

In response to this analysis, CARE in Latin America has been moving away from its traditional approach of implementing stand-alone, time-bound projects focussed on delivering services on a large scale. In recent years CARE has been increasingly engaging with partners and networks to strengthen its impact at a more local level through advocacy and constituency-building - seeking to influence national and local government, international financial institutions and the private sector. Many programmes are currently implemented in partnership with other organisations or groups focussing in a specific sector. Collaborators include governments, academic institutions, civil society organisations, social movements and private sector corporations. In some cases, CARE works with an individual partner. In others, work is carried out as part of a coalition, such as national consensus-building groups, NGO coordination networks, corporate social responsibility networks and inter-institutional committees.

Within this overall approach CARE's programmes across Latin America are specifically adapted to the local context, responding to local priorities and opportunities. As a result they span a broad range of sectors. These include **health** (nutrition, HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis), **education, sustainable economic development, democracy and governance**, integrated water resource management (water and sanitation, natural resource and biodiversity conservation), **climate change, food security, disaster risk reduction and emergency response.**

Last year, CARE:

- Provided 961,000 people with a dignified safe haven after emergencies;
- Gave out loans worth £58 million to enable people to pay for necessities and set up small businesses; and
- Played a leading role in influencing donor governments to focus on the rights of the poorest and most marginalised when reforming aid spending.



▲ An indigenous community meeting in Peru.  
Credit: Jessica Wanderlich / Care International

Within this broad range of sectors, CARE International UK prioritises three areas of intervention:

**Governance** – to improve the relationship between a state and its citizens, by increasing the ability of poor and socially excluded people to claim their rights and participate in decisions affecting their lives, and by helping governments and other power-holders to become more inclusive and accountable to the poor;

**Private sector engagement** – to promote socially responsible practices and market access for small producers;

**Conflict** – to enhance the impact of development and emergency response programming in situations of violence, and work for sustainable peace.

CARE International UK is also making a significant contribution to global efforts to tackle humanitarian crises, HIV and AIDS, hunger and chronic vulnerability, and climate change.

CARE International UK has a special role in the region because of its management of PPA funds, which support strategic initiatives outside the usual project cycle, such as lesson-learning, networking and innovation.

Within CARE International, the Latin America and Caribbean region has been leading a new initiative to improve management systems for increased programme impact. The Organisational Performance Management and Learning System provides a framework for planning, measuring and assessing the outcome of CARE's work. It will show evidence of reduced poverty, improved social justice and higher numbers of people living in dignity and security, using the MDGs as a reference. It will be the basis of CARE's monitoring and evaluation. In promoting organisational learning, it will recognise and develop staff capacities, and systematically incorporate perspectives of other stakeholders (including participants, partners and donors).

**Find out more:**

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**Christian Aid is the official agency of 40 churches representing most Protestant denominations in the United Kingdom and Ireland. We work in partnership with local and national organisations in the region to help those most in need: people of all faiths and none. Our faith base and rootedness in UK and Ireland churches gives us unique opportunities to open dialogue and mobilise action.**

Christian Aid's passion to tackle injustice goes right to the heart of why we work in Latin America. This is a continent scarred by desperate inequality yet motivated by numerous vibrant social movements fighting for justice. Christian Aid is inspired to take the side of poor and marginalised people; to expose the scandal of their poverty, to challenge and change the systems that keep them poor and to work with local organisations to bring about change. We believe that men and women acting together have the power to overturn injustice, however overwhelming the odds and that poverty is the result of human failure, not an inexorable fact of life.

Christian Aid work in the region is built on its principle of mutually accountable partnership. Christian Aid has offices and programmes in eight countries. We work through 110 organisations whose roots are in local communities. Partnership is not a matter of convenience but of principle.



▲ A school girl in Ayacucho, one of the poorest regions in Peru. Christian Aid has been supporting local partner CEDAP here to help train local people to improve and recover agricultural techniques and adapt to changing weather patterns. Credit: Christian Aid / Kim Naylor

Good relationships with partners and a local presence ensure that programmes respond to realities on the ground to deliver maximum impact. Christian Aid has 39 staff working on Latin America. The capacity in region is matched by specialist teams in the UK supporting thematic areas in HIV, climate change, governance, gender and social exclusion at a global level.

Christian Aid's base of longstanding partnerships going back to the 1970's has been broadened to a portfolio of church, church related and secular organisations:

Beneficiary membership organisations, such as the OIA (the Indigenous Organisation of Antioquia) in Colombia, and SOPPEXCA, an association of small scale coffee producers in Nicaragua

Intermediary and service organisations like IEME, working on HIV programmes in Peru

Networks and alliances such as ACT Central America, a global ecumenical network focusing on disaster emergency response, and UNES El Salvador on environmental conservation and protection

Research and advocacy organisations such as Madre Selva, an environmental research and campaigning organisation in Guatemala.

Christian Aid and its partners focus on tackling inequality and poverty by:

- Helping to strengthen local organisations
- Empowering people to press collectively for solutions at local, national and regional levels
- Encouraging and enabling poor and marginalised people and their organisations to defend their rights, demand their entitlements (demand-side governance) and play a role in decision making and local/regional government
- Carrying out advocacy work in the North and through partners in the South
- Building support for development across the UK and internationally

► Iris, Myra and Alba receive an evening meal of mashed high-protein beans at Christian Aid partner Bethania's specialist infant malnutrition clinic. Guatemala has one of the highest child malnutrition rates in the world.  
Credit: Christian Aid / Sian Curry



## Strengthening partner organisations

Key to Christian Aid's aims is strengthening organisations made up of and representing poor people. Projects are seen as opportunities not only to tackle poverty, but to empower people, encourage their participation, and as a learning process. This work at the grass roots is combined with initiatives at country and regional levels to change policy in favour of poor people.

