

2013 Millennium Promise Annual Report on the Millennium Villages Project



Publication Note:

This 2013 Annual Report is a description of the 2013 activities of the Millennium Villages Project. It is not meant to be an evaluation of the project, which will be based on extensive data collection during 2015 for publication in mid-2016.

Millennium Promise

2013 Annual Report

on the Millennium Villages Project

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Site-specific updates from the Millennium Villages available upon request.

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Cover photo: Student in the Millennium Village of Ruhiira (Uganda)

1. Overview

At **Millennium Promise**, our **vision** is the eradication of extreme poverty, hunger, and preventable disease within our lifetime. We believe that extreme poverty can be cut in half by 2015 worldwide, even the poorest, most remote regions. Our vision becomes action through the Millennium Villages Project.

Our mission is to provide the operational platform and resource mobilization for the Millennium Villages Project, which empowers communities to lift themselves out of extreme poverty.

The **Millennium Villages Project** is a joint venture between Millennium Promise and the Earth Institute, Columbia University. Our work reaches half a million people in communities in 10 countries across sub-Saharan Africa, with scale-up initiatives launching throughout the region.

The Project takes a community-led, science-based approach to accomplishing the world's eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in rural Africa. The Project's premise is that integrated, community-based improvements in health, food production, education, water access, essential infrastructure, and business development will enable the villages to propel themselves on a path of self-sustaining economic growth.

The Millennium Promise 2013 Annual Report presents activity highlights, program updates, and stories from the Millennium Villages Project. ***This report is not meant to be an evaluation of the project, which will be based on extensive data collection during 2015 for publication in mid-2016.***

Covering January 1 to December 31, 2013, this report provides updates from each Project sector with highlights of activities in all MV sites across 10 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. It also provides a review of monitoring and evaluation activities, an update on scale-up and sustainability initiatives,

and a review of major partnerships. Publication and media highlights are provided in the annex.

With less than two years before the 2015 MDG deadline and the end of Millennium Promise's role financing and operating the MVP, focus is turning to transition plans and agreements with local governments to take over Project interventions. A priority in 2013, and through 2015, is ensuring that the innovative systems for service delivery, planning tools, and lessons learned from the Project are available to the governments and organizations that seek to establish their own MVP-

inspired programs. The Project is providing technical advisory services to a number of governments to enable them to develop their own poverty alleviation strategies inspired by and built upon the groundwork laid by the MVP. These are described in section 4 of this report.

While progress toward MDG indicators is strong across sites, in some areas where there are lags the Project has implemented programs to help close the gaps and ensure all of the MDGs are achieved by 2015. One of these is the Community Education Worker (CEW) program, modeled after the Project's successful Community Health Worker program. The CEW program is designed to increase enrollment of children in school at the appropriate age, and improve the quality of education in the classroom. It is described further in the Education update in section 3.

Another initiative launched in 2013 to help accelerate progress is the Lead Farmer Program (LFP). Communities elect Lead Farmers to receive training from agricultural extension workers that they in turn teach to their neighbors in a systematic and organized way. This program is further described in section

Agriculture & Business Development update in section 3.

The Project's smartphone-based CommCare system was also rolled out to all sites in 2013, empowering CHWs with an mHealth tool that makes it more efficient to capture household health data, and allows the Project to receive real-time updates on CHW performance and household health status. More about CommCare and other health initiatives in 2013 may be found in the Health update in section 3.

Through 2014 and 2015, the Monitoring and Evaluation team will be establishing the Project's final evaluation protocols and will be conducting the final surveys in each MV. The final report on the MVP will be issued in mid-2016 with results presented across sites and sectors. More about Monitoring and Evaluation activities is in section 5.

We are tremendously grateful to all our donors and advocates for the generous support provided to the Millennium Villages Project in 2013, and look forward to reporting on further advances to come and the stories of community members whose lives are changing for the better.

Map of the Millennium Villages, 2013



WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA

1. Potou (Senegal)
2. Tiby (Mali)
3. SADA (Ghana)
4. Bonsaaso (Ghana)
5. Pampaida (Nigeria)

EAST & SOUTHERN AFRICA

6. Koraro (Ethiopia)
7. Ruhiira (Uganda)
8. Mayange (Rwanda)
9. Sauri (Kenya)
10. Mbola (Tanzania)
11. Mwandama (Malawi)

2. Highlights from 2013

The following highlights from 2013 are discussed in greater depth in subsequent sections of this report.

Millennium Villages Approach Reaching 20+ Countries across Africa

African leaders across the continent as well as private companies have started to adopt the MVP approach (in full or partially) as part of their development planning to end poverty by 2030. Support for such scale-up initiatives continues to be requested by countries within Africa and beyond.

As of October 2013, more than 20 countries across Africa are hosting or starting Millennium Village-inspired initiatives. Funding partners vary widely and include national and international governments (including Japan, Norway, Portugal, and South Korea), and private companies (such as AngloGold Ashanti, Vale, and ENI). In addition to the new scale up efforts announced in August 2013 by eight countries and the Islamic Development Bank, there are 17 independent new MVP-related efforts underway in 13 countries, as shown in the map below.



Agreements Signed with Islamic Development Bank to Fund Three Millennium Villages

In 2013 and early 2014, agreements were finalized with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) to fully support operations in the Millennium Villages of Tiby (Mali), Potou (Senegal), and Ruhiira (Uganda) through loans to the respective national governments. In each instance, Millennium Promise is serving as the implementing agency for the Government and the MDG Centers and the Earth Institute, Columbia University, are providing scientific and technical advice.

The MV of Tiby became fully covered by IsDB funds in April 2013. The MV of Ruhiira became fully covered by IsDB funds in December 2013 after Millennium Promise entered into an agreement for services with the Government of Uganda. The MV of Potou became fully covered in March 2014 after Millennium Promise entered into a Memorandum of Understanding the Government of Senegal. Project operations in these sites will continue to be fully covered by the IsDB financing through the end of 2015.

Government of Japan Pledges Support for Four Millennium Villages

A major early supporter of the Millennium Villages Project, the Government of Japan approved funding to support four Millennium Villages: Sauri and Dertu (Kenya), Pampaida (Nigeria), and Mayange (Rwanda). UNOPS is serving as facilitator for this new gift. This funding will cover operations in those four sites in 2014, and further funding for 2015 is under discussion. An external evaluation team from Japan visited Ruhiira and Mwandama in August and September 2013 to conduct a formal

evaluation of the use of their funds during Phase I of the Project, and the resulting report found that provision of ODA by Japan was relevant and consistent with its and international policies and norms.

Lead Farmer Program Launched

The Lead Farmer Program (LFP) was launched in 2013, designed to strengthen farmers' capacity and deliver key training, with the aim of maximizing the output value of the land while promoting sustainable land management practices. A Lead Farmer is an innovative and successful farmer with aptitude and commitment to learn new methods from extension officers, and to pass along their knowledge to other farmers in their community. This in turn will help provide smallholder farmers with the basis to sustainably manage their farms and increase their incomes. More than 2,000 Lead Farmers were elected by their peers in 2013.

USAID Awards Innovation Grant for Solar Irrigation Project in Senegal

In early December 2013, USAID announced that the Sustainable Engineering Lab (formerly known as Modi Labs) at the Earth Institute has been awarded an innovation grant to establish three "smart" solar-powered irrigation pilot projects in the Millennium Village of Potou in northern Senegal. This grant will support a larger initiative called Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development, which in addition to USAID is supported by the Swedish Government, Duke Energy, and the German Organization for International Cooperation (GIZ).

The Sustainable Engineering Lab's goal with this initiative is to reduce the price of energy for smallholder irrigation farmers by introducing solar photovoltaic (PV) systems as a reliable and

cost-effective energy alternative. The key innovation is the use of a centralized PV power production center to provide electricity to a network of farmers along individual distribution lines, in the form of a micro-utility that provides energy for pumping and other uses. Customers will access energy using a pre-paid system, similar to that of SharedSolar, ensuring that farmers pay only for what they consume.

New Water Initiatives Launched with Support from The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation

In 2013, implementation of two projects funded by The Coca Cola Africa Foundation (TCCAF) began in the MVs of Mwandama (Malawi) and Potou (Senegal). In Mwandama, the partnership supports hygiene and sanitation initiatives such as building gender-separate latrines, providing hygiene education in schools, and increasing access to safer water sources. In Potou, TCCAF is helping smallholder farmers to access low-cost irrigation systems in order to boost their production, employment, and income-generating capacities. Both sites organized workshops in the fall attended by team leaders, local governments, local Coca-Cola bottlers, and New York staff, to discuss plans and expectations for the projects.

CommCare and Other Tools Boost CHW Program

Over the last year and a half, the health team has put in place an innovative mHealth program, empowering the CHWs with smartphones equipped with a software application by Dimagi called CommCare. In 2013, the CommCare tool was fully rolled out to all MV sites. With this novel tool, a positive impact on maternal and child health outcomes is expected by providing support for the outreach workers as well as providing much improved real-time supervision and management.

To further support the CHW system, in 2013 the New York-based CHW team completed a new *CHW Training Manual*, *CHW Job Aids*, and *CHW Counseling Cards*, as well as a *CHW Competency Exam*. *CHW Supervision Curriculum* and tools were distributed to all CHW Managers in 2013.

One Million Community Health Workers Campaign Launch

The One Million Community Health Workers (1mCHW) Campaign was launched by Rwanda's President Paul Kagame, Professor Jeffrey Sachs, and Novartis CEO Joseph Jimenez at the World Economic Forum in January 2013. The campaign's objective is to train and deploy one million CHWs by the end of 2015 across Africa. The campaign is growing as new Millennium Village-inspired scale-up and replication initiatives launch, including those supported through the Islamic Development Bank.

In summer 2013, actress Olivia Wilde, celebrity partner of the 1mCHW Campaign, traveled with the RYOT news team to western Senegal to see firsthand the lifesaving work of CHWs in the Millennium Village of Potou. Wilde and RYOT spent several days with CHWs visiting households and documenting their stories. "I am thrilled to be a part of this campaign," said Wilde. "It is essential that people not only see the work that is happening on the ground but also understand why the campaign is so central to improving global health."

In November 2013, the 1mCHW Campaign unveiled its *Operations Room*, an online information dashboard that conveys available national data on CHW operations across Africa (not only within the MVP), including personnel counts, capabilities cataloguing, other workforce analytics and population demographics. This platform will eventually

expand to offer an e-toolkit of resources for CHW program managers in all participating countries. The Operations Room may be found at:

<http://1millionhealthworkers.org/operations-room-map/>.

Community Education Worker Program Extended to All MVs

After piloting the Community Education Worker (CEW) Program across five sites, the education sector rolled out the program project-wide in 2013. The priorities for the CEWs are to help ensure that children enroll in school at the age-appropriate time, to educate the community on the importance of age-appropriate enrollment, to conduct sensitization on gender issues, and help tutor students who are transitioning back to the classroom.

While CEWs were first recruited for the above-mentioned purposes, some have been taking on new roles to support quality of education. For example, with teacher shortages in the MVs of Bonsaaso (Ghana), SADA (Ghana), and Pampaida (Nigeria), some CEWs have become the primary teachers in the classrooms.

"School of 5" Handwashing Initiative Launch

As part of the partnership with Unilever launched in 2012 to promote hygiene education and behavioral change, the "School of 5" program was initiated across the MVP in 2013. "School of 5" is a 21-day school-based behavior change program for primary school children to promote healthy handwashing practices in order to decrease incidences of diarrhea and pneumonia and save children's lives. The program also works on developing "Handwashing with Soap Ambassadors," encouraging school children to take the behavior change messages home and into their

community, helping reduce the spread of germs and diseases.

To complement hygiene initiatives, schools, local leaders, and communities in all MV sites participated in the annual celebration of Global Handwashing Day in October 2013. Students participated in a variety of activities to learn why handwashing is essential to their health and wellbeing.

John Legend’s Show Me Campaign and “Chime for Change” Raise Funds for the MVP and CTL

On June 1, 2013, musicians and performers joined together to put girls’ and women’s issues on the world’s stage at the “Chime for Change” fundraising campaign and concert in London. Millennium Promise and sister organization Connect To Learn (CTL) were among the many organizations represented in the campaign, with long-time partner John Legend and his Show Me Campaign on board to rally support. Through the crowd-funding platform Catapult, three mini-campaigns to support projects in the MVP were launched during the concert to build “girl friendly” latrines at schools in the MV of Mwandama (Malawi), and to support multi-year CTL scholarships for seven girls in the MV of Bonsaaso (Ghana) and four girls in the MV of Sauri (Kenya). Within a few weeks, all three projects were fully funded and implementation is currently underway.

African Leaders Reflect on the MVP in the “Voices from Africa” Series

In mid-2013, the MVP launched the “Voices from Africa” video series, featuring interviews with leaders throughout Africa including Uganda’s Minister of Education, a former MP from Kenya, Rwanda’s Minister of Local Government, and more. Providing their perspective on Millennium Village-related initiatives, the leaders discuss how their countries are leading

the fight against extreme poverty and working to meet the Millennium Development Goals. Videos from the “Voices from Africa” series may be found at:

<http://millenniumvillages.org/topics/voices-from-africa/>.

1,000-Day MDG Countdown

April 5, 2013, marked the start of the 1,000-day countdown to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. To mark how far the MVP has come in eight years and to analyze what still needs to be accomplished, the Earth Institute, Columbia University, organized a Sustainable Development Seminar featuring Prof. Jeffrey Sachs along with MVP principal investigators Dr. Vijay Modi and Dr. Prabhjot Singh. Before a live and online audience, the seminar discussed how the Project is moving from demonstration to design, expanding beyond interventions to a system-based approach, harnessing the unprecedented expansion of information and communications technology, and integrating public investments with business.

3. Sector Updates

Agriculture & Business Development



Farmer in the Millennium Village of Koraro (Ethiopia)

2013 Activity Highlights

The main goal of this sector is to increase food security and incomes among smallholder farmers. The first five-year phase of the Project focused on increasing overall food production. In the second half of the MVP, the Project is focusing on strengthening the delivery of key agricultural services by making targeted investments in the following five priority areas:

1) Strengthening agriculture advisory and monitoring services (including through the Lead Farmer Program),

- 2) Improving value chain service delivery,
- 3) Increasing and sustaining agricultural productivity,
- 4) Developing and strengthening farmer-based organizations (FBOs) and cooperatives and their access to markets, and
- 5) Promoting access to financial services and public-private partnerships.

Through dynamic partnerships with the private sector, donors, local governments, and smallholder farmers, the MVP continues to make progress on these five priority areas. Below is a

summary of key achievements during this past year.

Lead Farmer Program

To improve the delivery of agriculture extension and advisory services to smallholder farms in the MVs, the Lead Farmer Program (LFP) was launched in 2013. A Lead Farmer is an innovative and successful farmer with aptitude and commitment to learn new methods, and to pass along his or her knowledge to other farmers in the community. The program is intended to help provide smallholder farmers with the basis to sustainably manage their farms and increase their incomes. More than 2,000 Lead Farmers had been elected by their peers project-wide as of the end of 2013.

In the MV of Koraro (Ethiopia) and in consultation with community members, more than 650 LFs were elected across the 11 villages in 2013. LFs received orientation and training on good agronomic practices, and established demonstration plots at the village level. For this purpose, the MVP provided LFs with improved seeds for wheat and teff, as well as fertilizer as in-kind payment for their services.

In the MV of Bonsaaso (Ghana), the extension and advisory service team is composed of six extension officers (4 seconded from the government, and 2 community agricultural officers hired by the Project), as well as 160 LFs, reaching over 3,000 farming households. Extension officers have access to Project motorcycles to help them reach remote farmers. LFs received rubber boots, spraying machines, and improved planting materials as in-kind payment. In 2013, a week-long residential training and workshop was conducted for the extension officers and LFs on good agronomic practices (GAP) for commodities including cocoa, oil palm, maize, plantain, and cassava. Resource



Lead Farmers receive agriculture tools as incentives in the MV of Mayange (Rwanda)

people from the Business Advisory Centre, Soil Research Institute, Crop Research Institute (CRI), Oil Palm Research Institute (OPRI), and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) conducted the workshop. In addition, training materials were developed with national research institutions for several crops.

In the MV of Sauri (Kenya), 420 LFs were identified in 2013. Value chain specific LFs were selected, including 324 LFs for staple food crops (maize, beans, and ground nuts), 28 LFs for dairy, 18 for fish farming, honey, poultry and tree nurseries, and 50 for horticultural crops. To incentivize LFs and based on performance, the MVP rewarded items such as metallic storage bins, wheelbarrows, solar driers, plastic water



Row rice planting in the MV of Tiby (Mali)

tanks, soil treatment equipment, and milk cans.

