

2014 Millennium Promise Annual Report on the Millennium Villages Project



Publication Note:

This 2014 Annual Report is a description of the 2014 activities of the Millennium Villages Project. This report is not meant to be an evaluation of the project. A final evaluation will be conducted in 2015 and results will be made available in 2016.

Millennium Promise

2014 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 photos: Farmer running the new irrigation system in the Millennium Village of Potou (Senegal),
Students at the Dindi Primary School in the Millennium Village of Mwandama (Malawi)*

1. Introduction

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Mission & Vision

At **Millennium Promise**, our **vision** is the eradication of extreme poverty, hunger, and preventable diseases within our lifetime. We believe that extreme poverty can be cut in half by 2015 worldwide, even the poorest, most remote rural 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 promotes 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, and education systems, along with investments in water access and essential infrastructure, and linkages to markets to develop business will enable the villages to propel themselves on a path of self-sustaining economic growth.

The Millennium Promise 2014 Annual Report presents activity highlights, program updates, and stories from the Millennium Villages Project (MVP). ***This report is not meant to be an evaluation of the project. A final evaluation will be conducted in 2015 and results will be made available in 2016.***

Covering January 1 to December 31, 2014, this report provides brief updates on each program sector, each Millennium Village



Mothers take part in training session on preparation of locally enriched flour to boost nutrition – MV of Potou (Senegal).

(MV) site, and major partnerships, as well as monitoring and evaluation and the organization's emerging post-2015 plans.

In 2014, sector priorities built on the groundwork laid over nine years of implementation of the MVP. Work focused on the systems approach, with emphasis on delivery of essential services through three main program areas: the Lead Farmer Program (LFP), the Community Health Worker (CHW) program, and the Community Education Worker (CEW) program. These three key programs help increase demand for and access to services while strengthening the capacity of community management committees and government personnel to continue delivering quality services after the MVP transitions all program responsibility to the government. In addition, increasing access to safer water and hygiene sources (including gender-separate latrines and handwashing stations), and ensuring capacity for local management, were key priorities for the WASH sector. Environment interventions and gender equality issues are mainstreamed and embedded in all Project activities.

As the penultimate year in the 10-year project period, the MVP also focused on preparing for final evaluations and transition to local ownership. The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) team established the Project's final evaluation protocols and, with scores of enumerators across the MVs, is in the process of collecting the final round of survey data in



A laboratory technician examines a specimen as part of the Tropical Lab Initiative in the MV of Bonsaaso (Ghana).

each MV. The final report on the MVP will be issued in 2016 with results presented across sites and sectors.

Refining and scaling up tools and technological innovations such as CommCare as well as various protocols created to manage and optimize these programs was a parallel priority in 2014. The wide availability of these systems and tools will extend the benefits of the MVP past 2015 and beyond the MV areas as governments and agencies take them up, aiding in development efforts wherever extreme poverty persists.

In addition to these continued activities in the MVs, Millennium Promise also supported the Ebola Response led by the Health team in 2014. The Earth Institute, through Millennium Promise, is working to deploy real-time information systems to facilitate rapid control of transmission of the disease. Specifically, the team is working with the Government of Guinea and the United Nations to deploy 1,000 community-based contact tracers (CTs) to

identify suspected cases before they can expose other people. As the Ebola outbreak comes under control, CTs will be transitioned to country-wide health systems strengthening and repair toward the long-term goal to create a robust community-based health worker program. Funding from a number of foundations, individuals, and governments, including the

Government of Guinea, is making this work possible.

We are deeply grateful to all who support Millennium Promise and the MVP, and on behalf of more than a half million people across sub-Saharan Africa benefitting from the commitment of our global network of partners, we thank you.

Map of the Millennium Villages, 2014



2. Activity Highlights by Program Sector - 2014

Agriculture & Business Development

Having made significant progress toward achieving food security in the MVs during the first five-year phase, the second phase of the Project has focused on further developing and strengthening key commodity value chains. During this phase, sector activities focused on four key areas: (1) strengthening agricultural advisory and monitoring services, (2) boosting performance of key commodity value chains, (3) strengthening cooperatives and other farmer-based organizations, and (4) promoting access to financial services. Activities in these areas in 2014 are highlighted below.

Strengthening Agricultural Advisory and Monitoring Services

To extend the provision of agriculture extension services to the farm gate in remote, resource-poor rural areas across MVP sites, the Lead Farmer Program (LFP) was launched in 2013. In 2014, more than 3,200 farmers were elected by their peers and deployed to serve as Lead Farmers (LFs) across the MVP. These LFs work with over 80,500 farmers throughout the sites.

