



The Resource Foundation

SPRING 2015 NEWSLETTER

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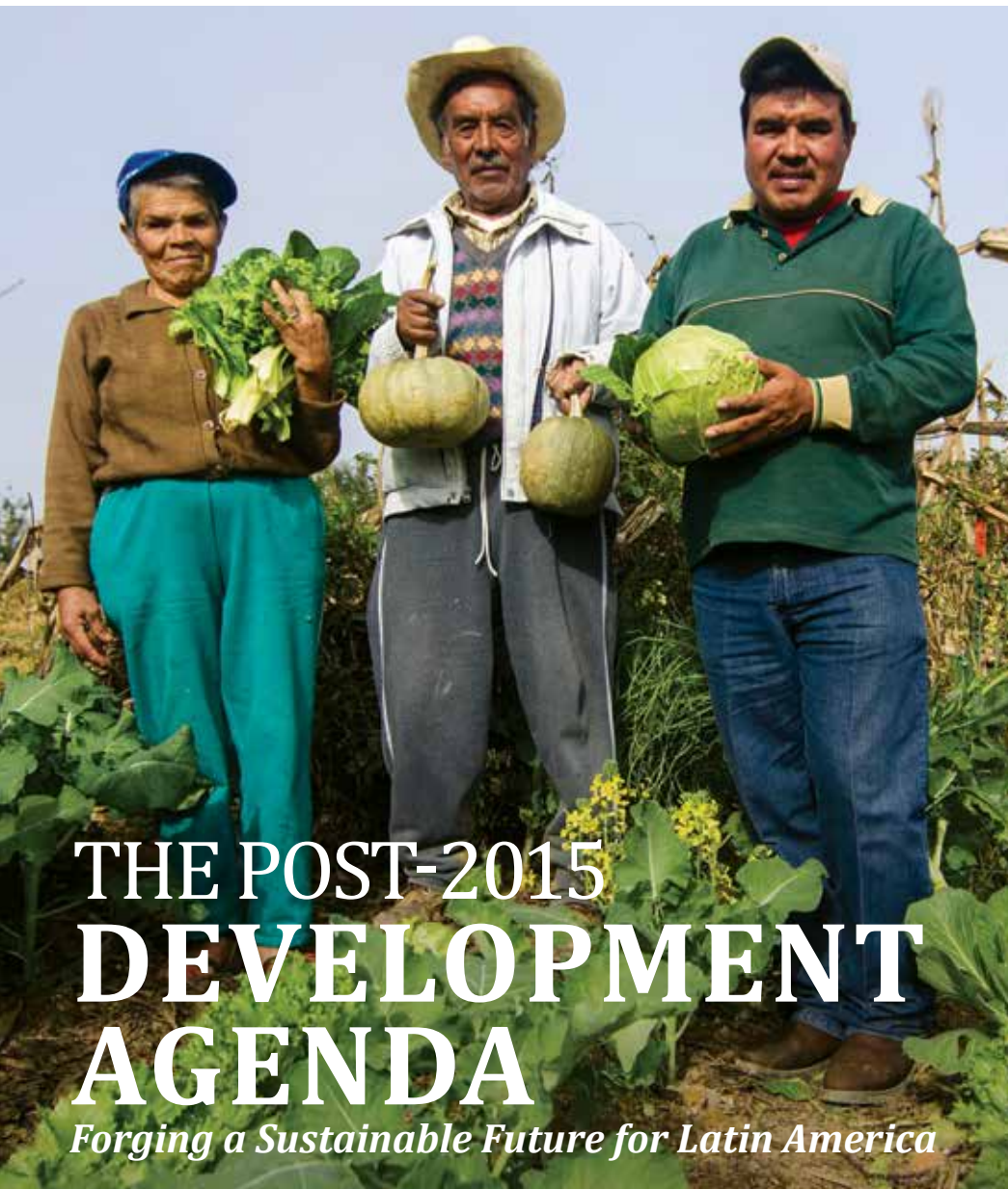
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THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Forging a Sustainable Future for Latin America

In September, the United Nations will convene to decide upon a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will direct the global community's development priorities through 2030. The new action plan will replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), set to expire at the end of 2015. While the two agendas share the overarching goal of eradicating poverty, the SDGs expand

upon the MDGs, bringing greater focus to sustainability and climate change.

These two issues are critical in Latin America and the Caribbean, where environmental degradation and urbanization create obstacles to achieving sustainable development. Although the region has made strides in areas such as water and sanitation,

malnutrition, child mortality and extreme poverty, significant gaps remain. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) states that, in order to achieve the SDGs, Latin America must address ongoing challenges around primary education completion, access to reproductive healthcare, gender equality and deforestation.

According to the ECLAC, poverty and inequality present the greatest challenges to sustainable development in Latin America, which is still considered the most unequal region in the world. Several of the proposed SDGs target the deep social, economic and gender inequalities that remain in Latin America by fostering inclusive economic growth, quality education for all and women's empowerment. Despite progress in overall poverty reduction, women make up the majority of the region's poor, and they face more barriers to accessing quality jobs. "In the long run, societies and economies can only thrive if they make full use of women's skills and capacities," as a UN Women 2015 report states.