The MV of Mayange (Rwanda), in partnership with the Mayange Community Development Organization (MCDO), identified 35 LFs and 10 agricultural extension workers to serve the community in 2013. They all attended trainings on agriculture extension techniques where performance targets were established for the LFs. A second training was also held on agricultural data collection and crop yield estimate techniques. All 35 LFs were provided with agricultural tools (e.g. wheelbarrows and shovels) as incentives. The best five performing LFs received a bicycle at the end of the year.

In the MV of Mwandama (Malawi), 228 LFs were identified across 114 villages in 2013. The LFs were briefed on their roles and responsibilities and received training in the Sasakawa planting method for maize and nutrient management. As incentives, the Project distributed fertilizer and hybrid maize seed the LFs. Additionally, six agriculture extension officers were seconded by the government for extension services and to work with the MVP staff.

In the MV of Pampaida (Nigeria), the LFP benefits nearly 4,000 farmers. In 2013, three agriculture extension supervisors assisted by 16 agriculture extension officers and assistants served the Project, and 160 Lead Farmers were selected from Farmer Primary Cooperatives across the cluster. All LFs received training on improved farming technologies, farmer-to-farmer extension, and leadership skills, including integrated soil fertility management (ISFM) practices. The farmers also received training on post-harvest management and methods of standardized storage, warehouse receipting, and produce aggregation.



Farmer applying fertilizer in the MV of Koraro (Ethiopia)

In the MV of Mbola (Tanzania), 24 Community Agriculture Field Workers were recruited and 216 LFs were selected in 2013. They received training on subjects including crop production, horticulture, entrepreneurship, and agroforestry. All LFs received agricultural inputs as incentives.

Improving Value Chain Services Delivery

In 2013, a consolidation of agribusiness activities took place in all MVP sites. A growing number of farmers are now accessing agro-inputs, technology, and markets through linkages with financial institutions and the private sector. Partnerships with governmental and non-governmental organizations are also proving to help improve services.

In the MV of Sauri (Kenya), more and more farmers are raising horticultural crops in greenhouses using drip irrigation throughout the year, with tomatoes being the preferred crop. The MVP subsidized the cost of establishing greenhouses for the first 15 “champion farmers” and for 6 primary schools. As their efforts show success, more farmers are getting loans to establish their own greenhouses.

In the MV of Potou (Senegal), farmers in the Dieri zone grow groundnuts and cowpeas during the rainy season. Yields in the zone have stagnated between 530-750 kg/ha. While groundnuts and cowpeas are primarily cash crops, the income earned by the farmers is low. In order to assist the farmers in increasing their incomes, the MVP has helped organize them into four producer cooperatives structured into a coordinating union. The cooperative structure provides a mechanism through which the farmers can more efficiently interact with private sector agro-dealers, financial institutions, and buyers. The goal of the first year of the intervention is to establish functional relationships between the cooperatives and financial institutions, suppliers, and buyers, while increasing farmer yields and earned income.

The MV of Bonsaaso (Ghana) continued to focus on cocoa and oil palm in 2013. The Project supported cocoa producers to renew old plantations, and 150,000 high quality hybrid cocoa seedlings were produced to replant 300 acres. The new pods mature faster (in 3 years) and are disease-resistant. For oil palm production, 60 farmers received 4,000 seedlings to replant 66 acres. The MVP is working with OPRI to provide high quality planting materials and technical know-how to help revitalize the industry in the area. Oil palm processing mills produced 1,600 liters of edible palm oil in 2013 for local sale.

In the Mwandama (Malawi), the grain bank became one of the Market Information Points (MIP) of Malawi's Agriculture Commodity Exchange (ACE) in 2013. This is the culmination of a two year partnership between the MVP and ACE (funded by USAID) aimed at empowering smallholder farmers to successfully participate in the formal grain market. The MIP is a web-based platform for farmers and cooperatives to



Cocoa yields in the MV of Bonsaaso (Ghana)

participate live (by bidding or offering) in the transactions taking place on the ACE. It is also a channel of information for market prices, projections, and extension messages. A grain bank manager has been hired by the ACE to be posted at the MIP to run operations and support farmers.

Increasing & Sustaining Agricultural Productivity

Activities toward this objective in 2013 focused on farmer training in good agronomic practices (GAP) and facilitating access to agricultural inputs (fertilizer, seeds, pesticides). Lead Farmers, supported by agriculture extension officers, provided training sessions to farmers on GAP, nutrient management, post-harvest crop handling, and marketing. LFs also established demonstration plots and organized field visits for farmers. Both extension and advisory services and demonstrations have been instrumental in the adoption of improved farming techniques across MVP sites.

In the MV of Mwandama (Malawi), integration of Mbeya manure was promoted as a nutrient management option. Mbeya manure is a mixture of approximately 1 part mineral fertilizer and 4 parts maize husks, chicken or pig manure, ash, and water.

In the MV of Koraro (Ethiopia), more than 100 demonstration plots were established and more than 1,000 farmers received training on GAP using these plots in 2013. The 20 best-performing farmers were rewarded with agricultural inputs such as fertilizer at each village. In addition, nearly 850 mt of fertilizer was supplied to more than 11,000 households. In horticulture, nearly 60 kg of different vegetable seeds (tomato, beet root, onion, and swiss chard) were distributed to more than 100 households. Knapsack sprayers and pesticides have also been supplied to manage pre-harvesting of vegetable and staple crops.

In the MV of Pampaida (Nigeria), capacity building trainings were conducted for more than 3,600 farmers on GAP in 2013. The adoption of improved seeds, ISFM technology, micro-dosing of fertilizer, and best agronomic practices helped boost maize and soybean production in 2013.

Strengthening Farmer-based Organizations and Cooperatives, and their Access to Markets

In 2013, the MVP continued focusing on capacity building for producer cooperatives to develop fundable business plans, prudent financial management systems, good governance, and compliance with regulatory requirements, as well as on adding value to produce, creating market linkages, and facilitating access to financial services. In West Africa, more than 250 cooperatives have been formed and registered along the main agricultural value chains across all sites with a total membership of nearly 15,600 farmers. In East Africa, at least 60 cooperatives have been formed, with a total membership of about 25,000 farmers.

Various trainings were conducted for the management boards and the supervisory

"Before I did not understand what financial management entailed. We constantly had problems with auditors at the end of the fiscal year. We were always late in remitting returns to the regulatory body. But after attending trainings provided by the MVP, we now know what type of books to keep and financial records to produce. This year, the management committee had no difficulties in presenting their reports at the annual general meeting and our reports are now delivered on time to the commissioner of cooperatives."

- Willis Juka, chairman of New Yala Dairy Cooperative Society Limited in the MV of Sauri (Kenya)

committee members in 2013 to ensure that cooperatives operate efficiently. This enables the officials to better understand their roles and responsibilities as managers and accurately interpret financial statements. Most cooperatives have complied with the regulatory requirements in each country, and have held annual general meetings as per their by-laws.

Cooperatives have also been supported with relevant records and accounting books (passbooks, membership registers, fertilizer stock index cards, deposit books, etc.) and linked to institutional buyers operating within or in the vicinity of the MV for aggregation and commercialization of produce.

In the MV of Sauri (Kenya), the New Yala Dairy Cooperative continued to access loans from the Soros Economic Development Fund and Cooperative Bank of Kenya scheme in 2013. Sixteen more heifers were accessed through the scheme this year and the cooperative is delivering approximately 12,000 liters of milk per month to the dairy plant.



Farmers sell their produce to the cooperatives for onward selling to processors and exporters in the MV of Mwandama (Malawi).

In the MV of Ruhiira (Uganda), the Kabuyanda Dairy Cooperative acquired an additional 20 heifers through the SACCO credit scheme.

In the MV of Mwandama (Malawi), the Project facilitated the acquisition of 6 heifers for the Tiyanjane cooperative. The MV also supported the creation and implementation of business plans. One business underway is the Chikasamanganga Producers and Marketing Cooperative poultry business. It is currently producing about 300 eggs per day. This is improving access to low-cost, high-protein food in the area and providing new income to the cooperatives' members. The cooperatives have also supplied 33 tons of pigeon peas to the World Food Programme.

In the MV of Mbola (Tanzania), all inputs were channeled through Mbola Millennium SACCOs for the 2013/14 planting season. Trainings continue to be provided to micro and small enterprises on business formalization, financial management, and contract design.

Promoting Access to Financial Services and Public/Private Partnerships

As the fifth main sector priority, improving access to financial services is key for the sustainability of cooperatives and the implementation of business plans in the MVP. Efforts were made across the sites to link farmers with financial institutions and agro-input dealers in 2013.

In sites where banks are present, the MVP has worked to strengthen linkages between banks and cooperatives. In sites where banks are not present, Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOs) have been formed. The MVP is working closely with SACCOs to strengthen their capacity and facilitate access to additional capital for farmers. Technical support is being provided to the SACCOs on saving mobilization, credit management, financial management, and expanding outreach by providing access to financial services to rural farmers.

In the MV of Potou (Senegal), groundnut and cowpea farmers were linked to the Credit Mutuel du Senegal in 2013. A loan was secured to procure seeds, fertilizer, and pesticides for groundnut and cowpea production in the 2013 season.

The MV of Pampaida (Nigeria) helped 20 cooperative groups to access agriculture loans from the First Bank of Nigeria (FBN) Ltd. in 2013. The cooperatives used the funds to procure fertilizer, seeds, and other necessities. Additionally, FBN Ltd. opened a FirstMonie platform, a convenient mobile money service, for financial transactions. Pampaida also implemented the Harvest Buy-Back program in 2013 to encourage farmers to participate in produce aggregation and the "warranty" system. Funds from the fertilizer revolving fund were used to buy excess grains from the farmers under this program. The grains will be sold when the

prices appreciate in the market, and the profits will be shared at an agreed percentage between the Project and the beneficiaries. The site is also working with Doreo Partners through the Babban Gona program to provide farmers access to required capital while offering agricultural and marketing services. Doreo Partners provides funds for procurement of inputs such as seeds and fertilizer on credit, then buys back their harvest and sells to institutional buyers such as Nestlé and Amo Byeng. Farmers in Pampaida received training in warehouse receipt management and produce aggregation to better understand the dynamics of collective bargaining.

The MV of Mayange (Rwanda) facilitated the preparation of 55 small business plans for submission to the Mayange SACCO. Twenty small business plans were approved and funded while

others were postponed due to lack of capital in Mayange SAACO.

In the MV of Mbola (Tanzania), capacity building and technical support continues to be provided to SACCOs. The Project facilitated the Mbola Millennium SACCO's (MMS) annual general meeting to review and discuss 2011 financial reports. In 2013, MMS signed a contract with the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) to operate as an agent for collection of GEPF members' monthly contributions. It also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CRDB Bank, which will allow the MMS to use the bank's various financial services. The MMS also signed a contract with Kibo Trade & Services, a local Monsanto representative, to supply maize seeds and fertilizer.



SACCO in the MV of Mbola (Tanzania)

Health



Mother and child in the MV of Mwandama (Malawi)

Introduction

In 2013, the Millennium Villages Project continued its work on the design and implementation of local health systems in very low-income, rural communities in 10 countries across sub-Saharan Africa. The goal is to demonstrate that universal health coverage, free at point-of-service, reduces the crushing burden of preventable and treatable diseases, and significantly reduces maternal and child mortality, doing so at a low per-capita cost of about \$40.

The Health team is contributing to the body of evidence demonstrating a community-based, comprehensive primary care system is an effective health care delivery mechanism and one that can significantly

improve health outcomes especially for the most vulnerable households, focusing on women and children. Clinical programs have been designed and implemented to address the main burden of diseases and deaths, focusing on childbirth, malnutrition, and infectious diseases (including AIDS, TB, and malaria; other parasitic diseases like soil-transmitted helminthes, pneumonia, and diarrhea; and immunization-preventable diseases).

The Project's innovative strategy focuses on mechanisms of delivery of services at the local village level with an eye to a close-to-client continuum of clinical care. The MVP's health sector is designing low-cost, high impact interventions while simultaneously

putting in place effective management, supervision, training, and procurement mechanisms, and doing so at the household level, at primary care clinics, and via the emergency referral system. The Health team is also pioneering informatics systems to ensure that the health system is informed by real-time data, allowing for real-time management and continuous, real-time improvement of the quality of care.

In the last two years, the MVP has been requested by most MVP host countries, and by a dozen non-MVP countries, to provide technical support to national governments seeking to adopt the Project's approach to building health systems. These relationships with the governments at the local, regional, and national levels, and the fact that all the MVP's work is done in partnership with ministries of health often via seconded staff to the Project, should facilitate the upcoming transition of responsibilities to local officials. Additional features for sustainability are strong partnerships, including with UN agencies like UNFPA, UNAIDS, WFP, and UNICEF.

The MVP Health team has, from the onset, pioneered the concept of a *professionalized* cadre of Community Health Workers (CHWs) as being a crucial pillar of a comprehensive community health care delivery. Over the last year and a half, the health team has put in place an innovative mHealth program, empowering the CHWs with smartphones equipped with a software application by Dimagi called CommCare. With this tool, a positive impact on maternal and child health outcomes is expected by providing support for the outreach workers as well as providing much improved real-time supervision and management.

In 2013, the WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) sub-sector was strengthened through support from Unilever's *Lifebuoy* brand, encouraging behavioral change such as handwashing in order to reduce incidences of diarrhea and related illnesses and deaths.

Please see below more details on health sector activities that took place in the year 2013.

Community Health Worker (CHW) Program

Designing a professionalized cadre of Community Health Workers (CHWs) has been a flagship initiative of the MVP local, rural health system. A professionalized cadre means that paid CHWs have become an essential and formal part of the public health care delivery system. The 800 CHWs in the MVP sites are full time, paid, trained,



A Community Health Worker (CHW) conducts a household visit in the MV of Ruhiira (Uganda)

supervised, and held accountable for their panel of about 100-150 households.

In addition to the usual preventive and promotive functions, the CHWs also diagnose and treat uncomplicated cases of malaria directly in the home of the family to ensure rapid treatment, and they follow up within two days to ensure compliance and effectiveness of the treatment. They also treat uncomplicated diarrhea and are now being instructed to treat uncomplicated pneumonia. CHWs are trained to distinguish complicated from uncomplicated disease by looking for danger signs that alert them to immediately refer the patient to a clinic. The CHWs are guided to pay special attention to households with pregnant women and children under five years of age. CHWs use the 1,000 Day checklist to focus on pregnancy and the first two years of life, and are responsible for proactively ensuring the milestones needing attention, such as immunizations, deworming, vitamin A supplementation, and mosquito net distribution.

In 2013, two new regional CHW coordinators were hired, trained, and integrated into the health teams at the MDG Centres in Nairobi and Dakar. Several other trainings and capacity building opportunities also took place both in the regional centers and sites. The MVP provided training to all CHW Managers from all sites on operational protocols and on data usage to improve management of their CHW teams. E-Health specialists received training on troubleshooting and validating CommCare data, which is comprehensive data informing on daily activities of CHWs and on outcome



A CHW uses his smartphone CommCare application to enter household patient data in the MV of Mbola (Tanzania)

indicators. Moreover, the New York based CHW team completed a new *CHW Training Manual*, *CHW Job Aids*, *CHW Counseling Cards*, as well as a *CHW Competency Exam*. *CHW Supervision Curriculum* and tools were distributed to all CHW Managers in 2013.

CommCare

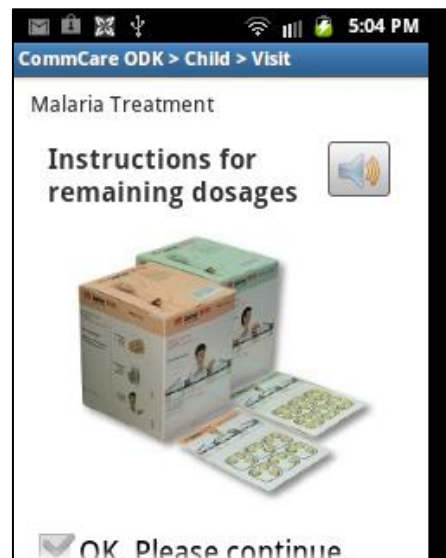
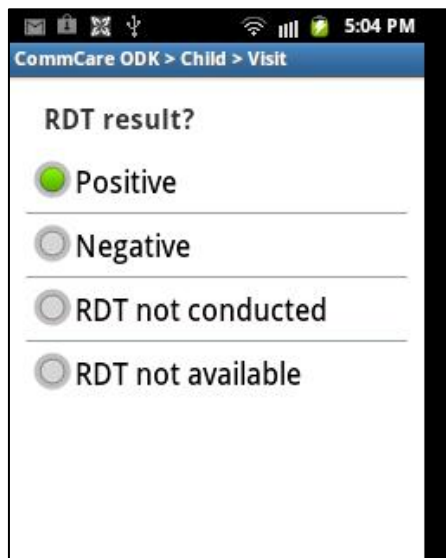
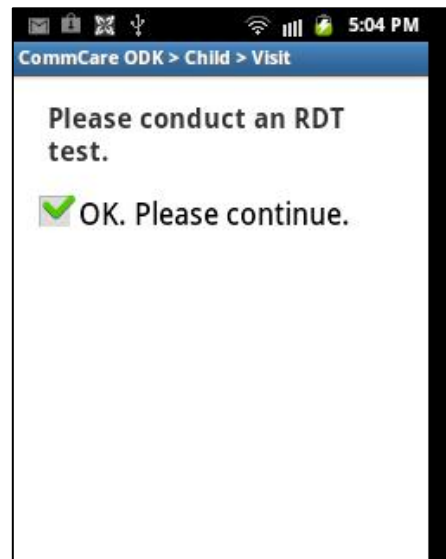
CommCare, a new cloud-based mHealth system, was fully rolled out to all of the MV sites (except the MV of Mayange due to national policy restrictions) in 2013. This user-friendly smartphone application for CHWs improves point-of-care service through decision-making guidance while simultaneously collecting real-time data for CHW supervision, ensuring comprehensive household coverage and quality of care. This data also informs the health coordinator for the larger cluster about trends of illnesses so that problem areas can be investigated as soon as possible. Due to CommCare, the CHW sub-system now provides unprecedented monitoring and evaluation of CHW program performance as well as providing indicators for process and outcome monitoring of the health system.