An LF is an innovative and successful farmer with aptitude and commitment to innovate and learn Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) from extension officers. LFs reside in the communities they serve and are committed to passing along their knowledge to other farmers in their community. The program



Cooperative members demonstrating how they condition and grade their produce for high quality to fetch good prices at the market in the MV of Mwandama (Malawi).

assists smallholder farmers to sustainably manage their farms and increase their incomes.

Each LF also facilitates the formation and overall management of smallholder producer groups, usually made up of 30 or fewer members. When operational, these groups are in a position to benefit from bulk purchasing and selling, and can become a unit for receiving bank financing. Additionally, LFs facilitate farmer access to agricultural inputs (such as fertilizer, improved seeds, and crop protection products) from either microfinance institutions or agro-dealers.

The LFP is showing positive early results in terms of increasing productivity, overall organization of farmer groups, and access to financial services and inputs.

Governments of Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, and Senegal have expressed interest in scaling-up the LFP to other areas beyond the MV clusters.

In 2014, LFs, supported by agriculture extension officers, provided dozens of training sessions on GAPs, nutrient management, post-harvest crop handling, and marketing to farmers. They 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.

Increasing and Sustaining Agricultural Productivity

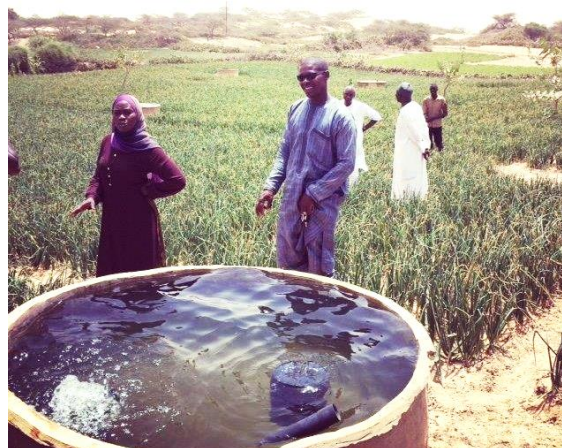
Over the past two years, a consolidation of agribusiness activities has taken place in the MVP sites. A growing number of farmers are now accessing agro-inputs, and new technology, through linkages with financial institutions and the private sector.

Across the sites there have been improvements in yields for various crops. Farmers have reported that these improvements are largely due to the LF trainings they have received in GAPs, as well as access to inputs such as improved seeds and the appropriate fertilizers.

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

The formation, registration, and development of cooperatives continued in

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Newly installed boreholes and water basins are helping to increase agricultural productivity in the MV of Potou (Senegal) thanks to a partnership with The Coca Cola Africa Foundation.

2014. In the West Africa MV sites, more than 200 cooperatives have been formed and registered along the main agricultural value chains with a total membership of more than 11,500 farmers. In the East Africa sites, more than 80 cooperatives have been formed with over 23,600 farmers.

In 2014, the MVP continued to work on capacity building for producer cooperatives by assisting with value addition, and linkages to the output market. Various trainings were conducted to enhance financial management, good governance, and compliance to regulatory requirements. This enabled the officials to better understand their roles and responsibilities as managers and accurately interpret financial statements.

Cooperative systems have developed in a variety of ways across the sites. Cooperative groups involved with cash crops have been particularly successful in accessing the

international market. For example, in the MV of Bonsaaso (Ghana), a total of 1,130 active cooperative members registered for the Fair Trade cocoa certification in collaboration with Unicom as a partner in 2014 and are selling to the international market.

Improving Value Chain Service Delivery

There have been vast and varied improvements in value chain service delivery and progress in value-addition to agricultural commodities across the sites since the Project began. For example, in the MV of Pampaida (Nigeria), a warehouse receipt system was introduced through harvest buy-back that linked 240 farmers to Doreo Partners. Pampaida farmers have also been linked to Falke Industries Kaduna, an industrial end user, for the uptake of 60 MT of soybeans.

In Bonsaaso (Ghana), as part of the cocoa replacement program, a total of 10,000 hybrid cocoa pods were procured and supplied to 21 cooperative community nurseries. This led to the production of 250,000 high quality cocoa seedlings for replanting. The 21 cooperatives were also supported with motorized sprayers and knapsack sprayers to provide pest management services as business units.

In Mwandama (Malawi), the Project worked with the Agriculture Commodity Exchange (ACE) and Auction Holdings Limited (AHCX) to link cooperatives to a wider grain market through an online exchange platform.

In Mbola (Tanzania), value addition maize miller groups in the cluster processed about 10,400 kg of maize flour. More than 550 modern beehives and one honey-extracting machine were given to Luwola cooperative to improve honey quality and quantity. Many buyers, such as Honey King, are ready to buy all the honey produced from these hives at market price. Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) is working with MVP to ensure products produced in the cluster, especially honey and processed wild fruits, are given standard certification.

