

OUR MISSION:

VILLAGE PARTNERS INTERNATIONAL SEEKS TO DEVELOP AND ENHANCE COMMUNITIES WITH PROFOUND NEED. THROUGH PARTNERSHIP, WE SEEK TO STRENGTHEN THEIR MEDICAL, EDUCATIONAL AND MATERIAL RESOURCES. WE ARE SEEKING TO HELP MAKE THE WORLD A STRONGER COMMUNITY ... ONE VILLAGE AT A TIME.

"Our first task in approaching another people, another culture, another religion, is to take off our shoes, for the place we are approaching is holy. Else we might find ourselves treading on another's dream. More serious still we may forget that God was there before our arrival."

anonymous



Village Partners International
partnering to help people help themselves

JULY, 2015

Spotlight on Mombin Crochu Hospital

Mobile Clinic Brings Medical Care to Outlying Communities



Mombin Crochu Hospital, Haiti is home base for two of the most dedicated physicians you will ever meet. While faithfully serving the patients of the clinic, Dr. Miles and Dr. Renee wanted to do more for those in the community who were unable to travel to the hospital. Two years ago, they put together a proposal for a Mobile Clinic that would take medical care and communicative disease prevention directly to the rural villages where it is most needed. With funding and support through VPI, the clinic became a reality in 2014. Today, the clinic serves approximately 200 patients monthly and has become a beacon of hope for many who would not have access to medical care, prenatal and nutritional counseling and HIV/Aids prevention and education. Thanks to the generosity of donors and the dedication of the Haitian doctors and staff of Mombin Crochu Hospital, the Mobile Clinic is a shining example of sustainability and success.

Save The Date !

Under the Same Stars

VPI Fundraiser 11/7/15 6:30—9:00 PM

Eyewitness to Sustainability in Papoli, Uganda

Understanding the Relationship between VPI and PACODEF

By: Linda Brown Boza - Photos courtesy of Jean Bauer

“PACODEF does the work directed in the Gospel by providing service, giving encouragement and spreading hope.”

-Linda Brown Boza



Although I have been connected to Village Partners International through Pennies for Papoli for several years, I did not understand how this organization of volunteers is so effective. Every non-profit wants each penny to count, but some do it better than others. VPI wants their efforts to be sustainable, so the work done promotes independence and self-sufficiency. Personally, I wanted my meager efforts with VPI to get the biggest bang for their buck. I wondered how the pennies and effort in the United States were able to make such a large impact in the economically depressed area of Papoli, Uganda. Periodically, I would hear the word PACODEF tossed around VPI conversations and think “who/what is that?!” In July of 2014, I had the privilege of visiting Papoli with a fellow teacher and saw with my own eyes how the work of PACODEF is the heart and soul of sustainability. VPI’s motto is “partnering to help people help themselves.” PACODEF is VPI’s partner organization in Papoli, Uganda. They are the boots on the ground.

PACODEF, which stands for PApoli COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, is a non-governmental organization registered in Uganda and can therefore receive funding from NGOs in other countries, such as VPI, without being taxed. In the U.S. NGOs are commonly referred to as non-profit organizations. In reality, PACODEF acts similarly to a city council, working to improve health, education, water and safety, but without the same legal authority as a government agency. They have something more useful than legal authority; they have the respect of the community. The PACODEF team of paid employees and volunteers makes sure their village is taking advantage of anything their country provides, but their main source of income is VPI.

Learning that the money going to VPI can be channeled to PACODEF led me to wonder what the paid employees of PACODEF actually do. The paid employees are called community-development officers. I had no idea how vital their role is until I saw it in action. They maximize each dollar and are extremely mindful to spend only on what can be sustainable. They keep accurate records to insure transparency. The employees are all from the region and are well educated. Many of them have received scholarships from foreign aid, and now they are using their education to serve their community. Their jobs remind me of some U.S. social workers. They educate citizens on disease control, healthy eating, farming techniques, responsible citizenship, and incorporate them in the decision-making process to insure long-term success and accountability.

During our visit to Papoli, the PACODEF community-development officers picked us up to go with them on some field visits, one of their typical tasks. They regularly bicycle from hut to hut checking on the health and welfare of villagers. My colleague and I did not have bikes, so we all piled into the community truck down the bumpy dirt roads to go on the day’s field visits.

One goal of the field visits is disease control. If a child seems malnourished or has malaria, they try to convince the caregiver to let the child to go to the clinic, so it is essential that people trust them. (Notice I said caregiver. Numerous children are orphans due to the AIDS epidemic, so grandparents, relatives, and neighbors look out for them.) Catching malaria and malnutrition early is key in saving lives and sustaining a productive community.

During their rounds, the development officers also check the bore holes (i.e. wells) for water quality and proper working order. The materials for the wells were donated by VPI. The manual labor to install them was provided by local volunteers. Clean water is the most essential element of a community being able to sustain themselves.

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The development officers search for sustainable ways to help the people help themselves. If PACODEF has provided something for its citizens, they make sure the gift is accounted for and maintained. For example, if someone in Florida wants to purchase some chickens for the people of Papoli, PACODEF, with the council of volunteers representing Papoli's neighborhoods, will decide who needs a chicken, buy it and give it to that person, then check on the well-being of the chicken. The person who received it will then give a portion of the eggs back to benefit someone else in the community. At one hut, we met a bright and proud young orphan named Nicholas, who is a student at the region's secondary school (high school). Attending the school, which is not in the village, takes much time. To survive without working in the fields each day, PACODEF provided him with a goat to raise, so he can earn some income by selling the offspring. He has been blessed with twins! One of them will be given back to the community --- sustainability in action. All gifts to PACODEF are gifts that keep giving. Keep that in mind when you get out your checkbook.

In addition to the field visits, PACODEF's sustainable efforts include spearheading income generating projects and coordinating community volunteers. They anticipate revenue from the five acres of pine trees they have planted, the poultry house project which is established, and the upcoming grain mill. PACODEF organizes citizens of Papoli who donate manual labor on these ventures, by hand making bricks, planting trees, weeding, and building. They model communication and cooperation.

PACODEF does the work directed in the Gospel by providing service, giving encouragement and spreading hope. The sustainable projects we observed while shadowing for one day could fill a book, but hopefully these snippets will help you understand the process. PACODEF is vital to the efficient use of VPI funds in Papoli.





Moringa

Known as Benzoliv in Haiti, and by numerous names in Africa, Moringa is considered one of the most important trees in the world due to its many uses and nutritional benefits. In Mombin Crochu, Haiti, the Moringa Farm is flourishing. The leaves are dried and ground into a powder that is then added to soups and other foods as a vitamin boost and to greatly enhance nutritional value. Children and nursing mothers are especially encouraged to add Moringa leaves to their diets. The next step will be to document and evaluate health benefits in children as evidenced by weight gain, immune support and general vitality.