## Speaking out

Christian Aid believes it has a duty to speak out and act with conviction to challenge and change the systems that create poverty. We do not need to speak out on behalf of the poor; we make opportunities for them to speak for themselves.

Linking our partners work on the ground with our UK constituency of almost 350,000 active supporters, allows us to maximise our work. Our campaigns and awareness raising work is informed by information from our partners. It has led to changes that significantly benefit poor people - many more than we could ever help directly. Working with others, our campaigns on issues like Debt, Trade Justice, and most recently Climate Change have influenced the development agenda and debate in the UK and internationally.

The 2007 'Cut the Carbon' march is an excellent example of how Christian Aid's UK work is rooted in the experience of southern communities. 10 international marchers were accompanied for parts of their route by thousands of UK supporters, walking 1,000 miles in 80 days from Northern Ireland to London. Three of these marchers came from Christian Aid partners in Latin America. They were able to talk from personal experience about the effect of climate change and challenge the UK Government and companies to commit to carbon emission reductions and improved emissions reporting.

Latin America programme work is linked to global education, advocacy and campaigning in the UK. With its media, Public Relations and public communications expertise in digital, print and broadcast, Christian Aid is now targeting younger secular audiences in addition to traditional church based constituencies. This builds on Christian Aid's core committed supporter base. Christian Aid week remains the most inspiring manifestation of the movement of committed people at the heart of the organisation. In just seven days in May our supporters raise around £14 million.

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The contribution that older people make to their families, communities and society (as carers, advisors, mediators and mentors) is invaluable. But growing older is not without its problems and HelpAge helps older people to claim their rights, challenge discrimination and overcome poverty so that they can live healthy, active, secure and dignified lives. Our work in over 70 countries is strengthened through our support to a global network of like-minded organisations – the only one of its kind in the world.

HelpAge has worked in Latin America since the early 1980s, with a physical presence since 1991 through the regional office in La Paz.

Along with climate change, ageing is one of the two most significant challenges currently facing the continent. The 47 million Latin Americans over 60 today (9% of the population) will rise to 94 million by 2025 (14%)<sup>3</sup>. An ageing population brings a wealth of experience and expertise to society. But ageing also reduces poor people's major asset – their physical capacity – and mitigation through effective health and social services is critical to older people's wellbeing and their ability to continue participating in society. Ageing is also a highly gendered phenomenon: older women's longer life expectancy, in addition to their reduced opportunities to prepare for old age throughout life, can make them particularly vulnerable. Governments need to ensure well-balanced expenditure on public services, as a growing older population requires an increasing share of resources.



The overall aim of HelpAge's Latin America programme is to "reduce poverty and enhance the social inclusion of vulnerable older men and women and their families". The geographical focus of the programme extends to the core Andean countries of Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia, as well as Nicaragua and Brazil, with the entire continent being covered through HelpAge's institution-building work with the Continental Network of Older People, which currently has a growing presence in 14 countries.

▲ Older people from Huancavelica, Peru.  
Credit: Tom Weller / HelpAge





▲ Older people from Cochabamba, Bolivia.  
Credit: Tom Weller / HelpAge

HelpAge has built up extensive policy engagement in Latin America on the basis of its direct work with older people and civil society organisations. HelpAge works with and through a network of 20 partners, in addition to numerous older people's associations, in 12 Latin American countries<sup>3</sup>, strengthening their capacity to engage in national debates and policy processes as well as delivering innovative programmes that can be replicated and scaled-up throughout the region.

Older people in Latin America play a critical role in holding families and societies together, particularly in the face of conflict, humanitarian disasters and migration. Yet poverty among older women and men is disproportionately high, with up to 60% of older people living in poverty in the Andean region. Only 30% of older people on the continent have access to any form of pension. Older people identify income security and health as priority concerns. Ensuring health and income security in old age protects not only older people, but also their families. HelpAge will expand its capacity building programme for older people's organisations to become actors in national and local policy processes and to hold their governments accountable for the delivery of social security and health

services. HelpAge and its partners will continue to advocate that pensions are an effective tool for poverty reduction and social cohesion across the generations. HelpAge will train older people's groups to monitor the implementation of social programmes and health schemes. In this way, an organised and informed constituency of older citizens will hold governments accountable for the delivery of social security and health entitlements.

The decentralisation of public administration in Latin America has led to municipalities managing the implementation of national social security and health programmes. However, administrative capacity is often weak, particularly in the rural Andes and Nicaragua. This has serious implications for the quality, coverage and reach of such programmes. HelpAge will strengthen local and national governments' capacity to deliver their social security and health programmes effectively through the expansion of piloted socio-legal services, which will eventually be integrated into municipal services; local duty bearers will be trained to provide information and include older people in municipal participatory planning and budgeting processes in order to benefit from their experience; and local health workers will be trained in all aspects of ageing.

Latin America is exposed to multiple natural and man-made hazards. Older men and women, particularly in rural areas, are especially susceptible to the effects of disasters. They know their communities

and who needs help in a crisis, and can contribute their experience to relief efforts. HelpAge's Disaster Risk Reduction approach reduces the vulnerabilities of older people to disaster impacts and promotes the positive roles they play in preparation, mitigation and recovery. HelpAge will work to ensure that older men and women are less vulnerable to the impact of natural and man-made disasters and climate change by working with the humanitarian community to promote the inclusion of older men and women as a resource in disaster prevention, mitigation and preparation; ensuring they are included in departmental civil defence and protection committees; promoting the disaggregation of information about disaster victims in registries by age (and gender); and studying and disseminating the disaster-related knowledge of indigenous people.

Finally, experiences and lessons learned from our work in Latin America will be exchanged with and disseminated to the HelpAge global network.