Promoting Access to Financial Services and Public-Private Partnerships

Access to financial services is key for the sustainability of smallholder farmer groups and cooperatives, as well as for implementation of business plans. Great efforts to link farmers with financial institutions and agro-input dealers are being made across the MV sites.

In MVP 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 and supported by the MVP. The MVP is working closely with SACCOs to strengthen their capacity and facilitate access to additional capital. Technical support is being provided to the SACCOs on saving mobilization, credit management, financial management, and expanding outreach by providing local access to financial services to rural farmers. Some

sites have developed their own Village Savings and Loans (VSL) programs. In 2014, efforts continued to improve links between

smallholder farmers in the MVs and agricultural finance options.

Health & Nutrition

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 improvement of the quality of operations.

In the last three years, the MVP has been tasked with providing technical support to national governments seeking to adopt the Project's approach in most of the MVP host countries and more than a dozen non-MVP countries. 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 government ministries of health often via seconded staff to the Project, should make the upcoming transition of responsibilities to local officials seamless. Also supporting sustainability are the strong partnerships including with UN agencies like UNFPA, UNAIDS, WFP, and UNICEF.

Community Health Worker (CHW) Program

More than 900 CHWs served the MVP sites in 2014. These full-time, paid, trained, and supervised health workers bridge the gap between the household and the clinic system, with each CHW responsible for covering about 100-150 households.



CHW training session in the MV of Mayange (Rwanda).

In addition to the usual preventive and promotive function, CHWs also diagnose and treat uncomplicated malaria right 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 diarrhea and are now instructed to treat pneumonia. They 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 a child's life, and are responsible for attending to the milestones needing attention like immunizations, deworming, vitamin A supplementation, and bed net distribution.

At the site level, the MVP continued to provide training to all CHW managers on operations protocols and data usage to improve team management in 2014. Various tools and manuals including a CHW training manual, job aids, counseling cards, and a competency exam have been developed by the Health sector team and are in use by all CHW Managers. And E-Health specialists receive training on troubleshooting and validating CommCare data (see below).

1 Million CHWs Campaign

The MVP's CHW system is part of the 1 Million Community Health Workers Campaign (1mCHW). In 2014, the MVP began to work more closely with the Campaign to identify additional practical opportunities for scale-up of the CHW program model as a core part of sub-national and 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 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

(Learn more about the 1mCHW campaign at 1millionhealthworkers.org.)

CommCare

In 2014, CHWs continued to work with CommCare, the cloud-based mHealth system that provides unprecedented, near real-time monitoring of CHW program



Newly constructed delivery hut in the MV of Pampaida provides a safe place for mothers to give birth when they cannot reach the clinic.

performance as well as providing indicators for process and outcome assessment of the health system. Rolled out to all sites in 2013 (except in Rwanda due to national policy restrictions), CommCare is a user-friendly smartphone application for CHWs that 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. The same 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. This is valuable surveillance that would allow for early detection of emerging diseases such as Ebola.

Vital Statistics and Verbal Autopsy (VSVA) is also being integrated into the CommCare application to allow ease of collection, more timely reporting, and more seamless integration of information with data collected through other reporting systems.

Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health

Protecting the health of women of reproductive age and of children under the age of five years continued to be a major Health sector priority in 2014.

As a member of the *WHO Safe Childbirth Checklist (SCC)* collaboration, the MVP is now using the checklist in six countries (Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda), with plans to expand implementation to include Ghana and Nigeria in 2015. The SCC is a tool that attempts to reduce preventable morbidity and mortality 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 two during the critical 1,000 day window of opportunity (i.e., from conception to second birthday). The schedule and checklist are now being utilized in seven sites (Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda) to help reduce maternal and infant mortality.

The MVP has 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 very few maternal deaths across the sites and has seen a Project-wide



A CHW in the MV of Pampaida (Nigeria) conducts measurements to monitor a child's growth.

reduction in under-five child mortality.

Overall, sites are improving on family planning utilization, focusing on long-acting, reversible methods, and on increasing institutional—rather than home—births. In support of this progress, the MVP works with the UNFPA and government ministries of health to strengthen the supply chain for reproductive and other health commodities.

Childhood Nutrition

In addition to mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) tests, which screen for underweight children, length-for-age monitoring and promotion (LAMP) is also being used to detect and prevent stunting in the MVs. Since it was introduced in the MVP in 2012, nine sites have begun LAMP at scale. Community based length-for-age monitoring under the age of two is an innovative way to try to prevent stunting by detecting it and addressing it as early as possible. Ordinarily CHWs only measure MUAC and weights which misses malnutrition that is due to micronutrient deficiency.