The MVP's CHW team recently launched *CHW Program Report Cards* that can be easily generated from the CommCare data.

The reports are sent monthly to each sites' CHW Managers and Health Coordinators providing the following types of information: 1) the specific site's summary of overall health performance and highlights of that month, 2) operational recommendations to the site for that month as suggested by regional and NYC CHW teams, 3) snapshot of household visit coverage by CHW, case management of diseases, nutrition, immunization, family planning, and vital statistics, and 4) qualitative data about the CHW program as collected in discussions between the MDG Centre's specialists and the site teams. Soon, these report cards will also contain individual CHW performance information including number of maternal and under-five deaths in each individual CHW's panel to encourage greater accountability and ownership over each CHW's catchment area of responsibility.

Vital Statistics and Verbal Autopsy (VSVA) are also being integrated into the CommCare application to allow ease of collection, timelier reporting, and more

seamless integration of information with data collected through other reporting systems. Methodical collection of real-time vital events (all births, all under-5 deaths, and all pregnancies) is unprecedented in low-income health systems and is proving to be very important to improving the quality of health care delivery. The CHWs monitor each household for vital events so that, for instance in the case of detecting early pregnancy, they can increase their involvement and number of visits to that household in order to see through the vulnerable 1,000 days of pregnancy up through the child's second birthday. Every household where a death of a women of reproductive age or of a child under the age of five has occurred receives a visit by a CHW trained to sensitively conduct an interview and perform a verbal and social autopsy within few weeks of the occurrence. This provides an understanding of the cause and social circumstances of the death, which helps the team learn where the health system failed and needs to be strengthened.



Screenshots of the CommCare smartphone tool that provides the CHW user with step-by-step decision-making guidance

Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health

A number of interventions and activities are being implemented to protect the health of women of reproductive age as well as the health of the very young (and therefore most vulnerable) children.

As a member of the *WHO Safe Childbirth Checklist (SCC)* collaboration, the MVP is now using the checklist in 6 countries (Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda) in an attempt to reduce preventable deaths of mothers and newborns during labor and delivery in clinics.

In addition, a 1,000 days schedule and checklist were developed by the MVP health team to improve performance of CHWs in delivering essential health services to pregnant women and children under the age of 2 during the critical 1,000 day window from conception to second birthday. The schedule and checklist are now being utilized in 7 sites (Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda) to help reduce infant and maternal mortality.

All of the MV sites have begun quarterly length-for-age monitoring and promotion (LAMP) to facilitate early detection of and intervention in growth faltering among children under two. This too is unique to the MV health system as usually only underweight is monitored in low income setting thereby missing the opportunity to detect stunting which is due to chronic micronutrient undernutrition. Teaching the CHWs to measure lengths will help detect



Mother and child from the MV of Mbola (Tanzania)

stunting earlier and therefore give an opportunity to intervene before the stunting (and concomitant cognitive delay) is irreversible.

Also in 2013, the MVP developed a set of Standards of Care for all clinical service packages, including reproductive health, childbirth, newborn survival, and child health to ensure the quality of service delivery. The Project has seen relatively few maternal deaths across the sites and has seen a Project-wide reduction in under-five mortality.

The MVP is working closely with the UNFPA and government ministries of health to strengthen the supply chain for reproductive and other health commodities. The health sector is partnering through the Earth Institute with UNICEF, UNAIDS, Marie Stopes International, Jhpiego, FHI360, Family Health Options Kenya, the World Health Organization, Physicians for Peace, and the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation to improve sexual and reproductive health.

Overall, sites are improving on family

planning utilization, focusing on long-acting, reversible methods, and on increasing institutional—rather than home—births. For example, the MV of Bonsasso (Ghana) provided training on intrauterine contraceptive devices (IUCD) insertion to improve family planning uptake and to dispel some myths about the method. Despite knowledge that IUCD is a safe, effective, and user-friendly method of long-acting reversible contraception, it is rarely offered in sub-Saharan Africa. In Bonsaaso, the team received training on IUCD, and 16 women have received IUCDs. In December 2013, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions were conducted with 42 contraceptive users in Bonsaaso. The purpose of this exercise was to assess the range of contraceptive counseling provided to clients visiting family planning clinics; to assess the availability and uptake of IUCDs one-year after the devices were introduced; and to identify gaps in family planning counseling and provision within the cluster. A similar IUCD insertion training was also conducted in the MV of Mayange (Rwanda) in collaboration with FHI360.

Childhood Nutrition

Mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) tests which screen for underweight children, and length-for-age monitoring and promotion (LAMP) introduced in 2013 to detect and prevent stunting, are both being used Project-wide both in clinics and also by CHWs at the households. In addition, in 2013, a three-year longitudinal Early Childhood Nutrition study was initiated in the MV of Ruhira (Uganda), with the aim to assess which of three infant feeding approaches is optimal since there is not a consensus in the international scientific



Abdulhamid at CMAM OTP enrollment in the MV of Pampaida (Nigeria)

nutrition community of experts. The three-pronged inquiry, advised by the World Food Programme nutrition advisor, is comparing 1) increased dietary diversity using locally available foods, 2) standard supplementation consisting mostly of Corn Soy Blend fortification of complementary food, and 3) supplementation with additional lipids in the form of Lipid-based Nutrient Supplement. From this study the MVP health team hopes to learn the optimal complementary food approach for infants and young children in MVs and then recommend this to scale in Uganda.

HIV/AIDS

The MVP continues its partnership with UNAIDS on prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV/AIDS, working with governments to create “MTCT-free zones” by 2015 using community engagement, high-quality health services, and appropriate follow-up ensuring the uptake and adherence to PMTCT regimens even in these remote rural communities. The health practitioners from all MVP sites convened in Nairobi in April 2013 to discuss their experience with this program and

brainstorm on how to improve the outcomes leading to MTCT-free zones. This allowed for unique opportunities for practitioners to exchange ideas and solutions that have been shown to work in other settings.

As of July 2013, all MVP sites were required to report on eight internationally prioritized PMTCT indicators developed by WHO/UNAIDS. These indicators include the percentage of pregnant women tested for HIV, the percentage of pregnant women living with HIV who received HIV treatment, and the percentage of infants born to mothers living with HIV who received a virological test for HIV within two months of birth. The goal is for all pregnant women to be tested for HIV, and for all HIV-positive pregnant women to be treated during and after pregnancy to keep them healthy and to try to prevent the virus from being transmitted from the mother to the fetus and child. The goal is also to test all HIV-exposed infants and start them on treatment if found positive.

A number of locally developed approaches to promote PMTCT are being implemented in the MVs. For example, “graduation ceremonies” are being rolled out in many MVP sites. With some local variations, pregnant, HIV-positive women pledge to meet the challenge of ensuring that their babies are HIV-free as confirmed at 18 months of the child’s age. Women are then assigned “model mothers” (other mothers living with HIV) who provide emotional and psychological support and encourage them to attend antenatal clinic visits. Such support and encouragement continues after birth from CHWs and other

community members. Eighteen months after birth, mothers and their infants who achieve the goal of staying in touch with services are invited to a graduation ceremony, at which time their accomplishments are acknowledged and celebrated (and this regardless of their status).

Another locally-developed initiative called “Love Letter” has been implemented in order to address a longstanding challenge to increase rates of HIV testing among male partners, as well as increasing male involvement in PMTCT-related efforts. This was initially developed by government officials in Tanzania and used in the MV of Mbola (Tanzania), then introduced in the MV of Mayange (Rwanda). The innovative approach relies initially on a written invitation—termed a “love letter”—from a health facility to male partners of clients, urging them to accompany their partners on visits to prenatal and other health clinics. Subsequent letters are sent to encourage the men to continue or begin supporting the women in their lives.

Other HIV/AIDS reduction activities also took place in 2013 across the MVP. The MV of Ruhiira (Uganda) organized a number of community sensitization activities, including radio talk shows, community meetings, and World AIDS Day celebrations. The MV of Bonsaaso (Ghana) provided training on stigma and discrimination reduction for community and religious leaders. The MV of Mayange (Rwanda) formed support groups for men and women living with HIV to provide social support and information to pregnant women and women living with HIV.

**PMTCT Graduates from the MV of Sauri (Kenya):
Benson Onyango, Monica Adhiambo, and their baby Maxwell Junior**



Maxwel Junior was 13 months old when he graduated in July 2013. Benson Onyango attended the graduation of his son and said:

“This is the first graduation I attended. When I heard my son was HIV-negative and would be graduating, I prepared myself to be part of it. While at the graduation, I learned a lot from other parents sharing their life experiences. This graduation creates a bond in the family and both the mother and the father try so hard to follow the instruction given from the clinic to ensure their baby is HIV-negative at the 18th month. All people should be reached to attend the graduation.”

(Permission for photo and quote was given by family.)

Men’s Health

In September 2013, research was conducted in the MV of Sauri (Kenya) on engaging male community members with health services to identify barriers to care, including HIV testing. As a result, men’s clinic days will be held monthly at 5 facilities. Services will be only for men during these times.

Tuberculosis

Screening, treating, and monitoring of tuberculosis (TB) was a continuing priority in 2013, and rates of TB in the MVs are down, while treatment and compliance

rates are up. The MV of Ruhiira (Uganda) has implemented an eCompliance project to prevent defaulters during long-term TB treatment using biometrics. The system uses a unique fingerprint identifier to log patient’s daily DOTS compliance. The end deliverable is to propose eCompliance as a replacement to the current inefficient manual tracking through patient cards.

Malaria

Malaria-related deaths have decreased due to (1) use of long-lasting insecticidal nets for all sleeping sites, (2) case management of uncomplicated malaria at the household

level via CHWs, and (3) case management at the clinic. The Health team is working on increasing the frequency of household follow-up of children two days after treatment. Through real-time data the health team can track the CHW's response to a child with fever to see if the CHW did a rapid diagnostic test, and, if positive, if the CHW administered the correct anti-malarial treatment and followed up two days later to ensure successful outcome. Since the nets do show signs of wear-and-tear after three years, another project-wide distribution of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLINs) donated by Sumitomo is expected in 2014 to further improve prevention of malaria.

“School of 5” Handwashing Initiative Launches

As part of the partnership with Unilever launched in 2012 to promote hygiene education and behavioral change, the “School of 5” program was initiated across the MVP in 2013. “School of 5” is a 21-day school-based behavioral change program for primary school children to promote handwashing practices in order to decrease incidences of diarrhea and pneumonia and save children's lives. The program also works on developing “Handwashing with Soap Ambassadors,” encouraging school children to take the behavior change messages home and into their community, helping reduce the overall spread of germs and related diseases.

The “School of 5” program was piloted at MV schools in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda, and was later taken to the other sites via teacher training workshops over the summer of 2013. CHWs have been key



Global Handwashing Day celebration in partnership with Unilever in the MV of Mayange (Rwanda)

in supporting and strengthening health and hygiene education and are also helping to roll out this handwashing with soap initiative.

To complement hygiene initiatives, schools, local leaders, and communities in all MV sites participated in the annual celebration of Global Handwashing Day in October 2013. Students participated in a variety of activities to learn why handwashing is essential to their health and wellbeing.

For more on WASH initiatives in 2013, please see the Infrastructure, Energy, and WASH section of this report.

Supply Chain Initiative

The work improving the supply chain for medical commodities aims to reduce stock-outs of essential medicines at the clinics and in the CHW's backpacks. This involves detailed training of clinic staff on stock monitoring of inventory procurement, forecasting, proper storage, and correct product utilization. The initiative is being implemented in more than 70 health facilities across the MVP, including throughout the CHW sub-system. Some sites have included training seconded

government officials so as to improve capacity in oversight of procurement systems of health commodities in the district.

Several partners have come on board to strengthen the supply chain initiative. Henry Schein, a medical products distributor, partnered with the Earth Institute to provide a technical support team on the development of a stock monitoring tool that automates forecasting for health facilities. UNFPA, under their implementing partner IPPF (International Planned Parenthood Federation), has committed to provide supplies of HIV kits.

In addition, the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), a key component of the U.S. Government's Global Health Initiative, is collaborating on problem solving the malaria commodities supply chain by using the MVP's ability to provide information in real-time as to what happens "in the last mile," thereby providing good feedback to the supply of malaria-related commodities. This partnership combines PMI's support of government procurement systems with the kind of granular data the MVP provides on a regular basis from clinics and CHWs to improve the flow of commodities and prevent ruptures in the flow of necessary malaria diagnostics and therapeutics, improving oversight and accountability.

In addition to these Project-wide partnerships, each site has also engaged in regional and local partnerships to decrease stock-outs, either via collaboration with neighboring hospitals and district warehouses, or local and international NGOs, such as Marie Stopes, and UN



One Million Community Health Workers Campaign Operations Room Dashboard

agencies such as WFP and UNICEF, that can provide the clinics the essential commodities when the government system fails.

One Million Community Health Workers Campaign

Building on the MVP's experience of professionalized cadre of CHWs, along with mHealth tracking and management platforms, Earth Institute is leading the secretariat for the One Million CHWs Campaign since January 2013. In November 2013, the Campaign unveiled its *Operations Room*, an online information dashboard that conveys available national data on CHW operations across Africa (not only within the MVP), including personnel counts, capabilities cataloguing, other workforce analytics and population demographics. This platform will eventually expand to offer an e-toolkit of resources for CHW program managers in all participating countries. The Operations Room may be found at:

<http://1millionhealthworkers.org/operations-room-map/>.

In the coming year, the MVP aims to work even more closely with the 1mCHW

Campaign to identify additional practical opportunities for scale-up of the CHW program model as a core part of national scale-up activities, and doing so with the African Union, UN agencies, and with over a hundred other partners, all in support of the roadmaps created by health ministries across all participating African countries.

Education



Primary school student in the MV of Ruhira (Uganda)

2013 Activity Highlights

The three main goals of the MVP's Education sector are to increase age-appropriate enrollment, improve quality of education, and ensure gender parity. The specific focus of 2013 was to narrow and target interventions where performance indicators were low. While there were variations by site, improving learning outcomes of students was identified as a prevalent need across the Millennium Villages. Key activities in 2013 included teacher training, capacity building of Community Education Workers (CEWs), community outreach to increase enrollment, improving the learning environment with a focus on girls, and usage of learning assessments and data to inform interventions.

Teacher Training

The rationale for boosting teacher training in 2013 in the MVs was to ensure that the recurring teacher trainings are not mere repetitions but rather refreshers as well as facilitators of effective and relevant pedagogical and teaching methods that can continually improve and upgrade teachers' capacity. In line with national education policies in MVP host countries, the Education sector promotes learner-centered teaching methods and emphasizes this in the teacher training sessions across sites.

For example, the Millennium Village of Tiby (Mali) collaborated with regional education services to target trainings to address teaching in double shift or multi-grade classes, as these

types of classes are prevalent due to shortage of teaching staff. About 100 primary school teachers participated and are expected to practice the methods in their respective schools.

The Millennium Village of Mbola (Tanzania) continued participation in “Teaching in Action” (TIA) to engage selected in-service teachers. The TIA training promotes the use of active, learner-centered teaching methods and critical thinking, and addresses issues such as large class sizes, students’ negative attitudes toward mathematics, and improvisation of teaching aids.

The Millennium Village of Bonsaaso (Ghana) is focusing on remediation and teaching techniques specifically aimed at improving basic literacy skills. Teacher trainings are focused on supporting teachers to help students acquire basic reading skills through emphasis on letter recognition, phonics, decoding, sight words, and building fluency.