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<sup>3</sup> Source: World Population Prospects: the 2006 Revision, United Nations Population Division, <http://esa.un.org/unpp/p2k0data.asp>

<sup>4</sup> Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, Nicaragua, Republica Dominicana, Panama, Costa Rica

The mission of the International HIV/AIDS Alliance (the Alliance) is to support communities to reduce the spread of HIV and to meet the challenges of AIDS. Established in 1993, the Alliance is a global partnership of nationally-based organisations working to support community action on AIDS in developing countries. The Alliance organisations in Latin America (LA) are Colectivo Sol in Mexico, Kimirina in Ecuador, Vía Libre in Peru and the Institute for Human Development in Bolivia. The Alliance helps local community groups to take action on AIDS, enhancing their capacity through technical support and policy engagement.

Latin America presents an HIV/AIDS epidemic concentrated in socially marginalized groups. National prevalence rates are below 2%, masking dramatic HIV/AIDS figures affecting specific populations. In recent years, some studies<sup>5</sup> have shown that sex workers, gays and other men who have sex with men, and transgender people present prevalence rates of approximately 3.5%, 20% and 35% respectively. 1.7 million people were living with HIV and 63,000 people died of AIDS in 2007. The region is still far from providing full access to HIV antiretroviral therapy (ART) as there are still countries with ART coverage below 30%. Brazil's achievements in expanding access to treatment remain unique, leading to a 50% decrease in AIDS mortality rates between



◀ The Latin America Network of Sex Workers (REDTRASEX) ensures that the rights of its members are respected. As part of its strategic plan REDTRASEX has now expanded to have a presence in 15 countries. Credit: International HIV/AIDS Alliance

1996 and 2002. Increasing numbers of women are becoming infected in several countries in the region<sup>6</sup>, mainly by male sexual partners who acquired HIV during unprotected sex<sup>7</sup>.

Unfortunately, hate crimes against homosexuals, transgenders and sex workers are a daily event in Latin America. In some countries the legal framework actively discriminates against key populations<sup>8</sup>, especially where homosexuality is illegal and sex work falls outside the protection of the law. Key populations are socially excluded and have low access to health, education, political participation and human rights. The term 'key populations' emphasises that the most affected groups have a key leadership role to play in the response to HIV/AIDS.

The Alliance in Latin America aims to contribute to the provision of universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, testing, care and treatment services by 2010.

The Alliance LA Regional programme operates in about 18 countries and supports key populations with low access to health, education, political participation and human rights to play a more strategic role in influencing policy and decision-making and to challenge the endemic stigma and discrimination attached to living with HIV, working as a sex worker, having same sex practices, or being transgender.



▲ Hate crimes against homosexuals, transgenders and sex workers are still a daily event in Latin America. Credit: International HIV/AIDS Alliance

The Regional programme supports the Latin American Network of Sex Workers, REDTRASEX, to achieve their vision that human rights of female sex workers are respected, access to comprehensive health services is achieved and social and institutional violence is eradicated.

The organizational capacity of the network's secretariat has been strengthened by the programme, helping REDTRASEX to develop their first governance structure and strategic plan. This has resulted in the

expansion of their presence to 15 countries and the production of two manuals addressing the need to improve HIV/AIDS services to sex workers. REDTRASEX has achieved impressive leadership in regional and international AIDS conferences in recent years and currently has a portfolio of other funders.

The programme with the Latin American Gay Network (ASICAL)<sup>9</sup>, co-funded by GTZ, has increased the participation of gay groups in decision-making bodies and their effectiveness in programme implementation. ASICAL has built the capacity of 53 organisations across the region and increased the involvement of gay leaders in the Global Fund Country Co-ordinating Mechanisms.

The regional programme has developed a Knowledge Management Centre on HIV/AIDS to build capacity for south-to-south learning and lesson sharing. In 2008, the first Spanish AIDS portal for civil society was launched ([www.portalsida.org](http://www.portalsida.org)) and a collection of 11 case studies has been published.

The Regional Programme is actively supporting the Latin American Network of Transgender People (REDLACTRANS) which works in 17 countries, and the Global Fund watchdog mechanism Observatorio Latino. The Alliance has been working to increase the availability of high-quality technical support for civil society organisations through the creation of a regional HIV/

AIDS technical hub in Peru. The programme has undertaken a number of initiatives in collaboration with UNAIDS, PAHO, the International Centre of Technical Cooperation and GTZ.

In Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador, the Andes programme rolled out a comprehensive skills-building project on policy and advocacy and provided small grants to key population groups. The main achievements are stronger alliances built between the local groups and policy makers, increased participation in decision-making spaces and, in the case of Bolivia, the approval of a ministerial resolution to protect the right to access health services free of discrimination on the grounds of serostatus, sexual orientation, gender identity or sexual occupation. The Andes Advocacy programme will build watchdog mechanisms using the advocacy platforms established and link them to the principles of universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support services.

## Find out more:

### International HIV/AIDS Alliance

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<sup>5</sup> Ministerio de Salud de Peru, 2005; 2006; Sanchez et al., 2007; Pando et al., 2006; Montano et al., 2005; Mejia et al., 2006; Ministerio de la Protección Social de Colombia & ONUSIDA Grupo Tematico, 2006.

<sup>6</sup> AIDS Programme Argentina, 2005; Cohen, 2006; Martínez et al., 2006; Dourado et al., 2007).

<sup>7</sup> Ministerio de Salud de Peru, 2005; Cohen, 2006; Silva & Barone, 2006.

<sup>8</sup> Populations where risk and vulnerability converge, namely men who have sex with men (MSM), sex workers, people living with HIV, transgender, transvestites and transexuals and injecting drug users.