In 2014, the MVP launched the Ruhiira Infant Nutrition and Growth study, a two-year randomized control study. It aims to assess which of three complementary infant feeding approaches is optimal since there is not a consensus in the international scientific nutrition community of experts. From this study the MVP health team hopes to learn the optimal complementary food approach for infants and young children. It will also inform the feasibility of making this supplementary food locally, using locally available ingredients and local production.

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, quality health services, and appropriate follow-up ensuring the uptake and adherence to PMTCT regimens, showing that this can be achieved even in remote rural areas.

All MVP sites are required to report on eight internationally prioritized PMTCT indicators developed by WHO/UNAIDS. The critical goal is that all pregnant women are tested for HIV, and that all HIV-positive pregnant women get treated during and after pregnancy so as to keep them healthy and to try to prevent the virus from being transmitted from the mother to the fetus and child.



HIV Exposed infants graduate after 18 months in the Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission program in the MV of Sauri (Kenya).

A number of locally developed approaches to PMTCT are being implemented in the MVs. For example, “graduation ceremonies” are being held where pregnant, HIV-positive women pledge to meet the challenge of ensuring that their babies are HIV-free. Women are then paired with “model mothers” (other mothers living with HIV) who provide psychological support and encourage them to attend antenatal clinic visits. Eighteen months after birth, mothers and their infants who stay in touch with services are invited to a graduation ceremony to recognize and celebrate their accomplishment of having the child remain HIV free.

Tuberculosis

Screening, treating, and monitoring tuberculosis (TB) was a continuing priority in 2014. Rates of TB in the MVs continue to decrease while treatment and compliance rates continue to improve.

Malaria

To support the continued reduction in malaria disease and deaths, Sumitomo Chemical provided a third project-wide distribution of insecticide-treated bed nets in 2014, and Novartis provided supplies of Coartem. Malaria-related deaths have decreased in the MVs due to use of nets as well as improved case management at the household level via CHWs' ability to diagnose and treat uncomplicated malaria at the household level rather than only at the clinic.

Supply Chain Initiative

The supply chain initiative aims to reduce stock-outs of essential medicines at the clinics and in the CHW's backpacks. This system hones in on the improvement of stock monitoring, procurement, forecasting of needs, storage, and proper product utilization. So far, 10 Supply Chain Managers have been trained in the use of the stock monitoring and forecasting tools across all sites (except Ethiopia). Some facilities have already reached zero stock-outs (from baseline conditions as high as 65% out-of-stock).

Note: For updates on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene—or WASH—initiatives, please see the section on Infrastructure Maintenance, Energy, and WASH below.

Education

The three main goals of the MVP's Education sector are to (1) increase age-appropriate enrollment, (2) improve quality of education, and (3) ensure gender parity. Toward these goals, key activities in 2014 included teacher training, literacy programs, capacity building of Community Education Workers (CEWs), community outreach to increase enrollment, improving the learning environment with a focus on girls, and using learning assessments and data to inform interventions.

Community Education Workers (CEWs)

Since its pilot launch in 2012, the CEW program has seen a great deal of tracking and recognition. In 2014, nearly 250 CEWs served communities across the MVP (Table 2). Initially recruited for the purpose of community sensitization and to serve as enumerators for data collection, some CEWs have been taking on additional roles to support quality of education in the classrooms and schools.

In sites such as Pampaida (Nigeria), the CEWs in the process of becoming certified teachers to fill the teacher gaps in the state. In other sites like Rwanda, they have formed a cooperative and are carrying out income generating programs that go beyond 2015.

Teacher Training

The MVP seeks to ensure that the recurring teacher trainings are not mere repetitions but rather refreshers as well as facilitators



Students gain access to age-appropriate books donated through the My Book Buddy program in the MV of Ruhiira (Uganda).

of effective and relevant pedagogical and teaching methods that can continually improve and upgrade teacher capacity. In line with the national education policies of MVP host countries, the Education sector promotes learner-centered teaching methods and emphasizes this in the teacher training sessions across sites. There has been particular emphasis on teaching literacy and basic reading skills. In sites such as Mbola (Tanzania), the MVP partnered with Mwenge University in Moshi, Tanzania, to conduct a year-long professional development workshops for primary school teachers on learner-centered pedagogical skills.

The monthly learning outcomes (basic numeracy and literacy) data shows that more improvement is needed in basic literacy and numeracy skills at the sites. The Project is contextualizing cognitive-neuroscience principles on how children learn, customizing to the learning needs of

children in multiple countries. This approach includes teaching reading in local languages and allowing more time for reading practice. This approach has received international attention at academic conferences and at UNESCO based media outreach.