Community Education Workers (CEWs)

Since its pilot launch in 2012, the CEW program has gained a great deal of traction and recognition. With nearly 250 CEWs serving the Millennium Villages in 2013, this year’s capacity development training for teachers also included CEWs. Though CEWs were first recruited for the purpose of community sensitization and to serve as enumerators for data collection, some have been taking on new roles to support quality of education in the classrooms and schools. For example, with a teacher shortage in the Millennium Villages of Bonsaaso (Ghana), SADA (Ghana), and Pampaida (Nigeria), many of the CEWs are the primary teachers in the classrooms.



Community Education Worker (CEW) conducting a class at a learning center in the MV of Mwandama (Malawi)

“I am proud to be part of the Community Education Workers Program. We are working on a very sensitive issue -- **if all our children are educated well, then we are sure of a better tomorrow.** I am thankful to the Project for this great initiative because it allows us to work with the parents. Together with the parents and the schools, we can find solutions to our education problems on our own.”

– A lead CEW from the MV of Mayange (Rwanda)

In the Millennium Village of Pampaida (Nigeria), the 2013 CEW training workshop session included prospective volunteers for CEW positions, including secondary school graduates (with varying degrees of competencies), recent basic teacher graduates, and a few university graduates with no prior teacher training or experience. The workshop was predicated upon recognizing their achievement as young graduates and using them as role models and partners in community sensitization for school enrollment and attendance.

In the Millennium Village of Mayange (Rwanda), CEWs raised awareness on the importance of

staying in school and tracked dropouts in the community through data collection at school and household level. The monthly school data collected by the CEWs is discussed at meetings of the Rwanda Education NGOs Coordination Platform (RENCP), a collation of regional NGOs that helps with government advocacy.

In the Millennium Village of Mwandama (Malawi), CEWs are also reaching out-of-school children and teaching lagging learners and re-enrolled students at Village Learning Centers. Out-of-school students include teenage mothers who have left school because of pregnancy.

In the Millennium Village of Mbola (Tanzania), CEWs are organizing awareness campaigns on teenage pregnancy and encouraging students to either return to or remain in school.

In the Millennium Village of Sauri (Kenya), CEWs have played a key role in increasing age appropriate enrollment in preschool classes. By educating parents on the recommended age of enrollment and the setbacks associated with late access to early childhood development programs, CEWs are helping increase parental willingness to enroll young children in preschool.

School Enrollment and Attendance

Targeted and seasonal enrollment drives take place every year across the Millennium Villages to gear up for the academic year. The MVP is working with communities to encourage that every child enrolls in school at the correct age and stays to complete secondary school. Age-appropriate enrollment is important because it reduces the likelihood that a child will drop out before completing a full course of primary school.



A school team at the sports festival (top) and a football match in progress (bottom) in the MV of Pampaida (Nigeria)

Widely used strategies for conveying these messages across sites include radio discussions through local stations, drama groups and skits performances for large community meetings, and targeted household visits conducted by CEWs.

The Millennium Village of Mbola (Tanzania), for example, reached approximately 2,000 school-aged children through enrollment campaigns in 2013.

In the Millennium Village of Pampaida (Nigeria), CEWs built on the success of the 2012 sports campaigns for school enrollment and arranged a sports festival including a football tournament and wrestling matches to attract the community to attend. At these events, mock

registrations orient parents on how to enroll their children in school.

In addition, procurement of learning materials takes place across all sites to motivate and incentivize children's attendance and enrollment. These materials include bags, notebooks, pens and pencils, and additional tools. Schools and teachers are also provided with learning and teaching materials to encourage an appropriate learning environment.

School Meals Program

The School Meals Program (SMP) is an important component of the Education sector, ensuring students are receiving the nutrition they need for physical and cognitive development, and helping them stay focused all day.

In the MV of SADA (Ghana), school cooks participated in a 2-day training session on nutrition and hygiene. Discussions included the link between SMP to school attendance, retention, health, and performance. Participants also learned information on basic nutrition, personal and kitchen hygiene, food safety and hygiene, cooking behavior, food poisoning, menu planning using locally available foods, and monitoring and evaluation. Remarks from the cooks indicated that they were appreciative of the training and were ready to show improvements in the quality of their service delivery as part of their contribution to improving their communities and schools.

In addition, our Japan-based partner Table for Two (TFT) continues to support the School Meals Program in Koraro (Ethiopia), Mayange (Rwanda), and Mbola (Tanzania). The three Millennium Village sites supported by Table for



Pre-school students enjoying their school meals in the MV of Mayange (Rwanda)

Two are making continual progress toward the goal of increasing enrollment and retention of students while improving their health and nutrition.

In the MV of Koraro, with TFT's support, the SMP is implemented in 24 primary schools, reaching over 15,000 students. In the MV of Mbola, also through the TFT grant, all primary schools are serving meals to over 8,000 students. Each school in Koraro and Mbola provides a nutritious meal once a day consisting of beans, chickpeas, vegetables, and fruits providing essential nutrients, including protein, carbohydrates, and vitamins.

In the MV of Mayange (Rwanda), TFT's support benefits 8 community-owned Early Childhood Development centers with the School Meals Program, reaching nearly 700 students between the ages of 3-5 years—the most critical age for development. Each center serves porridge at breakfast five days a week and, in an effort to improve the health of the children, the Project recently introduced a more nutritious mix of soy beans and maize for porridge ("SOSOMA").

Girl's Health Education

One of the biggest cross-sector efforts in 2013 was the procurement of reusable sanitary pads for adolescent girls in some sites, with an emphasis on a complementing menstrual hygiene management (MHM) education session. The aim is to improve personal hygiene, knowledge of menstrual hygiene and health, and girls' comfort level and confidence in school during menstruation. Preliminary pilot results are promising, demonstrating that girls feel more confident and comfortable managing their menses and still attending school after these sessions.

The MVP site teams in Mwandama (Malawi), Mayange (Rwanda), and Mbola (Tanzania) have piloted reusable sanitary pads in their sites and Koraro (Ethiopia), Sauri (Kenya), and Ruhiira (Uganda) have been continuing their efforts in strengthening current sanitary pads program and MHM education.

Early Childhood Education (Pre-school)

Investing in pre-schools continues to be a priority of the Education sector. Pre-schools are supported with school meals, procurement of learning materials, building of classrooms, and training of teachers. A majority of the sites have access to pre-primary classes, either community-based or in the formal school setting. Thus far, there is not adequate infrastructure, supplies, or staffing to provide all children within the cluster with access to pre-school classes.

Some sites, such as Koraro (Ethiopia) and Mwandama (Malawi), have extended access to early childhood development resources to younger students through home-based play groups within the community.



4K Club students explain to visiting students different aspects of their nutrition garden during an exchange visit in the MV of Sauri (Kenya)

The MV of Mayange (Rwanda) started one model pre-school after which parents and community members were able to start their own pre-schools, calling upon the Project for support. Currently, Mayange supports eight pre-schools with nearly 700 children enrolled. More than 20 pre-schools have been established by community members and private individuals in Mayange.

Engaging the Community in Education

To meaningfully integrate the participation of parents and community members in schools, the MVP continues to provide support and training for School Management Committees (SMC).

In 2013, the MV of SADA (Ghana) offered a training for SMCs, Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs), and Head Teachers. This two-day training in two separate locations covered a broad range of major topics, including functions and roles of the PTA and SMC, planning and organizing the groups' meetings, conflict management, and action-planning through School Performance Improvement Plans.

The MVP also supports innovative Income Generation and Learning Activities (IGLAs) for schools. IGLAs encourage and provide capacity building opportunities to initiate small enterprises in schools to generate income while imparting business and agricultural skills to students.

In the MV of Sauri (Kenya), the 4K Club, a concept initiated by the Kenya Ministry of Agriculture, involves working with students in school gardens to learn agricultural skills. The 4K Club has been sustained with technical and material support from the MVP, the commitment of the school head teacher, and the dedication of student club members.

In the MV of Ruhira (Uganda), PTAs are becoming a means to sustainably fund scholarships for children in the community. Parents first formed an association called the Kabuyanda Girls' Education Association with support from the MVP. After drafting a constitution, the Association was registered as a cooperative and thereafter, members began making monthly contributions to be used for education. This inspired the inception of another association, where parents began to contribute to a savings fund to support education initiatives. The association is investing in planting trees and coffee beans, as well as rearing goats and other animals, and association members meet monthly to plan for business profits to eventually support scholarship beneficiaries.

In the MV of Potou (Senegal), a large stakeholders meeting was held in 2013 with national and local government representatives, civil society members from the MVP, and Plan International to discuss low enrollment rates in the region, particularly regarding Koranic

education. The two-day session provided a valuable opportunity to draft action plans for the future, understand the mutual difficulties faced in respective sectors, and to synthesize the interventions of development partners for greater benefits to the community.

“School of 5” Handwashing Initiative

As part of the partnership with Unilever launched in 2012 to promote hygiene education and behavior change, the “School of 5” program was initiated across the MVP in 2013. “School of 5” is a 21-day school-based behavior change program for primary school children to promote healthy handwashing practices in order to decrease incidences of diarrhea and pneumonia and save children’s lives. The program also works on developing “Handwashing with Soap Ambassadors,” encouraging school children to take the behavior change messages home and into their community, helping reduce the spread of germs and diseases.

The “School of 5” program was piloted at MV schools in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda in 2013, and was later taken to the other sites via teacher training workshops over the summer of 2013. Community Health Workers have been key in strengthening health and hygiene education and helping to roll out the School of 5 initiative.



Student having her school meal in the MV of Mbola (Tanzania)

To complement hygiene initiatives, schools, local leaders, and communities in all MV sites participated in the annual celebration of Global Handwashing Day in October 2013. Students participated in a variety of activities to learn why handwashing is essential to their health and wellbeing.

Education Data and Indicators

To closely monitor and analyze progress, the Education sector launched monthly report cards displaying recently collected data to inform ongoing interventions and efforts. Some of the indicators captured are student and teacher attendance, learning assessment results, sufficiency of materials, and infrastructural conditions at schools.

MV teams use the report card data in various ways to improve the education system at their respective sites. The MV of Mayange (Rwanda) shares this information at monthly stakeholder meetings. The MV of Ruhiira (Uganda) shares it with district education officers to flag lower performing schools. The MV of Mbola (Tanzania) awards schools based on best attendance and literacy/numeracy rates. The MV of Pampaida (Nigeria) uses the data to share at monthly meetings in schools as well as with PTAs and government inspectors.

Connect To Learn

Founded by Millennium Promise, the Earth Institute at Columbia University, and Ericsson, Connect To Learn (CTL) is a global education initiative to support greater access to secondary education for girls alongside investments in broadband connectivity in the schools they attend to improve the quality of learning for all. By mobilizing a coalition of visionary ICT industry leaders—including Ericsson, Airtel, MTN, Tigo, and others—CTL is helping ensure

that every girl and boy has access to a 21st century secondary education.

CTL provides multi-year scholarships for promising students who need financial support to attend secondary school. In addition, CTL schools where scholars are enrolled are provided with Internet access and a set of 25-50 netbook computers each.

In 2013, CTL secured 75 new multi-year scholarships for girls, bringing the total number of scholars supported by CTL to 740. CTL also had its first class of 21 graduates in 2013, with 18 scholars graduating from Bonsaaso in June, and 3 more from Sauri in December.

Computer and Broadband Connectivity Installation

In early 2013, CTL completed computer installations, supported by mobile broadband connectivity, in 16 MVP secondary schools in 8 African countries, including more than 470 computers contributed by lead ICT partner Ericsson.

School-To-School Connections

The partnership between Lolangu Secondary School in the MV of Mbola (Tanzania) and New Canaan Country School in Connecticut (US) continues, with the most recent classroom connection focused on students asking each other questions in the native language of their peers. The New Canaan students studied Swahili for the exchange, while the Lolangu students practiced their English.

In May 2013, Friends Seminary Quaker School in New York hosted a showing of the film *Girl Rising* to raise funds for a CTL scholarship for a girl in the MV of Ruhiira (Uganda) where students are partnered in an ongoing online

learning exchange with Ruhiira's Kisyoro Secondary School.

SADA ICT Solution Installation

Planning is ongoing for installation of ICT resources in 5 secondary schools in the SADA village in northern Ghana where more than 20 CTL Scholars are enrolled. Ericsson is now completing installation of ICT infrastructure in SADA and preparing for the 2014 shipment of 180 computers to the CTL/MVP secondary schools there. The installation of computers in the schools is targeted for May 2014.

ICT in Education Research Study

The Connect To Learn team in New York, in collaboration with multiple university partners and funding and technical support from Ericsson, concluded the yearlong ICT in Education Study in October 2013. The CTL team and its university partners wrote a full report on the research study and worked with Ericsson to publish it (available to download at: <http://connecttolearn.org/media/CTL-in-the-news/2013-11inductionstudy>). The report documents findings to support ongoing improvements to CTL's ICT solutions in schools, facilitate much-needed ICT integration training and resources for teachers in CTL schools, and provide a roadmap for site teams, private sector partners, in-country universities, and government Ministries of Education to work together on investments to support and scale the robust use of ICT in the classroom.

As part of the report's release, CTL worked with Ericsson to produce a related video interview with Professor Jeffrey Sachs for public circulation (connecttolearn.org/Education-Study). The interview focuses on the powerful effects and potential of ICT for advancing education and development. The report was

also presented at the NEST Forum by Ericsson in November 2013.

Recommended next steps from the report include the refinement of strategies around physical infrastructure such as school policies and installation of outlets in all classrooms and ancillary equipment such as projectors and printers; ICT infrastructure; teacher ICT skills training and pedagogical professional development; open source and locally-relevant teaching and learning resources; support for full-time site-based CTL facilitators at all school sites including those that hosted the study; and increased public-private partnership for optimal implementation and scaling of solutions.

The report also recommends a three-year phased implementation plan for new sites, now being fine-tuned by CTL in collaboration with Ericsson for use during the upcoming installation of computers in SADA and beyond.

CTL will continue collaborating with university partners in Kenya and Uganda to share the findings and expand partnerships with Ministry of Education leaders to deepen the integration of ICT at all levels of education. Presently, the CTL team, Columbia University Teachers College, and Kampala University are working to put in place a teacher training curriculum focused on integration of ICT developed by graduate students from Teachers College, a project which developed out of the research study.

"Audacious Proposal" Video with Jamie Lee Curtis

CTL produced and released a fundraising and awareness-building animated video for its end-of-year campaign, raising funds for multiple new girls' scholarships. Actor/author/advocate

Jamie Lee Curtis lent her powerful voice to record the narration to support Connect To

Learn. The video may be viewed and shared at connecttolearn.org/audacious-proposal.

Infrastructure, Energy, and WASH



Students displaying their good handwashing technique on Global Handwashing Day in the MV of Sauri (Kenya)

2013 Activity Highlights

Investments in infrastructure, roads, information and communications technology (ICT), and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) are critical to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. While most infrastructure interventions took place during Phase I of the MVP, there is still work being done across the Millennium Villages to maintain critical infrastructure, and improve access to facilities, water and electricity points, ICT services, and sanitation. The following are highlights of activities from this sector in 2013 across the MVP.

Infrastructure Maintenance

Maintenance of public infrastructure is critical to providing ongoing quality services to communities. Across the Millennium Villages, various structures from health clinics and laboratories to classrooms and teachers quarters were either constructed or rehabilitated in 2013.

The MV of Pampaida (Nigeria) renovated a health clinic and constructed a separate reception area for pregnant women and mother's support groups in 2013.

The MV of Sauri (Kenya) built staff housing at the Lihanda and Gongo Health Centers, and this housing was handed over to the

Ministry of Health. In recognition of the significant impact staff housing has on health care service provision, the government is now constructing a second staff house at each facility.

The MV of Mbola (Tanzania) constructed a new laboratory and operating theatre at the Ilolangulu Health Center, which officially opened in 2013 and are now operational.

Several education infrastructure maintenance projects also took place in 2013. In the MV of Mayange (Rwanda), the Project completed the construction of girls' meeting rooms at two schools. These rooms are to be used for group education sessions on sexual and reproductive health, physical growth, menstruation, sanitation, and hygiene.

The MV of Tiby (Mali) constructed two additional classrooms and two early childhood development centers in the community.

The MV of Sauri handed over a completed woodworking shop at Mindine Village Polytechnic to the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Gender Services. The handover was attended by the acting governor, representatives from the ward and Siaya County, and community members. The workshops will enable metal work and carpentry students to receive hands-on vocational training in their fields of study.

As a relatively new Millennium Village, the MV of SADA (Ghana) has done considerable work on establishing and expanding basic infrastructure across the site. In 2013, the team in SADA completed the construction



"A Good Homestead" list taught in schools in the MV of Ruhira (Uganda)

of a new health center at Kunkua, which is equipped with a lab and staff quarters. The health center at Kpasenkpe, which was previously in disrepair, was fully rehabilitated, and a diagnostics lab was also completed at the Fumbisi Health Center. To expand health services in the most rural areas, the MVP is supporting construction of three new health clinics, and rehabilitation of three existing health clinics. At the Uwasi Clinic, staff quarters were also constructed to ensure a skilled health worker is present at all times, day or night. To ease access to health facilities, ambulance services have become fully operational throughout the project area. In addition to these health infrastructure activities, the MV of SADA also constructed 16 new classrooms at 3 primary schools and built new teacher quarters at four schools. To increase student attendance and provide exercise, playgrounds were also constructed at all primary schools.