Greater financial inclusion, along with a renewed focus on sustainability, will also help to promote growth and fight inequalities in the region. These themes are integrated into the work of many of TRF's local partners, as you'll read in our Newsletter.

Promoting sustainable development does not fall solely upon governments or multilateral organizations like the UN; private sector collaboration is essential in order to advance the SDGs. Many of TRF's donors support initiatives focused on ensuring a sustainable future in Latin America. In our Spring Newsletter, you'll find a few examples of these, from agro-ecological education programs in Brazil and Chile, to our Regional Education and Gender Equity Program, funded by Caterpillar Foundation.

To learn more about how TRF is supporting sustainability in the region and to join our efforts, visit www.resourcefnd.org.

The Resource Foundation welcomes our **NEW INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS**

THE TIFFANY & CO. FOUNDATION • THE SOBELL FOUNDATION • AMGEN FOUNDATION

LETTER FROM OUR LEADER

Dear Friends,

We cannot say these two little words frequently enough: Thank you! The fruits of your generous support are the many stories of change and growth reflected in the tireless work of our local partners. We're pleased to share a few of these in our Spring Newsletter, and we invite you to visit our blog frequently (www.resourcefnd.org/who-we-are/news/) and to connect with us via social media to enjoy more stories and photos throughout the year.

With post-2015 development agenda discussions in full-swing, there is another word that is top of mind this year: sustainability. Promoting sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean through 2030 and beyond requires commitment and partnership between civil society, the private sector and governments. Thanks to support from donors like YOU, our local network continues to address the most pressing challenges to sustainable development in the region through high-impact programs. Examples of this are TRF partners Sítio Esperança, in Brazil, and Fundación Origen, in Chile, which cultivate youth leadership and environmental awareness through holistic educational programs, and partners in various countries that foster financial inclusion to strengthen marginalized communities. Also, our Regional Education and Gender Equity Program continues to benefit thousands of primary school children and teachers in 10 Latin American countries.

This year is shaping up to be an exciting one at TRF, having held our successful Regional Program workshop-seminar in Chile, launched a \$1 million partnership with The Tiffany & Co. Foundation in support of Mexico City's Chapultepec Forest Park, and set the date for our Annual Gala, among many other happenings. We hope you'll join us on Nov. 10th at the New York Athletic Club in Manhattan for an evening celebrating and supporting the work of TRF's partners on the ground. As always, if you enjoy our Newsletter, please share it with a friend and invite them to join the TRF family!



Warm regards,

Marcela Lopez-Macedonio
Executive Director

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ THE RESOURCE FOUNDATION

Regional Education & Gender Equity Seminar and Panel Event in Chile

On April 14-17, representatives of 10 nonprofits from 10 Latin American countries joined TRF in Santiago for the second workshop-seminar in connection with TRF's Regional Education and Gender Equity Program. The event followed the successful 2014 seminar held in Panama City.

A cross-sector group of distinguished panelists and individuals from across the region came together for the inaugural panel event on the 14th, titled "Education and Gender: Seeds for an Equitable Future." A participatory set of roundtable discussions facilitated by TRF followed the panel, with small groups engaging in thoughtful dialogue around gender inequalities and potential solutions from the range of perspectives represented – including corporate, political, educational and scientific.

The panel event was the official start of the intensive workshop-seminar with Regional Program participants that was led by TRF. Interactive workshops designed to allow TRF's nonprofit partners to share methodologies, successes, challenges and overall experiences since the Program's creation in 2012 were held at Fundación Origen's headquarters in Pirque, outside of Santiago.

TRF closed the activities in Chile with visits to two schools in Río Claro, south of Santiago, that are participating in Fundación Origen's project within the Regional Program, as well as to other key partners in the country: Fundación Banigualdad, Corporación CreArte and Manos y Naturaleza.

For more stories and photos from TRF's activities in Chile, as well as information about the Regional Program, visit the TRF blog: <http://resourcefnd.org/who-we-are/news/>.



CULTIVATING LEADERSHIP

Sustainability. Leadership. Integrated Development.

Implementing such concepts through comprehensive programs – whether it's in education, environmental conservation, community development, or other fields – is challenging, but worthwhile. Several of TRF's local partners have weaved these themes into their methodologies and missions.

Since 2007, TRF partner Sítio Esperança in Brazil has worked to educate a new generation of leaders through programs that emphasize holistic learning. The organization's first initiative, Programa Florescer, has helped special needs children through contact with nature and organic horticulture, and has continued to develop over the years to incorporate activities on natural sciences; agro-ecology; personal consciousness; sustainability; the interdependence of ecosystems; and appreciation for social, cultural and natural diversity.

Seeing the need to promote positive personal and ecological values, Sítio Esperança expanded in 2010 and created an infant and primary school with a curriculum that incorporates the agro-ecological methodology. In addition, the organization continues to advocate for the inclusion of sustainability concepts, holistic education and diversity awareness in Brazil's educational system.