For example, in the MV of Mwandama (Malawi), a six-month local language literacy initiative was piloted in community-run after school classes held at Village Learning Centers. CEWs held literacy-focused classes four hours a week where lessons focused on letter sounds, blending letters, and increasing reading fluency. In the MV of Bonsaaso (Ghana), four teachers participated in a literacy study in which they received training focused specifically on literacy instruction and phonics in English. Literacy-focused summer vacation classes were also held in seven schools.

Another priority in 2014 was to create awareness about low learning levels at the national and regional levels. The MVP site teams are working on teacher capacity building to improve basic numeracy and literacy among children. This will be accompanied by liaising with local governments to deploy trained teachers to areas in need. As the Project looks toward 2015, more effort will be placed on how current education interventions can be taken up by the community and the local government. This includes broader sharing of monthly data, children's learning level status, and school conditions to the community members, and involving local



Children at Mayange A pre-school in the MV of Mayange (Rwanda) during their break for morning porridge.

government officials to strategically focus on low-performing schools.

School Enrollment and Attendance

Targeted and seasonal enrollment drives take place every year across the Millennium Villages. Monthly data on student and teacher attendance using phones helps to analyze seasonal attendance issues on a real-time basis. These results are shared with communities, schools, and district government education office for faster remediation. The MVP is working with communities to make sure 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. In cases where students have not been enrolled in school at the appropriate age, students have the option to enroll in a speed learning program and later rejoin their appropriate grade (which is the case in the MV of Tiby, Mali, for instance). In the MV of Potou (Senegal),

students too old to enroll in grade 1 may participate in an alternative school program (*Ecole Communautaire de Base*, or ECB) in which primary school skills are taught within four years.

Other strategies used across sites include radio discussions through local stations, drama groups and skits performances for large community meetings on education messages, and targeted household visits conducted by CEWs to express the importance of education.

School Meals Program (SMP)

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 by not going hungry. In addition to providing meals at schools, training components accompanying school meals have been emphasized.

Our Japan-based partner Table for Two (TFT) continues to support the School Meals Program in Koraro (Ethiopia), Mayange (Rwanda), and Mbola (Tanzania). These sites are also working closely with communities on sustainability plans for the school meals program. Community contributions include school-based gardens, livestock rearing, food contributions from parents, and volunteering as cooks.

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 learning spaces, and training of teachers. All MV sites, with the exception of Potou (Senegal) for which preschool is not a required government policy for education, have access to pre-primary classes, either in the formal school setting or community based.

Secondary School – Connect To Learn

With more than 770 scholarship students attending secondary schools across 12 Millennium Villages, Connect To Learn continues to help close the gap on girls' access to secondary education and broadband connectivity. Activity highlights in 2014 included a visit from the White Feather Foundation and the Gross Family Foundation to the MV of Sauri (Kenya) where they saw the need for a dormitory for girls at the Urunga Secondary School and pledged matching funds to build the project.

Structured Girl-to-Girl exchanges among secondary school girls in various Millennium Villages via Skype also took place in 2014, as did a third year of School-To-School Connections between students in the MV of Mbola (Tanzania) and the New Canaan Country School in Connecticut (US). These connection programs help broaden the world of the girls and give all participants a real-time opportunity for cultural exchange.

Infrastructure Maintenance, Energy, and WASH

WASH (Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene)

The cross-cutting nature of the WASH sub-sector concerns health, education, infrastructure, and gender equality. WASH initiatives are focused on increasing access to safer drinking water, improving access to sanitation facilities including gender-separate latrines at schools, and promoting good hygiene practices such as handwashing with soap and safe disposal of waste.

In 2014, WASH Facilitators continued to work in each site with government officials to build the capacity of communities 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 healthy behaviors.

“School of 5” Handwashing Initiative

The “School of 5” initiative is a 21-day program that aims to promote handwashing with soap behavior change among primary school students. The “School of 5” program, developed by Unilever’s Lifebuoy soap brand, is based on the idea that repeating a behavior for 21 days can help to form habits. Its primary goal is to reduce the incidence of diarrhea and pneumonia, two of the leading causes of child mortality worldwide.

During the 21-day program, school children take a daily pledge to wash their hands with soap during the five critical occasions:



Drawing by a student in the MV of Mayange (Rwanda) for the School of Five program.

before breakfast, lunch, and dinner; after using the toilet; and while bathing. As agents of change, the children also promote and encourage handwashing with soap behavior in their homes and communities. Jointly implemented by Unilever and the Millennium Villages Project, the “School of 5” program reached approximately 40,000 households in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, and Tanzania in 2014.

To complement the “School of 5” program, schools, local leaders, and communities in each MV site also participated in the annual celebration of Global Handwashing Day in October 2014. Students and community members performed songs, dances, poems, and dramas and participated in competitions to recognize the important

role of handwashing with soap in health and wellbeing.