<sup>9</sup> Asociación para la Salud Integral y Ciudadanía en el Caribe y América Latina

**Oxfam is part of a global movement calling for action and achieving results to help end poverty, inequality and suffering through effective campaigning, emergency response and long-term development work. We currently work in 70-plus countries worldwide.**

Through our development and relief programmes and campaigning activities we have contributed to a more inclusive model of development since we began working in the Latin America and Caribbean region in the 1950s.

Currently we are working in over 10 countries, with a regional centre based out of Mexico City. We have a total workforce in the region of approximately 300 staff.

The impact of our work is maximised through close collaboration with Oxfam International, a confederation of 14 affiliated organisations working together to overcome poverty, suffering, and injustice. Most importantly, Oxfam's impact on poverty is ensured by working with a broad network of partner organisations and strategic allies. Together with them, we are able to benefit poor communities throughout the continent.



▲ May Day marches in LaPaz, Bolivia. For the last few years the traditional workers march has been a focus for all social movements to voice their demands to the government.  
Credit: Renato Guimaraes/Oxfam

The Caribbean is the world's most tourism-dependent region, with the sector accounting for a significant portion of gross domestic product (GDP), employment, capital investment and exports. Oxfam works with local partners to change the core business model for trading relations between agricultural producers and the tourism sector in Jamaica, Santa Lucia, and Tobago. The aim is to evolve from an import-based model to one of local produce for local markets, with the

potential for export growth in the long term. The initiative will reduce poverty in the wider Caribbean region by building a base to sustain the livelihoods of small-scale farmers. Direct beneficiaries will get year round food security and a healthier diet for the whole family. Indirect beneficiaries will benefit from increased demand for new crops and hired labourers, while other service providers will benefit from increased demand for their services.

Oxfam's development and campaigning work in Latin America and the Caribbean centres on

- Economic models;
- Systems of governance; and
- Cultural recognition.

Oxfam believes that the degree and reach of inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean is unacceptable. Our vision is that by 2020, women and men in the region are realising their basic rights and through active citizenship and effective states are building a more inclusive and equal society.

We will turn our vision into reality by being:

- A change agent that works with others to bring about changes in society that reduce inequality; and
- A learning organisation that shares innovation, learning and best practices for enhanced impact on poverty.

We also carry out work as part of our humanitarian mandate on disasters, conflict and vulnerability.



▲ Belkis (17) cutting coffee during her school holiday to save for books and pens at San Martin Finca, Marcala, Honduras. Credit: Gilvan Barreto / Oxfam

In Brazil, Oxfam has facilitated the confluence of the main rural organisations around a working group to monitor public policies and international negotiations on trade: the Brazilian Network for the Integration of Peoples (REBRIP). The result has been an increase in political participation and access to public funds aimed at strengthening familiar agriculture. The rural coalition has been very active in influencing and supporting progressive policies of the Brazilian government in the international arena concerning key topics such as regional integration, coffee agreements, HIV and AIDS, and global trade rules.

Oxfam has consistently supported indigenous peoples' organisations from the lowlands of Bolivia since the early 1990s. Through a patient process of self-organisation and mobilisation, they have



▲ Elisabeth Tamara (10) with Nevado Huascarán - the highest mountain in Peru - in the background. This area of Peru is already affected by glacial retreat. Credit: Gilvan Barreto / Oxfam

gained positions at the local level and built up regional and national alliances. They vindicate their right to own and manage their territories and promote the idea of a new Constitution. In the last few years they have become key national actors obtaining representation at all levels of the political system, including with ministries, senators, and mayors and, more recently, a strong representation in the Constitutional Assembly. In July 2007, Evo Morales, the first indigenous president of Bolivia, handed over the legal titles to the indigenous territory of Monteverde (a million square hectares) to the Chiquitano people.

In Peru, Oxfam has supported Citizen Rights Alliance, a group of civil, public and international cooperation institutions. The coalition advocates for public policy promoting the right to a name and identity in Peru, focusing on rural women

(especially of the poorest region of the Andes), and those deeply affected by historical exclusion and the recent period of armed conflict. The coalition has obtained changes in national laws to facilitate the registration and recognition of women and children, facilitating their access to the Integral Plan of Reparations for victims of violence. Simultaneously, the coalition has contributed to the strengthening of the capacity of the Ombudsman's Office and regional governments, key actors in the process of fulfillment of rights.

While Latin America is experiencing a period of change and uncertainty, it is also a time where exciting new opportunities to push for change are emerging. Women's movements, civil society organisations and some elected governments are piloting novel economic and political arrangements that seek greater social control of natural and economic resources and a more genuine participation of the excluded in decision-making processes.

Working with a network of counterparts and allies and acting as a global force, Oxfam is well positioned to help forge change processes that build up basic rights for the excluded, and to contribute to breaking the vicious cycle of poverty in the region.

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Plan International is one of the largest child-centred development organisations with no religious or political affiliations. Plan works in 66 countries to address poverty and its consequences for children's lives. In 10 countries in Latin America, Plan promotes rights based approaches to community development with a special emphasis on the best interests of the child as outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Interventions are in six domains - health, education, habitat, livelihoods, disaster risk reduction and emergency response, and building relationships between developing and developed countries.

Plan maintains partnership relations with children and youth groups, community groups and local governments. Plan works through partners that include NGOs, academic and research institutes, and media groups. Plan also collaborates with different UN agencies, and other donors.

Plan has 21,000 supporters in the UK directly linked to communities in Latin America through its sponsorship programme. Plan works with young people in the formal and informal education sectors in the UK to educate them about their rights and responsibilities as global citizens, supporting them to advocate for other children and youth at the local, national and international levels.