Similarly, TRF partner Fundación Origen, in Chile, which hosted



TRF's Regional Education and Gender Equity Seminar in April, has been promoting leadership, peace and sustainable community development through its Pirque Agro-ecological School (EAP) since 1991. EAP offers an integral, cost-free education to socially vulnerable young people, who can attain their high school diploma coupled with a Technical Agriculture degree. Because this certification is recognized by the Chilean Ministry of Education, graduates are equipped to enter the workforce as qualified professionals or to pursue higher studies.

Over 2,000 students have attended EAP since its establishment; 100 percent graduated, and 75 percent also earned the technical degree.

For more insight into the impact of these types of programs, visit our blog: <http://resourcefnd.org/cultivating-leadership>.



FINANCIAL INCLUSION FOR STRONGER COMMUNITIES

How can access to the formal financial system empower low-income individuals, families and communities to advance their well-being and prosperity?

To start, access to financial services such as bank accounts, credit and savings products helps families and individuals prepare for the future and the things most meaningful to them, like their children's education, their health or starting a small business. People who lack access to these services rely solely upon informal practices to save at home, and often depend on friends and family, stores or private informal lenders to borrow money.

Access to these and other services, such as payment mechanisms, has been shown to increase savings and empower women, as well as contributing to improved income and mental health. Beyond the benefits for individuals, as the World Bank's 2014 Global Financial Inclusion (Findex) Database states, "[f]inancial inclusion has been broadly recognized as critical in reducing poverty and achieving inclusive economic growth."

The issues of access, use and quality of financial services are closely related to the financial regulatory environment that countries

"Broad partnerships are the key to solving broad challenges. When governments, the United Nations, businesses, philanthropies and civil society work hand-in-hand, we can achieve great things."

Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General

create. According to a 2014 Multilateral Investment Fund report, five Latin American countries are among the top 10 countries globally to have developed enabling conditions for expanding access to financial services for the poor: Peru, Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Bolivia.

While progress has been made, current opportunities to strengthen financial inclusion in Latin America include increasing financial literacy, building the institutional capacity of microfinance institutions, expanding the range of financial services available to the poor, and leveraging new technologies such as mobile banking.

Developing effective solutions to increase the reach of financial services to underserved populations depends on a collaborative effort between governments, banks, educational institutions, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. Several of TRF's local partners work to contribute to the solution both by allying with financial institutions and governments and filling gaps where they exist.

Visit the TRF blog (resourcefnd.org/financial-inclusion) for specific success stories of financial inclusion in Latin America.



The
Resource
Foundation

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A 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, TRF is a leader in philanthropic giving to Latin America and the Caribbean. It partners with corporate, foundation and individual donors, and experienced NGOs in 28 countries in the Americas and the Caribbean to increase opportunities and improve living standards for the region's disadvantaged.

WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK

Please send comments or suggestions to:
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Please contact us by phone:
212-675-6170
or email:
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.resourcefnd.org

STAY CONNECTED TO TRF

Did you know there are now even more ways to connect with TRF?



Join us for the latest news on TRF and Latin America, and for a regular dose of inspiring stories and photos like these from our projects around the region!



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Save The Date TRF's 2015 GALA

NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10th | 6 P.M.
SILENT & LIVE AUCTION + COCKTAILS, DINNER & DANCING

BOARD MEMBER LETTER

Dear Friends,

The Resource Foundation (TRF) was created in 1987 in the midst of the "Lost Decade" for Latin America. During the 1980s many of the countries in the region suffered the consequences of the most serious debt crisis in its history. Economic growth stagnated, unemployment rose to record levels, social issues and poverty escalated, and political unrest became commonplace during this period.

Considering this scenario of significant socioeconomic difficulties for Latin America and the Caribbean, TRF entered the scene at a very opportune time and has made a special contribution to the development of the region. Through its diverse initiatives, TRF has bridged the gap between corporate and individual philanthropic interests and non-profit organizations. These initiatives have focused on education and job skills, healthcare, financial inclusion and women's empowerment, which are at the core of what Latin America and the Caribbean have required in order to develop into a more stable and prosperous region.

TRF was established with a philosophy of self-help economic and social development and the belief that local stakeholders are better equipped to identify and manage sustainable economic and social programs for their communities. Since 1987, TRF has accomplished remarkable results with over 2 million people reached by its programs annually, having worked with nearly 400 non-profit organizations in 30 countries and developing over 2,000 projects across diverse program areas.

I'm proud to be a Board Member and recognize that there's a lot more that needs to be done to continue the process of achieving a higher quality of life for the more than 500 million people that reside in Latin America and the Caribbean. We encourage you to learn more about this wonderful organization and help us support its efforts.

Please visit our new website (www.resourcefnd.org), including our blog, to learn more about the issues and organizations featured in our Newsletter. Also, we welcome your participation in the upcoming Annual Gala scheduled for Nov. 10 at the New York Athletic Club, during which you will have the opportunity

to meet our Board Members and Staff and learn more about TRF.



Sincerely,

Juan Carlos Lorenzo

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