While most road maintenance and transport activities have been passed on to the government for ownership, with the communities' support and contribution, the MV of Mbola (Tanzania) repaired 13.4 km of gravel road in 2013. The MV of SADA helped

to improve a 16km road to all-weather standards in 2013. The MV of Mwandama (Malawi) also completed the construction of Namichimba Bridge.

Other infrastructure activities in 2013 include the construction of a water office for the Ruhira (Uganda) piped water scheme, which the MVP continues to manage.

Access to Electricity

By providing homes, businesses, and institutions such as health clinics and schools with access to electricity, the MVP has been able to empower communities to work more flexibly and expand opportunities. Ensuring schools have access to electricity is crucial to expanding learning opportunities and access to ICT services.

In the MV of Koraro (Ethiopia), solar systems at 9 schools are operational and being maintained, while a larger grid system at the Kokhiazaz School was renovated in 2013.

The MV of Mbola (Tanzania) distributed 39 solar lanterns to Connect To Learn (CTL) secondary school scholars, providing light for studying after dark.

Shared Solar continues to greatly benefit communities because it allows households to connect to off-grid solar power, using a “pay as you go” system. In the MV of Ruhira (Uganda), the success of Shared Solar has led to its expansion to the Nyakitunda community, for which the MVP commissioned 2 battery charging centers.

Connecting to the national grid is also advantageous to MV communities where this is feasible. In 2013, the MV of Mwandama (Malawi) saw to the extension of grid electricity to a grocery store, a maize mill, and to four households within the community. In partnership with the national energy authority, 18 more households were connected to grid electricity in the MV of Mayange (Rwanda).

Information & Communications Technology

Several key information and communications technology (ICT) activities took place in 2013. CommCare—the smartphone-enabled mHealth tool for Community Health Workers—was fully rolled out across all of the Millennium Villages. This included localizing the smartphone application for each country and working with governments on data, privacy, and telecom issues. The MVP partnered with vendors, Internet service providers, and private sector telecom providers in each site to ensure connectivity and access to power.

The MVP worked with its longstanding partner, Ericsson, to begin the build out of telecom infrastructure in the MV of Koraro (Ethiopia) and SADA (Ghana) using donated equipment. This will eventually lead to complete cellular data coverage for two of the MVP’s most hard-to-reach sites.

The Project also facilitated the rollout of Connect To Learn’s eLearning platform in four sites, including program expansion in the MV of Sauri (Kenya) and Ruhira (Uganda) and initial program rollout in the MV of Koraro (Ethiopia) and Mayange

(Rwanda). This involved coordinating with Ericsson, local providers, and MVP site teams to ensure that the functional infrastructure was in place to support the eLearning program. (See report from CTL in the Education section.)

Recognizing the need for rapid access to health facilities during emergencies, the MV of Potou (Senegal) and some other Millennium Villages have set up toll free numbers to allow households to immediately contact ambulances during emergencies, especially in cases involving pregnant women and children under five.

WASH (Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene)

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) is a cross-cutting sub-sector that links multiple areas of work, especially health, education, infrastructure, and gender equality. WASH initiatives are focused on increasing access to safer drinking water, improving access to sanitation facilities including gender-separated latrines at schools, and promoting good hygiene practices such as handwashing with soap and proper disposal of excreta

In 2013, the MVP placed renewed focus on WASH activities to accelerate progress toward achievement of MDG 7. A comprehensive assessment of WASH infrastructure was completed to determine needs, and WASH Facilitators were engaged in each site to build the capacity of communities and government to establish and maintain water and sanitation services, while generating increased demand for water and sanitation services by educating communities about their benefit, and promoting health-seeking behaviors.



Students washing hands in the MV of Mwandama (Malawi)

In the final years of the Project, the MVP will continue to focus on interventions to increase access to safer drinking water and sanitation coverage, promote behavior change in handwashing practices through partnership with Unilever and other partners, and strengthen partnerships at local and national level to sustain WASH initiatives.

“School of 5” Handwashing Initiative Launches

As part of the partnership with Unilever launched in 2012 to promote hygiene education and behavior change, the “School of Five” program was initiated across the MVP in 2013. “School of 5” is a 21-day school-based behavior change program for primary school children that promotes healthy handwashing practices in order to decrease incidence of diarrhea and pneumonia, which can save children’s lives. The program also develops “Handwashing with Soap Ambassadors” who encourage school children to take the messages learned in the program home and into their community, helping to promote healthy behaviors that reduce the spread of germs and diseases.

The “School of 5” program was piloted at MV schools in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda, and was later taken to the other sites via teacher training workshops over the summer. Community Health Workers have been key in supporting and strengthening health and hygiene education and are also helping to roll out the handwashing with soap initiative.

To complement hygiene initiatives, schools, local leaders, and communities in all MV sites participated in the annual celebration of Global Handwashing Day in October 2013. Students participated in a variety of activities to learn why handwashing is essential to their health and wellbeing.

Be-Girl Pads

Due to high costs associated with disposable sanitary pads, the MVP began piloting a study on reusable sanitary napkins with reusable Be-Girl Pads, which are economically and environmentally more sustainable. In 2013, the Be-Girl Pads program was piloted in the MV of Mwandama (Malawi), Mayange (Rwanda), Mbola (Tanzania) and Ruhiira (Uganda). Adolescent girls selected to participate in the program shared their current practices and issues associated with menstrual hygiene management, and the MVP provided them with training on how to properly use the reusable Be-Girl Pads.

Based on the “lessons learned” after the pilot, this initiative is set to roll out on a larger scale in multiple sites. In addition, in summer 2014 the health and education teams are collaborating on a research project in Mayange (Rwanda). The project is



Veronica Bucket installed in schools in the MV of Pampaida (Nigeria)

planned to first develop a curriculum/training dealing with various aspects of menstruation and distribute sanitary pads to girls (in conjunction with the fielding of the curriculum), and then at 2 points (after 6 months and 1 year) assess the impact on school attendance and mental wellness.

Donor-supported WASH Initiatives in Mwandama

New WASH projects launched in 2013 with support from two major donors, the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation (TCCAF) and John Legend’s Show Me Campaign.

TCCAF pledged funding to support WASH-related projects in the MV of Mwandama (Malawi) in 2012, to be carried forth until 2015. With this support, the MVP will rehabilitate and construct water points for communities, design and install rainwater harvesting systems in schools, and provide training to local government and water management committees to maintain these investments and oversee water safety. In 2013, a workshop was held to identify priorities, establish targets, and create work plans to guide implementation of the

activities. TCCAF is also supporting an irrigation initiative in the MV of Potou (Senegal).

Continuing in his support and advocacy for the MVP, Show Me Campaign founder John Legend lent his celebrity over summer 2013 to raising funds for four gender-separate latrines with hand-washing stations at schools in Mwandama (Malawi).

The new online fundraising platform Catapult hosted the fundraiser, which was held in conjunction with the Chime for Change concert in London in July 2013, where Legend performed. Funding was also provided for the formation of hygiene clubs, distribution of re-usable sanitary napkins for adolescent girls, and a celebration of World Toilet Day to raise awareness on hygiene and sanitation. By the end of 2013, two gender-separate latrines were completed; the remaining two, and other activities related to the grant, are underway during the first half of 2014. The Show Me Campaign also raised funds for Connect To Learn scholarships in the MVs of Sauri (Kenya) and Bonsaaso (Ghana).



A gender-separated latrine with hand-washing station at Mbedza Public School in Mwandama (Malawi).

Building Capacity Project-wide

In addition to trainings and workshops associated with the Unilever “School of 5” Program and The Coca Cola Africa Foundation projects, other WASH related capacity building activities also took place in 2013. In May 2013, to support the acquisition of new knowledge and skills, two WASH Facilitators from the MV of Mwandama (Malawi) and Mbola (Tanzania) received external funding support from WaterNet to attend a workshop on “Strengthening Civil Society and Media’s Role in Promoting Integrity and Accountability in the Water Sector” in Johannesburg, South Africa.

In the MV of Ruhiira (Uganda) and many other sites, CHWs have received training on various aspects of WASH in order to educate families during household visits. In the MV of Sauri (Kenya), communities received training on point-of-use water treatment using chlorine. Water Point Committees have also received training, along with 25 volunteer community



Guest of Honor officially opening the school borehole and Mwandama Team Leader drawing water at St. Agness Primary School.

members, on operation and maintenance of water infrastructure.

Water Supply Infrastructure

Water supply infrastructure and repair was a priority in 2013 across the MVP. The MV of Mwandama (Malawi) installed rainwater-harvesting systems in schools, and permanent handwashing facilities supported with point-of-use chlorine treatment and water storage buckets. Rainwater-harvesting systems were also installed at 6 health facilities in Mbola (Tanzania), where the Ilolangulu Water Supply Scheme was launched and a water user's association board formed.

In the MV of Bonsaaso (Ghana), three hand-dug wells and 10 public piped-water connections have been completed. Four water pumps have also been repaired with water point committees being revived across Bonsaaso. Likewise, the MV of Sauri (Kenya) has protected nearly 30 springs this year, to limit contamination of the water source and protect users from injury.

The MV of Pampaida (Nigeria) installed Veronica buckets (a large water container with a basin for hand-washing) in three primary schools this year, and also constructed 4 boreholes. Protective barriers were also installed at more than 10 hand-dug wells. At schools in the MV of Potou (Senegal), two water filters were installed and one was repaired. The MV of Tiby (Mali) also repaired boreholes and installed water storage tanks in various locations in 2013.

In the MV of Koraro (Ethiopia), over 130 improved water points—including springs,



Household members construct a latrine at home in the MV of Pampaida (Nigeria)

hand-dug wells, and boreholes—have been completed and handed over to the local government for management. Water and Sanitation Committees in the MV of Koraro and other communities have been mobilized to operate and maintain such infrastructure.

The MV of Mayange (Rwanda) distributed 100 water containers to selected households and community clubs conducted frequent WASH campaigns.

Sanitation Infrastructure and Waste Management

Within the WASH sector, the MVP is working to increase access to latrines and improved sanitation, at both the institutional and household levels. In addition to providing access to latrines at public institutions, a pillar of the WASH strategy is to increase demand for latrines in rural communities, and provide subsidies for basic materials to empower families to build their own latrines. These activities were scaled up across the MVP in 2013, with strong support from local and international partners.

The MV of Mwandama (Malawi) constructed 16 latrines for schools with

permanent hand washing facilities in 2013, and has also provided them with soap and cleaning materials.

In the MV of Tiby (Mali), 2 hand washing stations have been built at schools, and more than 70 households have benefitted from SanPlat latrines through the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) initiative.

The MVP supported more than 20 households in the MV of Mayange (Rwanda) to construct latrines, and in the MV of Sauri (Kenya), 60 households received latrine slabs and nearly 100 households received vent pipes as subsidies.

In MV of Bonsaaso (Ghana), 35 household latrines, 2 biomedical waste disposal pits, and 3 water closets for clinics have been completed. One incinerator has been constructed at a health center in the MV of Potou (Senegal).

A 2-door ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrine was constructed at Ramula Health Center in the MV of Mbola (Tanzania) and a new sewage system was constructed at a maternity wing at the Mindhine dispensary. Mbola has also provided training to artisans to fabricate latrine slabs locally, which promotes local industry and keeps costs for these components low. The CLTS program was carried out in 3 villages in Mbola, and by the end of 2013, 20 household latrines had been constructed while another 30 more are in progress.

Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)

Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) is an approach to mobilizing communities to conduct self-appraisals of their sanitation facilities and design collective action aimed at completely eliminating the practice of open defecation. In addition to latrine construction, behavior change must also be instilled to ensure better sanitation and hygiene practices in the community.

In addition to the CLTS activities already mentioned above, in the MV of Koraro (Ethiopia), 22 CHWs were provided with refresher training in CLTS in 2013. Some vulnerable households in Adigoy were supported with latrine construction materials and celebrated Open Defecation Free Status.

In the MV of Ruhiira (Uganda), 15 CLTS Facilitators received training to support sanitation activities in the community in 2013. Nearly 100 households in Ruhiira benefited from latrines subsidization.

The MV of Pampaida (Nigeria) also provided training on CLTS, and more than 100 households were instructed in how to construct latrines.

The MV of SADA (Ghana) has also rolled out CLTS initiatives.

Hygiene Education

Hygiene education goes hand-in-hand with access to WASH infrastructure. Increasing access to appropriate infrastructure alone is not enough if individuals still have poor hygiene practices. Educating communities about how disease and illness spread is crucial in promoting healthier hygiene

habits such as hand washing and latrine use. In addition to Unilever’s “School of 5” hygiene education program (described earlier), various other activities took place in 2013 to promote behavior change.

In the MV of Ruhiira (Uganda), more than 15 radio talk shows were broadcast to disseminate good hygiene messages throughout the community.

The MV of Potou (Senegal) also conducted radio broadcasts to promote behavior change and distributed hygiene promotion materials across the community. In 2013, school health clubs were established in Potou as well as in the MV of Pampaida (Nigeria).

In the MV of Bonsaaso (Ghana), community meetings were conducted across the site to raise awareness about the significant health benefits of good hygiene practices in 2013.

In the MV of Tiby (Mali), more than 50 community members from 5 health centers received training on hygiene issues.

Community Health Workers play a critical role in promoting good hygiene across the Millennium Villages. In 2013, CHWs, along with local leaders, received refresher trainings on basic concepts of WASH. In the MV of Koraro (Ethiopia), CHWs conducted more than 34,000 household visits to promote good hygiene practices. Similarly in the MV of Sauri (Kenya), CHWs have helped to promote proper solid waste management, disposal of children’s feces, and hand-washing with soap.

Community-wide engagement is essential to promoting hygiene education. Just as the MVP celebrated Global Handwashing Day in 2013, various Millennium Villages also commemorated World Water Day and World Toilet Day to raise awareness about WASH.

Environment

The MVP approach to ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG 7) promotes activities that enhance, rehabilitate, and protect the environment and its associated ecosystem services while seeking to minimize negative environmental impacts of activities and interventions in other sectors. These activities include rehabilitation of soil through combined use of mineral and organic fertilizers and erosion control, agroforestry, reforestation, and afforestation activities; plot-, farm-, and landscape-level management of soil, vegetation, and water; and community-based environmental planning.

Integrated Soil Fertility Management

Promoting Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) continues to be a central activity Project-wide. ISFM practices include the use of fertilizer, organic inputs, and improved crop germplasm in combination with best practices for the most effective use under local conditions. This both increases crop productivity and maximizes the efficiency of nutrient additions which are costly for farmers and, if over-used, can damage the environment. The MVP is a leader in research to better characterize the environmental impacts (e.g., through carbon storage and greenhouse gas emissions, nutrient losses and leaching into surface and ground water, loss of biodiversity) that could result from agricultural intensification in Africa.

ISFM is knowledge-intensive. Trainings and demonstration plots are important so that



Training on how to fix the fertilizer micro-dosing equipment (*semoir*) in the MV of Tiby (Mali)

risk-averse farmers can evaluate the value of a new practice.

In the MV of Mwandama (Malawi) in 2013, farmers received training on different environmental interventions including appropriate usage of organic fertilizer, leguminous trees, crop rotation methods, and conservation tillage. Training was provided to more than 1,000 farmers with Agriculture Field Assistants. One farmer, who has been using *Gliricidia sepium*, a multi-purpose leguminous tree, for three years reported on how these practices can benefit a household:

“I have enough food for my family and have excess for sale. I am also able to pay school fees for my children. With use of Gliricidia sepium, I have managed to reduce the amount of money I used to spend to buy mineral fertilizer.”

In the MV of Pampaida (Nigeria), compost manure was one of the component technologies of ISFM demonstrated to farmers in 2013. One farmer, with over 40 years of experience, attended a series of

trainings facilitated by the MVP on ISFM technology with a focus on how to make compost and efficient methods of applying inorganic fertilizer. In the 2013 cropping season, he applied to his maize field both compost manure along with inorganic fertilizer, which he received from the MVP on credit, and obtained a bumper harvest. Experiences like these influence other farmers to try the same methods, and help support food security and income opportunities.

In the MV of Tiby (Mali), the team is focusing on fertilizer micro-dosing, the localized application of small, affordable quantities of fertilizer in or next to the planting hole at planting time or a few weeks after emergence. The micro-dosing technique increases the efficiency of fertilizer use and helps improve crop productivity. In Tiby, micro-dosing approach is being improved through mechanization with small-scale equipment. As a result, the average millet and sorghum crop yields in the demonstration plots were higher than those plots cultivated with traditional practices in 2013. Efforts are underway to scale up these technologies. The team is also holding an annual contest in organic compost production to increase crop yields while reducing the amounts of inorganic fertilizers needed.