▲ Deliberating at the Children's Parliament in Bolivia which Plan has been supporting as part of the Bolivian Alliance for Children.  
Credit: Plan

Plan supports children's and community groups to realise their rights by strengthening their capacities to participate in governance processes critical to promoting and protecting their rights, holding governments and other duty bearers to account when these are violated, and contributing to broader development initiatives in their communities. In so doing, Plan ensures that:

Children and youth, especially the most vulnerable, are reached by, engaged in, and benefit from service delivery systems;

National and international key decision-makers and policy communities take action to include and protect children and youth;

There is increased public awareness and action among children and youth in the UK, their families and communities in support of child-centred development.

The focus of Plan's work is on some of the most vulnerable groups of children: girl children, children living with disabilities, children of ethnic minority and discriminated castes, children affected by violence, children impacted by HIV and AIDS, and children at risk of impacts by disasters and climate change. Plan works with these groups of children so that they can participate in their communities' governance processes.

## Plan's Presence in the Region

Plan's extensive networks and long-standing presence at the local level make it well positioned to strengthen children's voice and agency in decision-making processes. Plan already supports a range of different governance initiatives. These focus on creating or strengthening safe and effective spaces where young citizens and government actors can meet to dialogue, negotiate and make decisions.

In **Ecuador**, national laws that guarantee child protection are the result of collective lobbying efforts of the national network of child-focused organisations. Consistent with this, Plan has supported the creation of 30 consultative children councils, 100 community defence councils, 15 local protection boards and 33 local children's councils.

In **Guatemala**, Plan collaborates with 12 other organisations in the National Municipalisation Round Table, which facilitates the elaboration of public policies on children by 80 municipalities. Baseline studies on the state of children inform both policies and investments in these municipalities.



In **Nicaragua**, Plan developed and piloted a new methodology for improving personal hygiene and sanitation among school children which has now been adopted by several schools across six departments.

In **El Salvador**, a step-by-step guide to promoting a "culture of peace" in schools has been developed with children themselves. This was adopted by the Ministry of Education for nationwide application.

In **Bolivia**, as part of the Bolivian Alliance for Children, Plan has been supporting a Children's Parliament. Since 2004, the Children's Parliament has gained the approval of laws securing cost-free birth registration, free breakfasts in schools and allowances for the purchase of school materials.

Over the next three years, Plan will continue to work on strengthening the engagement of children and youth in governance processes. Plan will document and systematically learn from its work. The success and sustainability of Plan's child-centred community development approach depends on accountable governance, including the effective allocation and use of scarce public resources, the ability of communities and public institutions to manage their own affairs efficiently, to communicate effectively and to access the information they need to make informed decisions.

◀ Broadcasting child radio programmes in Ecuador where Plan has supported the creation of a number of consultative children's councils, community defence councils, protection boards and local children's councils.  
Credit: Plan

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Progressio has been tackling poverty and injustice in Latin America for nearly 40 years. Working closely with local organisations and impoverished communities, our development workers build the capacity of people and communities to find lasting solutions to the problems they face.

Progressio has over 50 development workers in Ecuador, Peru, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras – from agroecologists to urban planners, from women’s rights activists to HIV and AIDS specialists. Placed with local organisations, our development workers help provide the skills to put solutions into practice. This collaborative approach contributes to deep-rooted, sustainable change, while our advocacy work – both locally and globally – supports the voices of poor people to challenge the policies and practices that keep them poor.

Progressio’s Catholic background helps us make a real difference in Latin America, where many communities and organisations identify themselves as Catholic but experience the influence of the Catholic hierarchy as restrictive, excluding and disempowering. As an independent organisation, we support faith-based and secular organisations working for the shared aim of a just society, free from poverty.



▲ A woman in El Salvador protesting about the contamination of a community water source. Every day in El Salvador, 32 children die from diarrhoeal diseases due to a lack of potable water and poor sanitation. Progressio works with the environmental organisation UNES to promote people’s water rights in El Salvador. Credit: UNES/Progressio

Marginalised people are least likely to participate in governance structures, exacerbating their poverty and reducing accountability. Progressio works with some of the most vulnerable groups, including women, young people, Afro-descendants and indigenous people, to help give them the skills and confidence to empower themselves.

Our development workers work with partner organisations to provide leadership training to local leaders from poor rural and urban communities. This training equips them to play an active,

meaningful role in governance: making their voices heard, influencing decision-making, and carrying out their own development initiatives.

We also tackle the systems that marginalise people. In Central America, organisations that we support have played a key role in developing participatory planning and budgeting processes that are now being widely used to promote accountability. And through our development workers, we help ensure people can use these processes, supporting individuals and groups to articulate and demand their needs and rights.



► Farmers in Columbe Alto, Ecuador, during a workshop on sustainable agriculture, food security and livelihoods for poor highland communities. Progressio works with partner organisations to establish fair, sustainable systems to manage water, land and seeds, and so provide food security and long-term livelihoods for 37 Ecuadorian communities.

Credit: Myriam Salazar/CEA/Progressio



**Damage to the environment threatens livelihoods and increases vulnerability to natural disasters.** We work with poor rural communities to promote sustainable agricultural practices and natural resource management, enabling people to grow food to eat and to sell while preserving the environment.

Many Latin American people who rely on the land for their livelihoods are directly affected by climate change, from farmers struggling with variable weather patterns, to the increased vulnerability to natural disasters of poor people living on marginal land. Our development workers support local and regional initiatives that help prepare communities to adapt to current and future changes, protect the environment and preserve their livelihoods.

Poor people are always hardest hit by environmental damage and degradation. We help build the advocacy skills and capacity of local organisations campaigning against illegal logging (which affects local food and water supplies, damages biodiversity and undermines the rights of indigenous and local communities) and for water rights. Guided by the voices of our partner organisations, we back this up with Northern-based advocacy on water and deforestation.

