

This provides an update on World Vision's efforts to end extreme poverty by 2030 through Economic Empowerment.



MARCH 2018

Greetings!

World Vision is delighted to send you our Executive Briefing for Economic Empowerment. You are an integral part of our work to end extreme poverty by 2030, so we want to keep you updated on our progress!

THRIVE Honduras Snapshot

Christopher Shore, Chief Development Officer, Economic Empowerment



For the last few months, it seems that anytime we are talking about THRIVE we are talking about Honduras. We have had 3 VisionTrips since the beginning of the year to Honduras, and I just returned from one. Our Every Last One Campaign meetings in Carlsbad in February featured a “virtual VisionTrip” to Honduras. (For more information about the conference, with links to the videos of all the sessions, including the unforgettable trip to Honduras featuring THRIVE, see the following section in the newsletter.)

THRIVE in Honduras builds on strong foundations in Economic Empowerment stretching back many years, including not only excellent agricultural work I first saw in 2003, but also the first of VisionFund’s microfinance institutions to break into significant scale in Latin America. THRIVE’s immediate predecessor was the GEO project – Generating Economic Opportunities – which targeted at-risk youth and their families in the drylands of Honduras through corridor included a strong component of preparing youth for employment opportunities.



This giant green pepper was grown by members of the World Vision-supported Fountain of Life Savings Group,

now 48 members strong. The group began in 2003 with 18 people. Members farm the land owned by 66-year-old Jose Gustavo Benitez, the group secretary. The success of the project has attracted 30 new members, who helped it grow from a savings group worth \$8,000 to \$26,000.

THRIVE Honduras uses the same basic approach that THRIVE uses everywhere. That is, THRIVE is seeking to build both improved and resilient livelihoods for smallholder farmers. THRIVE Honduras does that on the foundation of an Empowered Worldview, and uses the 3 core operational pillars:

1. The end-to-end business systems of farming;
2. The on-farm and off-farm natural resource management systems of farming; and
3. The early warning for early action / situational awareness systems that support farming.

THRIVE Honduras has ambitious 5 year goals – moving 14,000 smallholder farmer families completely out of extreme poverty and vulnerability. It is moving ahead well in this first and foundational year of the program, and is aiming to work with over 1,000 smallholder farmers. The program has deep technical partnerships with not only VisionFund Honduras, but also Honducafe (improving coffee quality and exporting), Forestry Conservation Institute, General Directorate of Irrigation and Drainage, USAID's Dryland Corridor Alliance, and others.



THRIVE Honduras has some distinctives – wrinkles that make it unique – that are worth noting. First, the program retains a strong positive slant towards involving and engaging youth. It is so encouraging to see young people realize that staying in Honduras in their home communities can offer them a future of economic opportunity and hope. Second, because of the geography, many of the smallholder farmers grow coffee. We like that, as we get to enjoy good coffee when we visit! We are also looking to introduce some of our coffee growing cooperatives to importers in the USA – we'll keep you updated on this. Third, World Vision Honduras is using the World Vision Latin America curriculum, and is in the process of adapting the Empowered Worldview curriculum that is widely used in Africa to their context. THAT will be interesting!

Is THRIVE working in Honduras? Mr. Phillipe Benites sure thinks so! Mr. Benites learned from fellow members of a Savings Group that started working together to learn better farming practices. Phillipe went from growing corn, beans, and some sugar cane to feed his family, to using better practices and massively growing his income. He now grows pineapples, green peppers, tomatoes, and watermelon. Look at those tomatoes!

Yes, THRIVE is working in Honduras. Maybe you should consider a visit?



Take the Virtual VisionTrip to Honduras

The World Vision Every Last One Conference was held in Carlsbad, California in February. With over 400 people attending, this was arguably our best conference ever! One of the features of this year’s conference was the “Virtual VisionTrip” to Honduras. If you were not able to go to this year’s conference, or if you would like to take that virtual trip again, please follow the [following link](#), go the Saturday morning events, and click on the connection for Vision Trip Experience Honduras. Think about adding a trip to the Every Last One Conference in Carlsbad, California to your plans for March 2019.



More About Honduras in the News with World Vision

Read [here](#) about how Kelvin Beachum Jr. found hope in Honduras for the global water crisis.

Upcoming Calendar Events

- **OneVision Technology Fund Webinar** - 19 April 2018, 11:00am PT - Entitled 'Technology has changed your life', join us to learn how technology can also change the lives of the world's most vulnerable. (please contact your World Vision representative about participating or email cshore@worldvision.org or kbarta@worldvision.org).
 - **Vision Trips** (please contact your World Vision representative about participating, or cshore@worldvision.org or kbarta@worldvision.org)
 - Zambia (May 4-11, 2018)
 - Malawi (July 13-20, 2018)
 - Zambia (November 3-10, 2018 tentatively)
 - **Fork to Farm SEEP Event** - 30 September, 2018 - Washington, DC - a chance for prospective and current donors to meet World Vision's global Economic Empowerment leaders ahead of the annual SEEP conference
 - **Strong Women Strong World** - 30 November, 2018 - New York, New York
 - **South Florida Economic Empowerment Summit** - January 25-26, 2019 - Naples, Florida
 - **Every Last One Conference** - March 8-9, 2019 - Carlsbad, CA
 - **THRIVE / Building Secure Livelihoods Forum** - April 1-5, 2019 - Lilongwe, MALAWI
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Follow Chief Development Officer Christopher Shore on Instagram.

Christopher regularly posts photos and video postcards from the field as he travels. (No funny posts of his dog! World Vision business only.) Download Instagram onto your phone or device, and then add him at [christopher.shore.wv](https://www.instagram.com/christopher.shore.wv) to get all of this updates.

Prayer Requests

PRAISE

- For an excellent conference in Carlsbad this year, and for the new and renewed connections our donors and staff made there

REQUESTS

- For our smallholder farmers in Tanzania - the rains were slow to come, but finally arrived. Now many fields are flooded. Please pray for a successful agricultural season.
- For transitions of new incoming National Directors in WV Tanzania (Gilbert Kamaga) and WV Zambia (John Hasse).
- For April 2-12 Economic Empowerment and Food Security Vision Trip to Malawi and Tanzania with colleagues from The Gathering.



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