Reforestation

Trees play many critical roles in smallholder agriculture systems. They can serve as a source of fuel; contribute to environmental sustainability by protecting soil, creating habitat, and maintaining functioning watersheds; and enhance soil fertility to contribute to improved food security. Tree



Students taking part in tree planting (a mango seedling) in the MV of Mwandama (Malawi)

cover was very low in many of the MVs before the Project began, so production of a variety of tree seedlings and tree planting on farms and degraded lands have been key activities to recover the many services provided by trees.

In MV of Mwandama (Malawi), the community planted trees to protect degraded hillsides. The Project encouraged farmers to establish woodlots and fruit trees near their homes, started school orchards, and provided farmers with training to establish and operate tree nurseries.

In the MV of Tiby (Mali), baobab (*Adansonia digitata*) and moringa (*Moringa olifera*) nutritional tree banks were established by women's groups. These trees were introduced as part of a program to improve the nutritional status of women and children under 5. The MV team also continued the distribution of improved (grafted) jujube (*Ziziphus mauritiana*) banks to help generate extra income for the farmers.

Traditional parkland systems in Mali and in the Sahel region in general face rapid degradation because of biophysical and human-induced factors such as over-exploitation and mismanagement by a continuously growing population and rapidly increasing livestock populations. The immediate consequence is loss in quantity and in quality of above- and below-ground biodiversity, which leads to decreased ecological services of local importance such as watershed protection, microclimate amelioration, soil conservation, nutrient cycling, and timber and non-timber agroforestry production.

The MV of Tiby (Mali) has begun a Natural Regeneration Program (RNA) to help reduce the impact of this general decline. This RNA calls for close collaboration with farmers in their own fields in order to select and protect young seedlings, which promotes natural forest regeneration processes.

In the MV of Mbola (Tanzania), deforestation is a threat to the native miombo woodlands where there is high demand for wood for curing tobacco, making charcoal, and generating domestic energy. The team distributed tree seedlings of fuel wood and fodder trees to farmers and primary schools to improve soil fertility and source of fuel for cooking at home in 2013. Mbola also continued to promote new cash crops such as sunflower, groundnuts, and sesame so that farmers have alternatives to tobacco.

Monitoring Progress

In 2013, the MVP agriculture and environment teams piloted a new monitoring tool. Using mobile devices,

teams can now track their extension activities from trainings on beekeeping to tree plantings. This tool will enable them to better track Project activities and evaluate their progress toward program goals.

The MVP sites are also using a combination of field surveys and high-resolution satellite imagery to understand the changes that have taken place across their landscapes during the Project period. This high-resolution change detection can help assess the trade-offs and synergies of the MVP's many initiatives.

In MV of Sauri (Kenya), preliminary analyses indicate significant increases in tree cover, tree biomass, and tree diversity, validating the success of Sauri's focus on trainings in tree planting, management, tree nursery enterprises, and high volume central tree seedling production.

Gender Equality



Girls participating in a pilot program for reusable Be-Girl Pads.

2013 Activity Highlights

Gender equality, a core priority of the Millennium Villages Project addressing MDG 3, is mainstreamed throughout all Project priorities, strategies, and activities. Attention is given to issues faced by women and girls in each sector through providing access to reproductive health care and building maternity wards at clinics, empowering girls through clubs at school and encouraging parents to send their girls to school, promoting improved farming techniques and access to agricultural finance for farmers most of whom are women, and more. The MVP knows that focusing efforts on women and girls pays dividends to the entire community.

Hygiene Management at School

Lack of adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities can be a barrier to girls' education, particularly during puberty. Adolescent girls' privacy is comprised by the unavailability of gender-separate latrines to accommodate their needs, especially during menstruation. Without access to sanitation facilities, girls are more likely to miss school and even drop out. However, thanks to support from partners such as the Show Me Campaign and The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation (TCCAF), more schools are building gender-separate latrines and providing hygiene education so that girls have the access to the facilities and information they need at school.

In the MV of Mwandama (Malawi), the TCCAF project supports water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) initiatives, including the construction of improved gender-separate latrines with hand-washing stations at schools, as well as increasing access to safer and sustainable water sources for the community. In 2013, a workshop was held to initiate activities and discuss implementation processes.

Also in Mwandama, support from the Show Me Campaign is helping to improve hygiene and sanitation conditions for girls. Continuing in his support and advocacy for the MVP, Show Me Campaign founder John Legend lent his celebrity over summer 2013 to raising funds for four gender-separate latrines with hand-washing stations at schools in Mwandama. The new online fundraising platform Catapult hosted the fundraiser, which was held in conjunction with the Chime for Change concert in London in July 2013 where Legend performed. Funding was also provided for the formation of hygiene clubs, distribution of reusable sanitary napkins for adolescent girls, and a celebration of World Toilet Day to raise awareness on hygiene and sanitation. By the end of 2013, two gender-separate latrines were completed; the remaining two and other activities related to the grant are underway during the first half of 2014. (The Show Me Campaign also raised funds for Connect To Learn scholarships in Sauri and Bonsaaso.)

Due to high costs associated with disposable sanitary pads, the MVP began piloting a study on reusable sanitary napkins with Be-Girl Pads, which are cheaper and more sustainable over time. In 2013, the Be-Girl Pads program was piloted in the MV of Mwandama (Malawi), Mayange (Rwanda), and Ruhiira (Uganda). Adolescent girls selected to participate in the



Teaching girls to ride bicycles, giving them an easier and faster way to get to school in the MV of Sauri (Kenya)

program shared their current practices and issues associated with menstrual hygiene management. The MVP provided them with training on how to properly use the Be-Girl Pads.

In addition to reusable sanitary pads, the MV of Mayange (Rwanda) constructed girls' centers at two schools (Kamabuye and Mayange Group Scholaires), offering girls a private place to rest, change sanitary napkins, and discuss issues related to hygiene, physical growth, and sexual reproductive health.

Easing the Commute to School

In the MV of Sauri (Kenya), 50 girls from disadvantaged families receiving Connect To Learn scholarships for secondary school received bicycles to ease their commute to and from school. Prior to having bicycles, the girls had to walk up to 4 km to get to school. Enduring these long commutes, girls were often subjected to fatigue by the time they reached school and sexual harassment along the way. Apart from their school fees being fully covered by CTL, they can now more easily commute to school and have a greater chance of completing secondary school.

Secondary School Scholarships

Providing girls with secondary school scholarships, which cover tuition, books, uniforms, and supplies, is one way the MVP works to keep girls in school and promote gender equality in the education sector. In 2013, Connect To Learn (CTL) secured 75 new multi-year scholarships for girls, bringing the total number of scholars supported by CTL to 740 project-wide. CTL also had its first class of 21 graduates in 2013, with 18 scholars graduating from secondary schools in the MV of Bonsaaso (Ghana) in June, and 3 more from Sauri (Kenya) in December. (See update from Connect To Learn in Education section.)

In addition to Connect To Learn, Millennium Promise Japan has been supporting 20 girls to go to secondary schools for 6 years. Three girls have graduated high school and three are currently entering their final stage of nursing school. Millennium Promise Japan has been supporting secondary scholarships since 2010.

Women's Economic Empowerment

Facilitating income-generating opportunities for women is an important priority across the business development and agriculture sector. Women often have limited control over productive assets like land and earned income, which often leads to a gender gap and makes women more dependent on men. Empowering women in economic activities has helped to boost their income level and reduce the gender gap. The sector works closely with women in the communities to provide support through entrepreneurship groups and capacity building.

In the MV of Mbola (Tanzania), women's groups were supported to participate in farmers' exhibitions commonly including the Nane Nane exhibitions (which take place on August 8 each



Girls' center in the MV of Mayange (Rwanda)

year), Saba Saba exhibitions (the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair), and Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) exhibitions. These exhibitions provide farmers and entrepreneurs the opportunity to advertise their products and get more information on the market.

In the MV of Mayange (Rwanda), in collaboration with business development providers employed by the Millennium Community Development Organization (MCDO) and the social affairs department in charge of women's promotion, the site team organized campaigns to provide insights and discuss income generating opportunities for women working through a gender-cultural forum called SASANEZA. In 2013, 65 SASANEZA groups in 35 villages discussed women's entrepreneurship development and access to loans through SACCOs. In less than 12 months, 24 groups with a total of almost 1,000 women have accessed loans that are being used to improve the selling of agricultural products.

In the MV of Koraro (Ethiopia), cooperatives promote gender equality by raising awareness, developing bylaws that promote women's participation, and establishing types of cooperatives around activities women already participate in such as poultry, dairy, fattening,

and small grain trading. Women’s participation has increased and all cooperatives in the cluster are provided equal opportunities to participate in decision making at all levels, and equal access to and control of the benefits.

In the MV of Tiby (Mali), a women’s peanut producers cooperative received a loan from a microfinance institution in 2013 to purchase improved seeds and advance their business.

In the MV of Bonsaaso (Ghana), in the first quarter of 2013, 43 female small business operators had access to microfinance from Opportunity International.

Creating Awareness around Gender Issues

Educating whole communities, including men, on gender issues was a sector priority in 2013. Through meetings and commemoration of International Women’s Day on March 8, several MVs helped to educate communities on women’s rights as well as gender-based violence (GBV). About 1,500 adolescent girl students and their teachers commemorated the day by conducting a forum on GBV in the MV of Koraro (Ethiopia). In the MV of Sauri (Kenya), 80 youth attended sensitization workshops and discussions on sexual violence and GBV in 2013.

In the MV of Mbola (Tanzania), the community celebrated Women’s Day at the Ilongulu village under the theme of “The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum.” The team in Mbola also encouraged parents, especially fathers, to prioritize education for girls. While Mbola has achieved gender parity in primary education, the gender gap remains high in secondary and tertiary education, as parents tend not to prioritize higher levels of education for girls. Students in Mbola also received training on how to respond when they



All girls football team after a victorious football match in the MV of Pampaida (Nigeria)

experience or are about to experience violence of any kind, particularly at school.

In the MV of Ruhiira (Uganda), activities continued with the Eminyeto club. Launched in 2010 to complement a project with UNAIDS on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, the MVP started the Eminyeto, or “Youth,” initiative to empower young women and girls in of Ruhiira. The program was originally targeted to address the issue “cross-generational sex,” which is a pattern of sexual behavior between girls, some as young as 10 years old, and much older men. Now, Eminyeto also include a Social and Emotional Learning curriculum, taught in over 20 schools in the district. This curriculum provides activities to girls to improve skills related to confidence, leadership, critical thinking, trauma healing, cooperative learning, responsibility, effective communication, and coping. An impact study is now being conducted on both the effectiveness of the curriculum as well as primary outcomes including: increased health services for adolescents and improved self-esteem, self-efficacy, and responsible decision making skills. The impact of secondary outcomes is also being evaluated: improved social support systems and wellbeing and mental health, and decreased sexual risk

behaviors and teenage pregnancy rates. Moving forward, the MVP aims to introduce income-generating activities to help girls earn money on their own without engaging in high-risk behavior.

Promoting Maternal Health

A number of interventions and systems are being implemented to protect and promote maternal and child health. As a member of the WHO Safe Childbirth Checklist (SCC) collaboration, the MVP is now using the checklist in 6 countries (Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda) to reduce preventable deaths of mothers and newborns. In addition, a 1,000 days schedule and checklist was developed to improve performance of CHWs in delivering essential health services to pregnant women and children under 2 during the critical period from conception to second birthday. The schedule and checklist is now being utilized in 7 sites (Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda) to help reduce infant mortality, underweight, and undernutrition.

Also in 2013, the MVP developed a set of Standards of Care for all service packages, including reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health to ensure the quality of service delivery. The Project has seen a reduction in maternal deaths across the sites and has sustained a Project-wide reduction of under-five mortality.

The MVP is working closely with the UNFPA and government ministries of health to strengthen and establish a sustainable supply chain for reproductive and health commodities. To reduce the disease burden on women and children, the MVP also continues its partnership on prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV/AIDS with UNAIDS, working together and with governments to create “MTCT-free zones” by 2015 using community engagement, high-quality health services, and appropriate follow-up and support to ensure the uptake and continuation of PMTCT regimens. All MVP sites met together to discuss the work of the MTCT-free zones in April 2013.

SEEDS OF GOLD

technology adoption

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Isingiro farmers embrace Vitamin A sweet potato


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Vitamin A deficiency is a major public health concern and has the potential to limit development in Africa taking the country stage.

Determined to fulfil the basic Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, Ruhira Mission Village Project (RMPV) in Isingiro District has introduced fortified orange-fleshed sweet potato to stem off vitamin A deficiency among women and infants below five years of age.

Timely intervention
RMPV is the implementing agency for NGOs and is tasked to see how these goals can be achieved by 2015.

"We introduced the orange-fleshed sweet potato in Pwani and Kibungwe Sub-counties and the surrounding areas to improve the status of Vitamin A because the





Left: Ms. Stella Katwiire displays the orange-fleshed sweet potato that are being grown in Isingiro. **Below:** How the sweet potato variety looks like with the ground off.

between 200g to two kilograms. Researchers also say in Uganda they are using the natural method of cross-pollination as opposed to the genetic modification method.

Benefits
The natural has proved very effective

those that have embraced the potato are encouraging but more effort is needed from the local leaders to make it a go-on in areas that are outside the RMPV.

"We are optimistic that many people will embrace potato growing but we have fear that some of the people in the community lack consistency and seeing up the project as their own," he says.

Ms. Katwiire says, the group has benefited from the project by feeding their children who have tremendously improved on their health and visiting health centres has reduced.

"We have become healthier, we no longer fall sick frequently, sell the potatoes and the proceeds to teachers and pupils in nearby schools, thus increasing our incomes" she says. A tin of potatoes goes for Shs.1,000 to Shs.1,500 depending on demand and season.

Adoption

A widow who lost her husband to HIV Aids in 2000, Ms. Katwiire says she has been able to build a three-roomed house, bought two goats and is putting up an office for her group which had as a sign of appreciation.

Meet Ms. Stella Katwiire. She is a Lead Farmer from the MV of Ruhira (Uganda) who has embraced the income and nutritional benefits of the Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP). "Every season I get over 5 million shillings (about US\$1,800) from two acres of sweet potato vines and sweet potatoes. I use half of the money for expansion of vine production. Now, I have even moved up to Kagera River in search of water for the vines during the dry season (a distance of about 20 km). So far, I have expanded my business to 40 acres and hope to reap an extra 2 million shillings," says Ms. Katwiire.

Ms. Katwiire has provided training for five groups in her parish (72 women and 33 men) in vine multiplication and nutritional benefits of the crop and is invited to provide her expert advice during various trainings. She has also received training in techniques for adding value through processing. She and other women have a group which sells doughnuts, crisps, chapattis, and cakes made from OFSP at local schools.

4. Scaling Up & Sustaining Growth

With less than two years to go before the 2015 MDG deadline and the end of Millennium Promise's role operating and funding interventions in the original ten Millennium Villages, plans are taking shape to ensure successful transition of Project interventions to local government ownership and that the lessons of the Project are used to inform future development efforts worldwide. Millennium Promise continues to support all sites in delivering much-needed programs and services through 2015, while also supporting efforts to transition these activities to local partners and national governments.

The MVP is focusing on three main goals during the transition process:

1. Transitioning MVP programs, systems, and services to local communities and governments,
2. Building capacity of local institutions to manage programs and systems in the long term, including promoting demand for services (including advocacy for MVP approaches), and
3. Scaling up MVP systems and approaches outside of MV cluster areas.

In order to simultaneously build local capacity for continuation of interventions while generating demand for services, the MVP is focusing on three flagship programs during the final term of the project: Community Health Workers (CHW), Community Education Workers (CEW), and the Lead Farmer Program (LFP). These programs (discussed in the health, education, and agriculture and business development sections above) are designed to make a positive impact for the most vulnerable

members of the communities served by the MVP and are structured to allow for adoption into national systems.

At the same time, an increasing focus in the last two years is to work with governments around Africa to scale up or adapt Project systems and approaches so that the lessons learned and best practices of the MVP are shared and utilized around the continent, aiming at the elimination of extreme poverty by 2030.

National scale up initiatives in current MV host countries—such as those already underway in Mali, Nigeria, and Rwanda—are intended to extend Project gains in the MVs and nationwide after 2015. Initiatives in other countries—from Benin to Zambia, and including eight supported by the Islamic Development Bank—are bringing MV-inspired programs to hundreds of thousands more people across the continent.

As site and regional teams work toward these goals, there are several key priorities that deserve attention and resources going forward, including, but not limited to:

- Absorption of non-seconded MVP staff into government positions, especially at formal facilities such as schools and health clinics
- Incorporating systematic provision of social services in health and education, including procurement of commodities for health facilities, schools, and community resource centers
- Continuation of supply chain development for farm inputs and outputs

- Incorporation of MVP created tools and systems for improved management across sectors
- Municipal plans for maintenance of shared infrastructure including roads, water systems, electricity systems, schools, hospitals, etc.