**A rights-based approach is central to our work on HIV and AIDS.** This seeks to promote a comprehensive and holistic HIV and AIDS prevention model and to tackle the stigma and discrimination that is prevalent throughout Latin America. Through our development workers we support local partner organisations to create materials that present people living with HIV and AIDS in a realistic, positive light. One example is Puntos de Encuentro in Nicaragua, which produced a weekly soap opera, broadcast nationwide and in other Central American countries, portraying the everyday life of young people affected by HIV and AIDS.



▲ Progressio Development worker Susana Araujo talking to community leaders in the Ayacucho region of Peru.

Credit: Michelle Lowe/Progressio

All our work seeks to promote women's rights, and we have responded to the key role of *machismo* in unequal gender relations in Latin America by developing with partner organisations a programme of masculinities work, challenging ingrained attitudes and enabling men to become part of the solution, not just the problem. In the HIV and AIDS pandemic, women are particularly marginalised and disadvantaged in relation to prevention, care and support. With our partner organisations, we are now extending the masculinities approach to HIV and AIDS work, because of its potential impact in effective prevention.

## Our Aims

**Poor and marginalised people have a greater voice in decisions that affect their lives**

By 2011, local development plans and budgets covering a total population of 60,000 within three countries will be produced with more civil society participation than at present

By 2011, 50% of target groups, including marginalised groups, will demonstrate greater awareness of their rights and of participation processes

**Poor people and communities have a reduced disaster risk and vulnerability to climate change and increased capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change**

By 2011, eight documented examples of local or national legislation and policies will ensure the equitable and sustainable access to and use of natural resources by poor communities, especially women

**People living with HIV and AIDS experience less stigma and discrimination, and HIV prevalence rates are reduced**

By 2011, people living with HIV and AIDS, both men and women, report that they are experiencing less stigma and discrimination

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# Save the Children UK

Save the Children UK has worked in Latin America since the early 1970s. Our partnership with DFID currently supports work in Peru (where we have worked since 1981) as well as Brazil and Colombia (where we have worked since 1991). Despite the economic gains the region has made during this time, many of its children still remain out of school and vulnerable to exploitation.

Wherever we work, we are committed to addressing the needs of the poorest and most marginalised children. In Latin America we focus on children living below the poverty line who are further discriminated against because they are from minority groups, because they've been displaced from their homelands, because they have disabilities, or because they are affected by HIV/AIDS.

We aim to help reduce exclusion and inequality, and ultimately, poverty, by promoting and supporting accountable public sector and political systems that can respond to the needs of these children. Our work rests on the principles of child rights programming and the meaningful participation of civil society, particularly children.



◀ Cristhian (6) doing his homework at home in Montenegro, Colombia. Cristhian, born with a left arm that ends at his elbow, was turned away from school because of his physical disability. Credit: Dan Alder/Save the Children



▲ But now he is attending kindergarten, thanks in part to Save the Children's inclusive education programme in Colombia, which funnels money donated by coffee producer FFI, makers of Fair Instant, back into the communities that grow the company's coffee. Credit: Dan Alder/Save the Children

In Colombia, we work from Cartagena in the north, across the coffee belt, Bogotá and its environs, to Nariño on the border with Ecuador. Alongside improving the quality of education, we seek to address the legacy of the long-running conflict which has left children with little or no guarantee of their rights.

We work with local and national government to design and strengthen models of child protection by training teachers, caregivers and local authorities in children's rights, the identification of children at risk and methods of providing appropriate community based

care. Recently we've been invited by the Inspector General and the National Planning department to help authorities plan – focusing on children's needs in education, protection and health – so they can identify funding gaps in a more strategic way.

We also work to get the most vulnerable and excluded children into education by helping displaced children access schools, by developing educational alternatives for children at risk of armed recruitment, and by supporting teachers to teach children with different abilities. Last year, our 'Rewrite the Future' campaign helped over 120,000 conflict-affected children access quality education.

## Statistics

There are currently between an estimated 11,000 and 14,000 child soldiers in Colombia serving for both guerrilla and paramilitary groups.

(Human Rights Watch)

The impact of Colombia's armed conflict on education is significant. 74.5% of displaced children do not have access to education.

(MEN; Colombia's Inspector General's Office)

Half of Brazil's 60 million children live in poverty.

(UNICEF)

Brazil has the highest number of people living with HIV and AIDS in South America - estimated at 660,000.

(UNAIDS)

Of Peru's 10 million children, 62% live in poor conditions and 20% are extremely poor.

(UNICEF)

In Peru, 25% of girls aged 6-11 years and 87% of disabled children do not attend school.

(Peru's Public Ombudsman in Educación Inclusiva: Educación para todos)

In Brazil, poverty and the lack of protection for human rights have hit indigenous and Afro-descendant communities

hardest. These communities dominate Brazil's disadvantaged north east and the slums of southern cities, where migrants from northern states have come looking for work. So these are the areas where we focus our efforts, working mainly through local partners to improve the quality of education and address HIV/AIDS.

Our programme developed 'the Cost per Pupil for Quality Education Instrument', or 'CAQI', by asking students, parents and teachers what is needed for a child to attend and benefit from school (transport? nutrition? etc). We have then used this tool in national and regional advocacy, applying the 'CAQI' in the other Latin American countries where we work, training partner organizations in economic literacy and empowering civil society, particularly children, to monitor public spending and call for greater investment in education. Successes include securing provisions for preschool education in Brazil's federal education system (working together with the National Campaign for the Right to Education).

We also work with local partners to make sexual and reproductive health services more 'user-friendly' for young people by training health workers in HIV prevention and children's rights. And last year we reached 4,500 adolescents, including young people living with HIV or AIDS, through our innovative peer education and creative expression training.



◆ Young people look through Save the Children publications at a Save the Children project in Brazil which trains young people to monitor and influence how local government funds are allocated and spent. Credit: Leticia Valverdes/Save the Children

In Peru, our work focuses on the country's poorest areas, particularly rural and minority communities living in remote mountainous areas. Our priority is to help non-Spanish speaking children, children with disabilities and girls to make sure they have a fair chance to go to school. As in Brazil and Colombia, direct practical assistance (teacher training, study visits, production of bilingual materials, etc) is coupled with advocacy for long-term improvements in the financing of education.