In 2015, the WASH facilitators will focus on ensuring that communities have the technical capacity and financial management skills needed to maintain water and sanitation infrastructure in their communities. In addition, the “School of 5” program will be implemented in three more sites: Koraro (Ethiopia), Tiby (Mali), and Potou (Senegal). To celebrate and document lessons learned from the fruitful three-year partnership, a final workshop will be held with Unilever in the summer of 2015.

Donor-supported WASH Initiatives in Malawi

The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation 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 is rehabilitating and constructing water points for communities, designing and installing rainwater harvesting systems in schools, and providing training to local government and water management committees to maintain these investments and oversee water safety.

TCCAF is also supporting an agricultural irrigation initiative in the MV of Potou (Senegal) that will be completed in 2015.

Sanitation Infrastructure

Within the WASH sector, the MVP has much more to do to increase access to latrines and improved sanitation, at both the



The TCCAF School Water Supply Program is improving access to water in the MV of Mwandama. Pictured above, Dindi Primary schools students enjoy access to an upgraded well with a motorized pump.

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 2014, with strong support from local and international partners.

Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)

The CLTS approach is to mobilize 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, demand for improved sanitation must also be instilled to ensure better sanitation and hygiene practices in the community.

Hygiene Education

Hand-in-hand with access to WASH infrastructure, hygiene education is a priority for this sector. Increasing access to appropriate infrastructure alone is not enough if individuals still have poor hygiene practices. Educating communities about how disease and illness is generated and spread is crucial in promoting healthier hygiene habits such as handwashing and latrine use.

In addition to Unilever's "School of 5" hygiene education program (described earlier), various other activities took place in 2014 to promote behavior change.

Community Health Workers play a critical role in promoting good hygiene across the Millennium Villages. In 2014, CHWs, along with local leaders, received refresher trainings on basic concepts of WASH.

Community-wide engagement is essential to promoting hygiene education. Just as the MVP celebrated Global Handwashing Day in 2014, various Millennium Villages also commemorated World Water Day and World Toilet Day to raise awareness about WASH.

3. Monitoring & Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation, or M&E, is an important component of the Millennium Villages Project. M&E systems are critical for informing priorities and interventions, tracking activities and outputs in real time, and documenting the overall program performance with respect to the MDGs as measured by a set of agreed-upon indicators most of which are stipulated by the MDGs. M&E for the MVP is conducted by experts at the Earth Institute of Columbia University—the science and research partner in the Project—with input from an Independent Expert Group.

The M&E system used in the MVP was developed based on tools and best-practice assessments from a number of disciplines. The core components of the monitoring and evaluation toolkit include: (1) facility inventory and infrastructure mapping, (2) demographic census, (3) household-based socioeconomic and health surveys, (4) near real-time outcome monitoring tools, (5) economic costing assessments, and (6) process evaluation surveys.

Facility Inventory and Infrastructure Mapping

To facilitate planning, an inventory of existing infrastructure, staffing, and services is conducted on an annual basis. This includes all clinics, schools, water points, electricity, roads, settlements, and other types of infrastructure (markets, community centers, churches, and grain



An enumerator conducting an interview with a householder in the MV of Mbola (Tanzania) during the mini survey in 2014.

storage facilities, among others) within the MV cluster. Assessments are conducted using Android-based mobile phones. Photographs and GPS coordinates are taken, along with detailed facility-level information. Facility and infrastructure data are layered over top of shape-files for village and district boundaries to visualize service gaps and help prioritize the distribution of new resources and services. These data are stored in a purpose-built web-based platform called Formhub.

Demographic Census

Household demographic data are collected before every major data collection round. A household count and GPS coordinates are taken concurrently for each dwelling, and information on number of members of key target populations (e.g., children under 5, women of reproductive age, school age children) are conducted on all households in the cluster, followed by more detailed

individual level demographic information on a subset of households.

Household-based Socioeconomic and Health Surveys

Detailed socio-economic and health surveys are used to assess progress toward MDG-related outcomes. Survey rounds are complemented by biological specimen collection (malaria and anemia), anthropometric measurement data gathering, and crop yield information from randomly selected farm plots. The tools draw from surveys developed and used by the leading institutions within their respective fields, including UNESCO's education assessment tools, the DHS health-related assessment modules, UNICEF's Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, the World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Surveys, and WHO's water, sanitation and hygiene assessment tool.

Near Real-time Outcome Monitoring Tools

Outcome monitoring indicators provide an assessment of internal performance metrics across all MVP sectors, in order to monitor conditions towards a desired outcome and help improve organizational decision-making. A regular and timely reporting system has been developed through extensive consultation with the various MV sector teams and is based on sector strategies that have, in turn, been vetted by external experts. Performance indicators have also been developed for all relevant sectors. Performance metrics are entered into the Millennium Villages Information

System (MVIS) through a web-based platform. Population estimates from the demographic census are also inputted into the MVIS, allowing for the construction and visualization of real-time denominated indicators.