This section provides updates on progress building capacity, transitioning interventions and facilities to local communities and governments, and scaling up MVP approaches in each of the MV sites and host countries. An update is also provided on adopting the MV approach across Africa to extend benefits from the Project well beyond the geographic limits of the villages.

Transitioning to Local Ownership

In preparation for the end of 2015, Project site teams are actively entering into discussions with host country government agencies at all levels regarding the transition of MVP interventions and certain personnel, potential scale-up of Project systems and approaches, and the overall post-2015 development agenda. These efforts include negotiating Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with ministries of health to take over funding and management of health centers in the MVs, and with ministries of education to absorb responsibility for MV-based schools and successful interventions such as the school meals program. Millennium Promise and the Earth Institute intend to carry on in an advisory capacity for these governments after 2015 as these transitions and new initiatives take shape. Some examples of various transition initiatives in the Millennium Villages are sited below.

Koraro (Ethiopia)

Transition to Local Communities and Government

The District Health Office (DHO) has recruited more staff to fill the gaps in facilities staff serving the MV of Koraro. Consensus has been reached to transfer ownership and management of the Bajaj (motorcycle)

ambulances to the DHO, and the Project is continuing to develop MoUs to transfer management of other resources and assets as well.

Bonsaaso (Ghana)

Building Capacity

The three area councils within the Bonsaaso site have been revitalized and are engaged in participatory, bottom-up community planning. This work has served as an impetus to enhance the function of all 12 area councils in the Amansie West District. These councils play vital roles in local government administration. The MVP has introduced MDG-impact district planning methodology with its features of realistic forecasting to resolve infrastructure and service gaps. The National Development Planning Commission, which is the national body responsible for the administration of planning studies, has been involved in this exercise.

As a step toward institutional integration, the MVP has proposed that its sector coordinators be appointed to serve as ex-officio technical advisors to statutory sub-committees of the Amansie West District Assembly (AWDA). Given their professional competencies, it is intended

they will help build the capacity of the District Assembly in planning and management of the development agenda and services delivery.

Scaling Up MVP Approaches

In the water and sanitation sector, the MVP's provision of village-level water supply systems has been successful and is driving demand for similar projects in other nearby villages. The Project is collaborating with the District Assembly to address water shortages in other communities by installing similar water supply systems. On the agriculture front, similar services will be available to farmers outside of the cluster who have benefited from MVP interventions. In addition, the NGO Opportunity International is providing some services as a financial intermediary for continuation of the agricultural credit input system. And in the health sector, the Ghana Telemedicine Project is being piloted across three districts, with the government planning to scale nationally.

The Government of Ghana, through the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA) and in partnership with the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and Millennium Promise, has already begun scaling up the MVP approach. In 2012, a new MV site was established in the northern region of the country, referred to as the **SADA Village**. The SADA Village is now working closely with local government institutions to implement the service delivery systems, planning tools, and lessons learned of the MVP. In the first year of operations, the community in SADA made significant investments in public infrastructure, specifically roads, schools, and health clinics. The Project also recruited and trained educators, midwives, nurses, CHWs, agriculture extension officers, and community outreach

staff. The project is now providing a full package of interventions to nearly 30,000 people.

Sauri (Kenya)

Transition to Local Communities and Government

Transition on a number of fronts is already underway in Sauri. Four agriculture facilitators are currently employed by the Government and seconded to the MVP on a top-up basis. The Ministry of Health has posted staff in each of the 10 health facilities in Sauri. Facilities continue to receive most drugs from the Kenya Medical Supplies. Fisheries staff members are expected to be seconded to the MVP soon to help the nascent fish farming business develop.

Discussions are ongoing with high-level government offices, especially on the 1 Million CHW strategy. The MV of Sauri has hosted various senior government officials and shared details of e-Health and CHW strategies. Currently the team is participating and aligning with the NGO council as the process of implementation in the country is shifting to fall in line with regulations set by the Public Benefits Organization, which will be increasingly involved in complementing county and national government in all spheres of public service delivery.

Various MVP interventions have been transitioned to Government or other institutions, including:

- Deworming in schools, immunization services, free provision of health care to mothers and children under 5, 50% coverage for all health commodities, and ambulance service and maintenance
- Road and other infrastructure maintenance, and expansion of water supply to homes, facilities, and institutions

- Communities providing school scholarships for the most in need
- Cooperative formation and management, and professional development for district agriculture staff

Scaling Up MVP Approaches

The Government has begun to scale up various programs to areas outside the MV cluster, including: input credit systems, dairy schemes, fish farming program (nationwide), CHW campaigns, computers in schools, and ambulance services.

Mwandama (Malawi)

Transition to Local Communities and Government

The District Health Office has agreed to take over management of the Maera Health Facility and Katete Health Post by the end of 2014. An agreement was reached to add more CHWs to the cluster, and to absorb these workers into the government health system by 2015. As part of the 1 Million CHW Campaign, nearly 20 new CHWs have been recruited and trained so far.

Tiby (Mali) - Supported by Islamic Development Bank

Transition to Local Communities and Government

The Project is now supported by the Government of Mali through loan financing to the Government from the Islamic Development Bank, and is being overseen by a national steering committee and the governor of the region. This committee provides an avenue through which the Project can involve different ministries in the transition process. The transfer of MVP personnel to the Government is underway. The Project still pays several teachers and medical staff members serving the MV, but is in negotiation with national and local

governments to integrate them into the government payroll.

Scaling Up MVP Approaches

Launched in 2008, “Initiative 166” was designed as a five-year multi-sector program that aims to make significant advances in achieving the MDGs. Initiative 166 was designed after the then-President of the Republic of Mali, H.E. Amadou Toumani Toure visited the MV of Tiby and was impressed by the effectiveness of the integrated development approach and the results that have been achieved. The Malian Government selected the 166 most vulnerable and food insecure districts to implement a variety of interventions similar to those piloted with the help of the Earth Institute team. Initiative 166 targets approximately 2.5 million people, with special emphasis on communities in the northern regions.

Due to the political and military crises in Mali in 2012, progress was delayed in implementing Initiative 166. However, the MVP will continue to partner with the Government of Mali on their post-2015 plans to ensure sustainability, and MV activities will be aligned into the government planning and budget cycles.

Pampaida (Nigeria)

Transition to Local Communities and Government

All health centers within the MV cluster of Pampaida have been handed over to the local government and the MVP will continue to jointly manage the facilities through 2015. Similarly, all primary schools in the cluster are now under the supervision of the local education authority, and all teachers are posted and paid by the local government.

Scaling Up MVP Approaches

The Government of Nigeria, under the Office of the President on MDGs, continues to work with the Earth Institute on scaling up MVP approaches to reach 21 million people in 113 local government areas (LGAs), with MV of Pampaida being one of the sites.

Mayange (Rwanda)

Transition to Local Communities and Government

A majority of personnel supporting the MVP model are already supported directly by the Government, including teachers, CHWs, and agriculture extension agents. In early 2014, the few health clinic staff still supported by the MVP were transitioned to government payroll.

Scaling Up MVP Approaches

In March 2007, the Government of Rwanda launched the Vision 2020 Umurenge Initiative informed by the MVP approach and aimed at accelerating poverty eradication, economic growth, and social protection. In 2013, a number of high level meetings took place with ministers of local government agencies, including the minister of education, to follow up on an existing MoU to scale up the MVP approach to other villages. A baseline study is planned for early 2014.

Potou (Senegal) - Supported by Islamic Development Bank

Scaling Up MVP Approaches

As of early 2014, operations in the MV of Potou have been financed by support from the Islamic Development Bank in the form of loan financing to the Government of Senegal. On November 10, 2013, the Prime Minister of Senegal visited the MV of Potou, and following her visit she presented about the Project during the Government's weekly meeting and invited her

colleagues to visit Potou and to see what strategies the Government can use to duplicate the lessons of the MVP in different areas around Senegal. In addition, the Prime Minister proposed to extend the project to 2,000 villages throughout the country. Following the Prime Minister's visit, on November 22, the minister in charge of women's affairs visited Potou and promised to dedicate some support to women's empowerment activities there.

Mbola (Tanzania)

Transition to Local Communities and Government

Most of the qualified clinical staff members who used to work for the MVP in the MV2 health facilities have been absorbed by the Government, and all five dispensaries at the MV2 clinics are now managed by the Government. MoUs have been established for final handover of the five health facilities, outlining details of asset transfer and future management. In addition, the ICT Kiosk has been handed over to the Mbola Millennium SACCO for management.

Building Capacity

The MVP site team has conducted village meetings in all MV1 and MV2 villages to discuss the process of project transition. It was agreed that MVP staff and village leaders will schedule regular planning meetings throughout the transition process.

Scaling Up MVP Approaches

The Team Leader was invited by the Ministry of Finance to attend Poverty Policy Week (25-27 Nov 2013) in Dar es Salaam at which the MVP approach (systems, achievements, best practices, and lessons learned) was presented to over 300 participants including policy makers, permanent secretaries from various

ministries, government donors, grassroots leaders, and other development partners. The Ministry of Finance is interested in disseminating best practices learned from the MVP to a wide audience and has proposed developing an MoU with the MVP to further this work.

Ruhiira (Uganda) - Supported by Islamic Development Bank

Transition to Local Communities and Government

With operations now financed by the Government of Uganda through loan financing to the Government from the Islamic Development Bank, in 2013, the MV of Ruhiira saw the local government taking more ownership of vital services the MVP provides the community. The Isingiro District government posted additional staff members to the MVP-supported health facilities. In addition, a fully functional level IV health facility is receiving support from the MVP, the District

Government, and the non-profit Medical Teams International.

Scaling Up MVP Approaches

In December 2013, the Government of Uganda and the Islamic Development Bank entered into an agreement for financing a new Millennium Village-inspired site across three districts in the Karamoja area of Northeastern Uganda. The Executing Agency for the Government of Uganda is the Office of the Prime Minister, which is engaging Millennium Promise as the Implementing Agency and the MDG Center for East & Southern Africa in Nairobi as the Technical and Scientific Advisor.

The Uganda Drylands Project is part of the larger East Africa Regional Drylands Program of the IsDB, encompassing Djibouti, Somalia, and Uganda. The program intends to implement low-cost, sustainable, community-led interventions tailored to the specific needs of targeted pastoralists' villages.

Adopting the MVP Approach Across Africa

African leaders across the continent and private companies have started to adopt MVP approaches beyond the original 10 MV host countries. The following countries have begun MVP-inspired programs: Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Guinea, Liberia, Mozambique, Madagascar, Niger, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, and Zambia. Funding partners vary widely and include national and international Governments (including Japan, Norway, Portugal, and South Korea), and private companies (such as AngloGold Ashanti, ENI, and Vale).

The MDG Centers for West and Central Africa (located in Dakar, Senegal) and for East and Southern Africa (in Nairobi, Kenya) together with Millennium Promise provide technical and managerial support to these new initiatives. A critical part of this support is making available the ICT-based, open-source planning tools and service delivery systems developed by the MVP. The MVP continues to work to refine a package of services, protocols, manuals, tools, learning systems, management systems, and quality assurance mechanisms to facilitate the adoption of the MVP approach by other governments and organizations.

Islamic Development Bank

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) has approved support for a very ambitious program in 11 countries—3 MVP sites (Potou, Tiby, and Ruhiira, discussed above) and 8 scale-up sites mainly in sub-Saharan Africa. The program to finance new MVP sites has been named the “Sustainable Villages Program” by IsDB.

The funding is provided in the form of Islamic finance (long-term repayments at zero interest rate) to the recipient countries, except in the case of a grant provided to Somalia.

Green Sahel Initiative

Under the Green Sahel initiative, The MDG Centre for West and Central African in Dakar is

helping the Governments of Chad, Guinea, and Niger to develop MDG-based poverty reduction strategies in rural communes with low-cost, sustainable and community-led interventions that are tailored to the communities’ specific needs. This is carried out through institutional capacity building and provision of basic infrastructure and services in key sectors, such as Agriculture and Livestock, Health, Education, Water and Hygiene, Environment, and Ecotourism. These multi-sector, integrated, and innovative approaches to development aim to empower rural communities to lift themselves out of poverty, and become active economic agents.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team had a productive year in 2013, making progress on a number of important fronts. The **Impact Assessment** team introduced “mini surveys,” which are shorter, more targeted survey modules that will increase the sites’ and sectors’ ability to monitor progress on MDG indicators where progress is lagging. The **Process Evaluation (PE)** team focused its data collection on implementation barriers identified by the MVP real-time monitoring systems and survey data. Findings from the data collected were used for technical reports to the Project teams, and to enrich policy briefings and donor communications. The Phase II **Costing Evaluation** data was concluded and analysis was conducted for all sites. The **Outcome Monitoring** group continued to track real-time and near real-time performance metrics and to provide monthly reporting to facilitate organizational decision-making and help improve processes. Detailed activities are discussed below.

In addition, the M&E team began designing the final evaluation of the MVP and drafted a protocol for the study. In May 2013, a three-day consultative meeting was held in Dakar, Senegal, with the Independent Expert Group (IEG) chaired by Professor Robert E. Black, Chairman of the Department of International Health at Johns Hopkins University. The IEG is providing advice in a number of areas, including the MVP’s final evaluation protocol and data and research management. During these meetings the team presented the initial draft of the evaluation plan and sought feedback on key design elements. The plan is currently undergoing a review process consisting of

statisticians, the IEG, evaluation experts, and the MVP Research Committee. The plan is expected to be published in 2014, and preparation for the final data collection to begin in mid-2014, with an expected publication date of findings from the Project in mid-2016.

Impact Assessment Activities

To advance and reinforce the efforts of the Project, in 2013 the Impact Assessment team began implementing an enumeration of “mini-surveys” intended to monitor progress on core MDG indicators in sectors and/or sites where progress towards achieving the MDGs is lagging. They will help to establish trends and refine our data collection systems prior to the 2015 survey rounds. The mini-surveys differ from the full household surveys collected at baseline, Year-3 and Year-5 in that they use streamlined questionnaires, site-specific coverage, specialized enumeration teams, and module-specific timing. They allow for well-targeted data and cost effective enumeration, and benefit from an increased emphasis on quality assurance.

In 2013, mini-survey activities included the design, testing, validation, training, and data collection for three modules: 1) Consumption, Expenditures and Livestock module in six MV sites; 2) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) module in six sites; and 3) Anthropometric Measurements in three sites. They conducted 20 household-level Crop Yield Assessments in nine MVs and collected GPS coordinates to measure the plot area. The MDG indicator reports for each Millennium Village and the updated dashboard/progress chart based on

the mini-surveys results will be produced by mid-2014.

The MV Year-5 detailed survey and biological micro-level data were processed and prepared for archiving, and Year-5 Comparison Villages detailed survey, biological, and agricultural data were analyzed for site-specific MDG progress reports. The M&E team conducted further statistical analysis and sensitivity analyses on the core MDG indicators and presented results to the IEG. The team also conducted an MDG gap analysis for each Millennium Village for the period between the Year-5 surveys (2011-2012) and the end of Project in 2015, to help the sites determine which indicators were on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015 and which were lagging behind.

Process Evaluation Activities

The Process Evaluation (PE) team's objective is to identify key operational gaps and challenges across the Project so teams can respond in a timely fashion. PE questionnaires examine implementation barriers as well as the factors facilitating progress toward the MVP's targets. Results of these data are combined with economic cost data, survey data, and outcome-monitoring data in short reports and delivered to the MDG Centers' technical advisors. These reports will also be integrated into the final project evaluation with the aim of documenting and summarizing key lessons learned after 10 years of Project implementation.

In 2013, after revising the tools and manual, Process Evaluations were completed in six MV sites and data was cleaned, analyzed, and reported for three sites. The M&E team delivered results to the MDG Centers on operations-specific issues through the 2013 PEs. They also compiled qualitative process data for

writing lessons learned in implementation of core interventions and created detailed implementation timelines for health and education sectors. The MVP also developed training modules for PE qualitative research methodology for a workshop for M&E coordinators for 11 sites.

The M&E team provided technical advice for MV3 PE baseline data collection and provided case study examples for the MVP Field Guide content as well as technical content for sector pages. The MVP continued to track and document policy changes associated with the Project in all country sites.

Costing Evaluation Activities

The Costing Evaluation was conducted at all 10 sites in 2013, completing the collection of annual costing data from baseline through 2012 for each site. The same costing exercise will be conducted annually until the end of the Project, providing a complete accounting of all Project-related costs for each year of the Project. The costing data includes a valuation of the MDG-related contributions made by host country governments; locally operating NGOs, UN agencies, and other donors; and the MV communities themselves. The final evaluation of the Project will include costing information for each MV cluster, broken down by sector, stakeholder, and year.