We also work with local partners to advocate for children's rights and are currently working closely with the Children's Ombudsman to put an end to the physical and humiliating punishment of children. Last year, our high profile media campaign on this issue helped us collect over 25,000 signatures in support. Now, together with our partners, we are putting together a national advocacy strategy to address violence against children, promote decentralised protection systems, and in general advocate for children's rights to be an integral part of public policies, programmes and decisions.

## Our Aims:

### Across Latin America:

- By 2010, to ensure 20% more children from excluded groups complete primary and secondary education, and 20% fewer are dropping out
- By 2010, to influence pro-poor national policy change, in particular to increase national education budgets by 10%

### Country specific:

- By 2010, to improve access to quality education for 500,000 conflict-affected children in Colombia
- By 2011, to benefit 600,000 children across 30 municipalities in Colombia from improved protection systems and changes in the attitudes and practices of parents and communities
- By 2010, to reduce the numbers of children aged 10-14 contracting HIV in Brazil and Peru, and reduce the level of teenage pregnancies

## Find out more:

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**World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation working to create lasting change in the lives of children, families and communities living in poverty; achieved through effective child-focused development and humanitarian programmes reaching 100 million people in 98 countries and through growing policy influence with national governments and international institutions.**

World Vision in Latin America is linked into and supported by the international World Vision partnership, including WVUK and offices across Europe, North America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Australasia that provide funding, technical support and capacity building.

WVUK is highly active in policy engagement, public advocacy and development education with a constituency of over 130,000 committed supporters. These include 21,000 campaigners, 6,000 youth and over 100,000 people who support long-term development programmes through a personal link to a child, family and community.

World Vision has worked in the Latin America region for more than 30 years, advocating and striving for a transformed Latin America that is more just, equitable and inclusive. Through its network of locally governed civil society organisations in 12 countries<sup>10</sup>, World Vision has developed a deep understanding of and response to the complex development contexts of the region.



◀ Children Participate in the National Youth Leadership Conference. 11-year old Honourable Patricia Perez is a parliamentary delegate actively involved in making laws that improve children's wellbeing in all of Bolivia. She also enjoys playing with dolls and being read to by her mum.  
Credit: World Vision

Led by a Peruvian Regional Vice President, the vast majority of World Vision's regional and national leadership are home nationals who share a passion to promote social equity with an emphasis on children and youth and a holistic approach to development.

World Vision's overarching goal for the region by 2020 is *"to contribute to the formation and empowerment of a network of five million children, teenagers and young people, for whom we seek a life in all its fullness and with whom we contribute to the transformation of Latin America and the Caribbean"*.

Through 311 community-based development programmes and the participation of 2,375,000 children and young people, World Vision partners local community based organisations to strengthen the capacity of communities to lead their own development processes.

▶ 7-year-old Matilde signs her identity card. Matilde and Marisol Lopez Condori became the first children in Bolivia to receive identity cards through the Citizenship Construction and Strengthening Indigenous Rights Project.  
Credit: World Vision



A long-term community presence, typically for 12 to 15 years, enables insight into the challenges faced by communities and generates many opportunities to address inequality, and promote the inclusion of children, youth and other excluded groups in development and advocacy.

World Vision in Latin America seeks to enhance its impact on poverty reduction and social inclusion by:

Strengthening an array of civil society organisations and youth networks in their ability to influence development processes and hold government to account regarding the quality and quantity of services provided.

Capitalizing on World Vision's grassroots reach within the region to enhance economic development opportunities for communities through strategies of sustainable livelihoods and access to markets.

Building on World Vision's strong track record in addressing the social exclusion of those often marginalized in poverty reduction – girls, boys and young people affected by HIV & AIDS.

World Vision development programmes work at the interface between community-level civil society and the lower tiers of government policy, practice and service delivery by strengthening domestic accountability between citizens in Latin American countries and their governments. So that poor and socially-excluded citizens become aware of their entitlements to service inputs (e.g. teachers, textbooks); monitor services provided by local facilities (such as schools and health centres) and agree on, and give voice to reforms in service provision, both locally and at higher levels of government.

▶ 9-year-old Ana is waiting for her daily meal of tortillas to cook in Honduras.  
Credit: World Vision



World Vision's Approach to Economic Development in Latin America takes a market-based approach to economic growth, which moves individuals, families and communities beyond chronic food insecurity and above the national poverty line.

World Vision's extensive experience in economic development has shown that trade and market programmes can liberate the poor to develop sustainable livelihoods. Our emphasis is on analysis, goal setting, planning, facilitating business growth and effectiveness and offering small loans.

Each of the 12 Latin American national offices has integrated micro-enterprise development into their community development programmes and implements a range of economic development projects and access-to-markets initiatives to achieve maximum development impact, ensuring the work can be continued when World Vision leaves each area.

To facilitate access to financial services, World Vision has supported the formation of 12 microfinance institutions in Latin America, which serve 88,000 family businesses.

World Vision's Response to HIV & AIDS in Latin America is to reduce the impact of HIV & AIDS on children, their families and communities through the enhancement and expansion of programmes and partnerships with community coalitions and faith based organisations focused on HIV & AIDS prevention, care and advocacy led by girls, boys and young people.

World Vision UK (WVUK) supports "Canales de Esperanza" (Channels of Hope), an innovative project in Honduras. The project works with religious and secular leaders to tackle stigma and strengthen capacity in the fight against HIV & AIDS. This successful model is now being implemented within ten countries of the region.

## Find out more:

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<sup>10</sup> Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile and Mexico.