Economic Costing Tools

The economic costing tools 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). Systematically documenting these inputs, their sources, and the cost of each component is essential to analyzing the costs and benefits of the Project while also critically informing issues of sustainability and scale-up and allowing for cross-cluster comparison.

Process Evaluation/Implementation Research

While the individual components of the MVP package are of proven value, the systems necessary to support their integrated delivery in a diversity of settings are poorly understood. Process Evaluation (PE) questionnaires are conducted with community members, local officials, and Project staff, and examine implementation barriers as well as the factors facilitating progress toward the MVP's targets. The data helps to identify key operational gaps and challenges across the Project so teams

can respond in a timely fashion, and will enrich and contextualize the quantitative evaluations of the project.

Final Evaluation of the Millennium Villages Project

The final evaluation of the Millennium Villages Project will consist of five major components with staggered releases of its findings, starting with publication of the Adequacy Assessment in July 2016. The data for these components will be collected (primarily from the 10 MV-1 research villages), entered, cleaned, and quality assured throughout 2015.

1) Adequacy Assessment to evaluate how well the program met the expected objectives of reaching the MVP targets. They require no control groups, and only depend on comparison of previously established adequacy criteria. The MDGs serve as the established adequacy criteria for the MVP. Measurement of the MDG outcomes will take place in 2015, at the end of the project, following 10 years of intervention exposure.

2) Impact Evaluation to attempt to isolate and measure the effect of the program with great attention to determining true causal relationships. An impact evaluation attempts to prove that the stated “effect,” “result,” “impact,” or “achievement” of a program represents the difference between what happened with the program and what would have happened without that program.

3) Cost Assessment to compute all annual on-site costs of carrying out the MVP interventions and activities in each of the sites—by sector, year, stakeholder, and MV-1 versus MV-2—relative to the project's \$120 annual per capita cost-sharing model. A fundamental hypothesis of the project is that the MVP package of interventions can be delivered at a modest cost. The needs assessment conducted by the UN Millennium Project estimated that achieving the MDGs would require local service delivery and community-based investments of approximately \$120 per person per year (in 2005 USD) during the 10-year period from 2005 to 2015.

4) Process Evaluation to document and assess the factors at each site that have contributed to the MVP's relative “successes” and “failures” implementing a 10-year, multi-sectoral project with communities and local governments. Also known as implementation science, a process evaluation is the qualitative data component of the monitoring and evaluation platform of the MVP. Program evaluations necessitate the inclusion of qualitative data in a mixed-methods design to fully understand the effects of complex projects such as the MVP.

5) Description of Systems Design and Tools: A detailed description of systems design and tools in situ, with a focus on scale up and replication.

In July 2016, the Adequacy Assessment will be made public. The findings from the remaining four evaluation components—Impact Evaluation, Cost Assessment, Process Evaluation, and Description of Systems Design and Tools—will be released within a year following the July 2016 Adequacy Assessment. These findings will be disseminated in high impact, peer-reviewed publications, project reports, implementation reviews, and presentations.

In addition to these components, in 2016 the MVP will release a package of outputs of Lessons Learned from the Project, including: books, articles, policy briefs, MV tools, and the MV Field Guide. These outputs will also describe examples of how the MVP model and its policies have been adopted, replicated, and scaled up by governments and programs outside of the core MV sites. Data from the Cost Assessment and Process Evaluation will be used to inform these subsequent outputs.

4. Post-2015 Planning

The post-2015 period—which for Millennium Promise technically begins in July 2016 after the final audits, final evaluations, and publication of the final report—will see a shift in focus from the Millennium Development Goals to their successor, the Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs.

Planning is currently underway to define how Millennium Promise and the Millennium Villages Project teams will proceed with the SDGs. While much will depend on the adoption of the SDGs by world leaders at the UN Summit in September 2015, it is likely that activity will group around a few key pillars and will be led and supported by institutions including Millennium Promise.

While post-2015 planning is very much a work in progress, some key elements are described below.

The Sustainable Development Goals

Since the Rio+20 conference in 2012, the United Nations has embarked on a mission to define a program for development in the context of a post-2015 agenda that will direct effective actions to accelerate sustainable development on a global, regional, and national level. This program will encompass a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will build upon the current Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the end of 2015.

The SDGs will create a pathway for economic development, environmental sustainability, and social equity once they are finalized and adopted by world leaders at the UN Summit in September 2015.

The SDGs cover 17 priority target areas that have been identified as goals to be met by 2030. These include ending poverty in all its forms, ending hunger and achieving food security, and ensuring healthy lives and education for all.