In 2013, the M&E team designed a standardized costing data template and manuals to be used by site teams to collect costing data annually from all external partners. The M&E team also designed the costing component of the final project evaluation protocol. In response to sector-specific data requests, the M&E team contributed costing data to site reports and provided costing data for the Government of

Senegal regarding scale-up of the Millennium Villages Project programs in that country.

Outcome Monitoring Activities

In 2013, the MVP continued to track more than 100 outcome monitoring statistics in each of the 10 MVP sites. The team designed tools for tracking progress on indicators within the agriculture and business development sector.

The Millennium Villages Information System (MVIS) platform expanded its quarterly indicators for the education and school tools, which were developed in 2012, and now includes monthly indicators. Monthly school and health facilities data collection tools were deployed across all sites. The school tool was

revised to account for unique regional variations.

The MVP also improved upon the existing Verbal Autopsy system to allow for more accurate data correlation of care prior to death with the interview conducted post death, with the goal of better understanding of the social and medical reasons for death.

The M&E team consolidated data from outcome monitoring tools into an automated monthly report for the MVP's leadership. These reports include comparative visualization of indicators across sites for multiple sectors. They are generated monthly and is used by sites and regional Centers to determine gaps and progress on MDGs.

Monitoring and Evaluation Goals through 2015

The Project will complete a comprehensive end-of-project evaluation beginning in 2015. The final evaluation has four main objectives:

1. To assess the adequacy of achieving the MDGs in the 10 core MVP sites. This objective aims to measure and assess progress toward the Project's pre-determined MDG targets in each MVP site. Measurement of MDG outcomes will take place in 2015, at the end of the 10-year Project.

2. To assess the magnitude of change by comparing and contrasting progress towards the MDGs in the 10 core MVP sites relative to other similar sub-national areas not exposed to the MVP model. A key goal of the MVP is not only to achieve the MDGs, but also to accelerate progress towards achieving them. As such, this objective aims to assess the

magnitude of change in the MDG outcomes sites during the project's 10-year implementation period. It will compare end-line MDG achievement data, relative to data compiled in other similar subnational areas that are not exposed to the MV model.

3. To document the design, its local variances, and implementation of the multi-sector MVP approach across the 10 core MVP sites. This objective aims to: 1) document interventions undertaken at each MV site, including timing and sequencing; 2) outline barriers and facilitators to implementation of key interventions aimed to achieve MDGs; 3) examine the mechanisms through which links between interventions and outcomes may be observed; 4) describe the learning vis-à-vis the implementation of MVP interventions over the 10 year project period; and, 5) describe the

process of integration, collaboration, and hand over with local and national governments and communities.

4. To compute all annual costs of carrying out MVP interventions and activities in each of the MV sites by sector, year, and stakeholder.

This objective aims to understand the nature, source, and cost of Project inputs in relation to the target budget, thereby enabling an assessment of the sustainability and scalability of Project interventions. This component will test the underlying hypothesis of the MVP that an annual per capita investment of \$120 (2005 USD), including \$10 local management, is sufficient to achieve the MDGs across all Project clusters. It will look at the costs of project inputs as shared by four categories of contributors: 1) national and local governments; 2) external donor organizations, including NGOs, multilateral organizations, and private donors; 3) the communities themselves; and, 4) core project funds (Millennium Promise).

Execution of the evaluation protocol will be led by scientists at the Earth Institute in New York and regional MDG Centers in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dakar, Senegal, in partnership with an external, Africa-based research center. MVP site Monitoring & Evaluation teams will be

responsible for conducting data collection at the local level and for coordinating documentation of the design, its local variances, and implementation of the multi-sector MVP approach across the 10 core MVP sites (objective three above). The team will oversee enumerators from local universities and communities that are responsible for data collection within the research sites and in the sites selected for the district-level comparison. Data for analyses are derived from population-based surveys at multiple points in time, routine monitoring systems, and qualitative and economic cost data. The external research group will oversee the data collection process to certify the validity of the methodology used, data collected, and statistics generated.

The results of the final evaluation study will be published in mid-2016 in peer-reviewed journals, an academic book, and an end-of-the-project report. These publications will detail the findings of each of the study objectives, as well as a site-by-site description of project experiences documenting key lessons learned from specific interventions. Data will be made available for public use thereafter.

6. Partnership Updates

Islamic Development Bank

In 2013 and early 2014, agreements were finalized with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) to fully support operations in the Millennium Villages of Tiby (Mali), Potou (Senegal), and Ruhiira (Uganda) through loans to the respective national governments. In each instance, Millennium Promise is serving as the implementing agency for the Government and the MDG Centers and the Earth Institute, Columbia University, are providing scientific and technical advice.

The MV of Tiby became fully covered by IsDB funds in April 2013. The MV of Ruhiira became fully covered by IsDB funds in December 2013 after Millennium Promise entered into an agreement for services with the Government of Uganda. The MV of Potou became fully covered in March 2014 after Millennium Promise entered into a Memorandum of Understanding the Government of Senegal. Project interventions at these sites will continue to be fully covered by the IsDB financing through the end of 2015.

KOICA and the UNWTO ST-EP Foundation

In September 2013, an MOU between the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the MVP was signed in New York to renew funding through 2015. This new gift from KOICA will support the “Millennium Villages Project – Saemaul” in the MVs of Mbola (Tanzania) and Ruhiira (Uganda). The partnership includes support for many technical aspects of the Project including integrating aspects of Korea’s successful Saemaul Undong (“new village movement”) into the MVP.



Tommy Hilfiger Corporate Foundation Ambassadors visited a primary school in the Millennium Village of Ruhiira (Uganda) in November 2013.

This new support builds upon the significant support provided by KOICA from 2009-13 for the Millennium Villages of Mbola and Ruhiira, in partnership with Gyeongsangbuk-do Province and UN World Tourism Organization Sustainable Tourism for Eliminating Poverty Foundation (UNWTO ST-EP Foundation, chaired by MP Global Board member Ambassador Dho).

The UNWTO ST-EP Foundation continues to support the “Millennium Villages as Tourism Destinations” project through a significant five year pledge. Building on the successes of this ecotourism project in the MVs of Koraro (Ethiopia), Sauri (Kenya), Mayange (Rwanda), and Mbola (Tanzania), plans are in place to expand to West Africa sites in 2014 and back to Mwandama (Malawi) and Ruhiira (Uganda) in 2015. These funds will facilitate tourism-related business development activities in the MVP.

In addition to this donation, another major gift was also made by the Foundation for a greenhouse and irrigation project to spur business development in the MV of Sauri (Kenya).

Government of Japan

A major early supporter of the Millennium Villages Project, the Government of Japan promised a new gift of funding in 2013. With UNOPS serving as facilitator for this new gift, funding was proposed to Japan's the Ministry of Finance in July 2013 and approved in early 2014 to support four Millennium Villages: Sauri and Dertu (Kenya), Pampaida (Nigeria), and Mayange (Rwanda). An external evaluation team from Japan visited Ruhiira and Mwandama in August and September 2013 to conduct a formal evaluation of the use of their funds during Phase I of the Project.

Agrium

Agrium is a long-standing supporter of agriculture initiatives in the Millennium Villages Project. Beginning in 2010, Agrium supported the Project by providing in-kind contributions of fertilizer, and in 2012, agreed to provide a financial contribution for the local purchase of fertilizer in six MVP sites.

In 2013, Agrium renewed their support with another significant contribution to fund the Project's agriculture budget, as well as cooperative and business development activities, agricultural coordinators, extension workers, and the Lead Farmer Program in all MVP sites, as well as related operating expenses in the regional offices. A new two-year agreement for 2014 and 2015 is being finalized for Agrium's continued support of the agriculture sector in the MVP.



Urea fertilizer donated by Agrium to the Millennium Village of Ruhiira (Uganda)

Buy a Cow: Feed a School

Robert Kozma and Shari Malone along with a generous group of donors have provided funding for the "Buy a Cow: Feed a School" project, launched in the Millennium Villages in 2012. The project provides dairy cows to primary schools in the MVs of Sauri (Kenya) and Mayange (Rwanda) to help boost nutrition and create income-generating opportunities for thousands of students.

In Sauri, the project is benefitting three primary schools where the cows have been handed over to the School Management Committees responsible for their maintenance and care, as well as their offspring. The offspring, if female, are to be passed along to another school to help extend the benefits of the project. In Mayange, cows at two schools are being used to supplement school meals with milk, improve school garden outputs with manure fertilizer, generate income for the schools, and teach students modern cow rearing skills that can be replicated outside of the school.

The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation

The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation (TCCAF) pledged support in 2012 for water-related projects in the MVs of Mwandama (Malawi) and Potou (Senegal), which will be carried out through 2015. In Senegal, support from TCCAF is helping smallholder farmers to access low-cost irrigation systems in order to boost their production and income-generating capacity. In Malawi, the project is supporting the construction of improved gender-separate latrines with handwashing stations at schools, as well as increasing access to safer, sustainable water sources for the community. In 2013, workshops in each site were held to initiate activities and discuss implementation processes.

Curaterra Foundation

Building on support provided during the first half of the MVP, in January 2013 the Curaterra Foundation, the family foundation of Carl and Alice Guarino, made a new three-year pledge to support the MV of Mbola (Tanzania). This pledge was reallocated to general operating support in 2014.

Dubai Expo 2020 (United Arab Emirates)

A generous gift was made in May 2013 by UAE-based Dubai Expo 2020 to support achievement of the MDGs through the Millennium Villages Project. A new supporter, Dubai Expo 2020 recently won the title of World Expo host for 2020. Discussion of further support is underway.

Edesia

A new partnership with Edesia, a non-profit that makes ready-to-use foods to treat and prevent malnutrition, was arranged in 2013 and formalized early in 2014 to support a nutrition



John Legend and the Show Me Campaign raised support for girls' education in the Millennium Villages at THE SOUND OF CHANGE Live Concert produced by Chime for Change.

study in the MV of Ruhira (Uganda). Edesia's online fundraising campaign via GlobalGiving.org seeks to raise funds to provide *Ekitobeero*, a fortified peanut paste, to enrich the diets of children in Ruhira aged 6-22 months, helping to prevent stunting and promote healthy brain and physical development. The campaign is live through 2014 at www.globalgiving.org/projects/help-a-ugandan-child-grow-to-her-full-potential/.

Eliminate Poverty Now

Following their many years of support for income-generating activities across the Millennium Villages, including the funding of a grain warehouse in Ruhira (Uganda) and women's gardens in Tiby (Mali), an agreement was signed with Eliminate Poverty Now—the foundation of John and Judy Craig—to support the Lead Farmer Program in the MV of Mayange (Rwanda) over three years through 2015.

Finnegan Family Foundation

The Foundation made another generous gift in June 2013, continuing its support of Millennium Promise with significant donations over the past four years.

Mistral Stiftung

Building upon five years of support for the Millennium Village of Ruhira (Uganda), the Bechtolsheimer family committed to renew support through 2015 to fund programs in the Millennium Village of Mwandama (Malawi) through Mistral Stiftung.

John Legend's Show Me Campaign (via Catapult and Chime for Change)

Continuing his support and advocacy for the Millennium Villages Project, John Legend lent his celebrity over the summer of 2013 to raising funds for gender-separate latrines at schools in Mwandama (Malawi) and Connect To Learn scholarships in Sauri (Kenya) and Bonsaaso (Ghana). The online fundraising platform Catapult hosted the fundraiser, which was held in conjunction with the Chime for Change concert in London in July 2013 where Legend performed.

Millennium Promise Japan

Millennium Promise Japan has been supporting 20 girls to go to secondary school in the MV of Ruhira (Uganda). Three girls have graduated high school and three are entering their final stage of nursing school.

My Book Buddy

My Book Buddy is a Netherlands-based international NGO that focuses on increasing literacy and knowledge for students in need at existing primary schools across developing countries by donating mobile bookcases. The

bookcases are built by local carpenters and filled with a variety of local language books from fiction and non-fiction to dictionaries and encyclopedias, all matching the age and development level of the students. In addition, each child receives a waterproof book bag to carry their borrowed books to and from school.

In 2013, My Book Buddy and the Millennium Villages Project initiated a partnership to bring My Book Buddy to primary schools in the MV of Ruhira (Uganda). As of the end of 2013, 21 schools in Ruhira were benefitting from the program. Plans are underway to pilot the literacy program at four schools in the MV of Sauri (Kenya).

Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development

The Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development, which previously supported the MV of Mbola (Tanzania), continued to fulfill its new commitment of to support the 1 Million Community Health Workers campaign through 2015.

Only the Brave Foundation

After supporting the MV of Tiby (Mali) for five years, Renzo Rosso, CEO of Diesel and founder of the Only the Brave Foundation, has made a new commitment to support the MV of Koraro (Ethiopia) as well as a secondary school in Tiby.

At the end of 2013, after a pause on the project due to the conflict in Mali in early 2013, planning for the project was renewed and an agreement is being finalized as of the preparation of this report.

Table for Two

In 2013, the Japan-based foundation Table for Two extended their support of the School Meals Program (SMP), providing full or partial support to three sites: Koraro (Ethiopia), Mayange (Rwanda), and Mbola (Tanzania) through 2014.

Table for Two also generously supported an Innovation in Nutrition Education Project in 2013 in all ten MV sites. To complement the SMP and create demand for diverse and nutritious diets, Millennium Promise and Table for Two worked together to develop innovative approaches to nutrition education by providing training to teachers and school cooks on nutrition education, strengthening and establishing school gardens as “living classrooms” for learning about food and nutrition, conducting culinary demonstrations in communities and health facilities, and disseminating educational materials on nutrition and diet diversity. As a result of this nutrition project, thousands of primary school children and community members in rural villages across Africa are learning about and gaining hands-on experience with food, nutrition, and agriculture.

Temptster

In 2013, Millennium Promise entered into an agreement with Temptster, a restaurant booking app serving several cities in Europe. For each booking, Temptster donated a portion of its profit to the School Meals Program in Sauri (Kenya). The founder of Temptster, Mr. Oliver Fegan, is a long-time advocate of the Millennium Villages Project, and organized the Cairo to Cape Town benefit cycling expedition for Millennium Promise in 2008.



Temptster founder Oliver Fegan (left).

Tommy Hilfiger Corporate Foundation

The Tommy Hilfiger Corporate Foundation has provided support for the Millennium Village of Ruhira (Uganda) for many years. Tommy Hilfiger became a member of the MP Global Board in June 2012, with Guy Vickers, President of the PVH Foundation, serving as proxy. 2013 marked the final year of the foundation’s five-year pledge.

The Tommy Hilfiger Ambassadors, a select group of employees from North America and Europe, made two trips to Ruhira in June and November 2013. The ambassadors host events for a full year following their trips to raise funds and awareness for the MVP.



Faces of Promise, a photography silent auction, hosted by the Tommy Hilfiger Corporate Foundation Ambassadors at their NYC office

Toyota

With key coordination efforts from Global and MP Japan Board member Ms. Rieko Suzuki, a gift of two new Land Cruisers was made by Toyota to the Millennium Villages Project in May 2013. The vehicles were received by the MV site teams in Tiby (Mali) and Mbola (Tanzania). The generous donation from Toyota will help increase the Project's transportation capacity for medical emergencies, farmer support, everyday travel, and more.



Prof. Jeffrey Sachs (middle) and Board Member Rieko Suzuki (left) receiving gift from Toyota

UNFPA and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

At the end of 2013, UNFPA provided a generous gift to Millennium Promise under a sub-award through UNFPA's implementing partner International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). The funds will be used to procure commodities related to prevention, detection, and treatment of HIV (specifically concerning mother to child transmission) and syphilis for all MV sites.

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

Millennium Promise continues to partner with UNOPS to provide human resource management services for MVP operations in Africa, as well as to facilitate the donation from the Government of Japan. UNOPS implements more than \$1 billion worth of projects for its partners every year, operating in more than 80 countries, often in the most challenging of environments. It provides administrative, operational, and other support services to governments, intergovernmental entities, international financial institutions, NGOs, the private sector, foundations, and the rest of the United Nations system.

7. Conclusion

Sustaining progress where communities are on target to achieve the MDGs while increasing focus on areas that need to accelerate progress to meet the goals are the operational objectives for the MVP over the next two years. At the same time, Millennium Promise and the Earth Institute will continue providing technical support to countries scaling up or adopting the Millennium Villages approach, assisting them in utilizing the innovative service delivery systems, planning tools, and lessons learned from the MVP.

The final report on the Millennium Villages Project will be issued in mid-2016 to assess the outcomes of the MVs regarding the fulfillment of MDG targets, the comparison with non-MV sites, and the goals of sustainability, replicability, and scalability.

We look forward to continuing to report on progress in the Millennium Villages Project and sharing updates on innovations and inspiring stories. We would like to once again express our gratitude to all our donors and supporters for helping to make our shared vision of a future free from extreme poverty, hunger, and preventable disease a reality in our lifetime.