**WWF is at the heart of efforts to build a future where people and nature thrive within their fair share of the planet's natural resources. WWF works to strengthen environmental governance to ensure positive environmental impacts and the well-being of people**

A healthy, functioning environment is fundamental to people's well-being – especially the poor and marginalised, who most depend on the environment for their livelihoods. Nevertheless, increasing global demand for natural resources is threatening the environment we depend on.

Latin America's rich natural resources provide the world with goods (such as timber, minerals, oil and agricultural commodities) and crucial services (for example, the Amazon rainforest helps regulate the global climate). Problems such as high deforestation rates, illegal logging, poorly planned infrastructure development, contamination from oil and gas extraction, and overfishing pose big challenges to effective management and governance of these natural resources, and negatively impact the livelihoods of poor people, increase inequality and exacerbate other drivers of poverty. But throughout Latin America there are innovative examples of effective natural resource governance and civil society participation.

► A caboclo boy with fish in the WWF supported Lago Mimiraua Ecological Station with one of the over 2000 fish species that migrate to the várzea (flooded forest) in order to breed. Fish is part of the staple diet of people in the várzea, Amazonas, Brazil.  
Credit: © Edward PARKER / WWF-Canon



WWF began working in Latin America in the 1960s and now has a presence in 18 countries in the region. We work with national and local government, the private sector and civil society. At a local level, we work to empower communities and strengthen civil society around key environmental governance issues. Good environmental governance is central to our work; other key areas include tackling climate change and building a One Planet Future.



## Environmental governance

Focusing on good environmental governance is essential if we are to reduce poverty and improve environmental sustainability in the long term. We do this through initiatives such as the ones described below.

In Colombia, we support forest-based communities to uphold their rights to manage their forests, and help reduce conflict over natural resources and illegal activities. We promote responsible policies in agro-industrial sectors and help build more effective and inclusive governance systems and policies.

In the Amazon, we are working to minimise the negative impacts of a vast proposed system of large-scale infrastructure, including dams, roads and oil pipelines, on biodiversity and the well-being of vulnerable people. In Peru we work with indigenous Amazonian groups to build their capacity to defend their land rights and better communicate with key stakeholders including government and oil and gas extractive industries. In the Brazilian floodplains, or várzea, we are scaling up our experiences on co-management of floodplain resources by building capacity to implement new systems of land tenure and use.

In Paraguay, we have been supporting the government to develop stronger frameworks for controlling deforestation, as a result the deforestation rate in the Upper Parana Atlantic Forest has fallen by 90% compared to 2002.

▲ Deforestation and forest degradation is responsible for nearly a fifth of global greenhouse emissions. In Peru and Brazil WWF is working to strengthen the political, institutional and legal frameworks for reducing these emissions.  
Credit: Brent Stirton/Getty Images/WWF-UK

With our partners, WWF is working to bring about lasting change in Latin America, reducing poverty and inequality, securing natural resources and ecosystems, tackling the causes and consequences of climate change, and strengthening environmental governance in this vital region.

## Climate change

Climate change impacts are already being felt in Latin America – the frequency of tropical storms is increasing, glaciers are melting in the Andes, and temperatures are rising in the Amazon. Climate change is impacting the poorest people first and hardest. WWF is promoting strategies for low-carbon development and climate change adaptation, such as the following.

In Brazil, we are working to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation, and from the electricity and business sectors. We are strengthening national climate policy and adaptation plans, and Brazil's role in international climate change negotiations.

In the Mesoamerican reef, a region which stretches from Mexico to Honduras, and is particularly vulnerable to hurricanes and coral bleaching, we are developing initiatives with partners to reduce human and ecosystem vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.

In the Amazon, deforestation is a key contributor to global warming. We want the post-2012 global climate agreement to include rewards for developing countries that reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD). With partners, we are developing activities to demonstrate how REDD can also benefit the poor.

In the Rio Conchos, Mexico, we are developing ways to reduce the impact climate change has on water management systems that are vital for society and the environment – by revising dam and irrigation systems, and restoring key wetlands.

## One Planet Future

Worldwide demand for timber, beef, soy and other products from Latin America can fuel deforestation, contribute significantly to global warming and increase the vulnerability of poor and marginalised people. To address this, in support of our goal of a One Planet Future, we engage with key market sectors to promote greater environmental sustainability and equity.

**Timber** – WWF established the Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN) to eliminate illegal logging and improve the management of valuable and threatened forests. The GFTN creates market conditions that help conserve the world's forests while providing economic and social benefits for the people that depend on them.

**Soy and palm oil** – WWF is a founder member of the Roundtables on Sustainable Palm Oil and on Responsible Soy. Both are developing credible and independent environmental and social standards for the production of commodities that have major impacts in Latin America. In the UK, we encourage major retailers and manufacturers to use certified sustainable soy and palm oil.

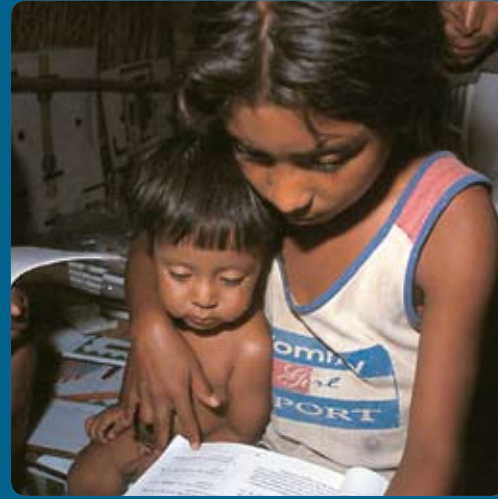
**Beef** – We will support an international roundtable process for the beef industry and promote best practice in cattle ranching in the Amazon to reduce the drive to deforest new areas.

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