Within the framework of the SDGs, development programs that are currently being implemented in the MVP host countries to meet the MDGs can be further strengthened and expanded upon. The MVP has created a large network of partners and experts, most notably the teams working in the Millennium Village clusters who have accumulated invaluable expertise and experience on rural economic development. It is envisioned that these teams will continue to help drive the SDG agenda, developing and testing models for implementation of the goals at the local level.

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) in August 2012 to mobilize scientific and technical expertise

from academia, civil society, and the private sector in support of sustainable development problem solving at local, national, and global scales. The SDSN aims to accelerate joint learning and help to overcome the compartmentalization of technical and policy work by promoting integrated approaches to the interconnected economic, social, and environmental challenges confronting the world.

Several local SDSNs have already launched, and 12 Thematic Groups of global experts and several Solutions Initiatives have been formed around key topics to promote science-based pathways to development solutions. The SDSN is likely to play a major role in carrying forward some of the work of the MVP after 2015.

Agriculture & Business Development

The Lead Farmer Program is likely to figure prominently in the post-2015 strategy in this sector for Millennium Promise and its collaborators. Since 2013, the MVP has been developing a cadre of agriculture extension officer and lead farmers in each pilot site. The Lead Farmer Program (LFP) is being promoted as a way to bring extension services to the farm gate. This entails selecting Lead Farmers (LFs)—exemplary and innovative farmers within the community—then establishing farmer management units in each community, standardizing training, setting clear targets for each extension officer and LF, and actively supervising LFs. This process must

be participatory so that the LFs are indeed representing the communities in which they will serve.

The LFP helps to facilitate the organization of smallholder producers, create linkages to value chain actors, facilitate the distribution of agricultural inputs and marketing of agricultural outputs, train farmers on Good Agronomic Practices (GAPs), and serve as solidarity groups for the repayment of agricultural inputs and services. With time, we expect these service delivery units led by Lead Farmers to become the basic units to receive bank financing.

Incorporating the LFP in the post-2015 agenda will contribute to meeting the proposed SDG 1: to end poverty in all its forms elsewhere, and SDG 2: to “End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.” MP and its collaborators are seeking to take the LFP to scale in their post-2015 work.

Health & Nutrition

The post-2015 focus in this sector likely will be on scaling up the professionalized Community Health Worker (CHW) program, including through the 1 Million CHWs campaign led by the Earth Institute and other partner. The 1mCHWs campaign is an effort to help countries with national-scale professionalized CHW programs.

A cornerstone of the MVP’s health program since 2006, CHWs are full-time paid

community-based health professionals who are trained and equipped to administer basic preventative and curative care, including prenatal and newborn checkups, distribution of supplements, and diagnosis and treatment of malaria directly to households. They also provide referral services to clinics or hospitals.

The CHW system is supported by innovative smartphone-based mHealth tools like CommCare that help manage health data and provide algorithm-based decision support using rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) and treatment. Using CommCare as part of their household screening visits, MVP CHWs generate a host of real-time program relevant information including the registration of community vital events including recent births and deaths, the burden of illness such as acute malnutrition or malaria, and levels of coverage with essential interventions such as immunizations, antenatal care and skilled delivery of newborns.

The well-documented success of CHW programs worldwide over the last few decades has increasingly pushed investment in CHW systems to national and international policy platforms as part of coordinated efforts to accelerate attainment of universal health coverage.

The CHW program promoted in MVP sites is well positioned for scale due to its strong management focus, which sets the stage for sustainability of human resource expansion

and decentralization of programs across to state or district governments. Furthermore, the program's unique style of rapid training in core operational processes—followed by continuous support via supportive supervision and smartphone-based mHealth tools for guided household visits—allows for a shortened implementation timeframe and focus on program maintenance, localization, and quality.

Continuing to expand the CHW program while further developing the strategy and systems that drive it will support the proposed SDG 3, to “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”.

Education

The post-2015 focus likely will be on quality of education and learning outcomes, as well as improving access to universal education, especially for girls. Recognizing the importance of early childhood education as a contributing factor to on-time enrollment into primary school and the likelihood of completion, investing in access to early childhood education will also be a core strategy. Efforts are underway to create a Global Education Fund that will help to finance new education initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa and beyond.

Connect To Learn—the education partnership of Millennium Promise, the Earth Institute, and Ericsson—will likely carry on and expand in the post-2015 era. The post-2015 focus will be on improving learning outcomes at both

primary and secondary education levels. Universal access to schooling will expand to include not just primary, but also secondary education. Recognizing the importance of early childhood education as a contributing factor to age-appropriate enrollment into primary school and the likelihood of completion, investing in access to early childhood education will be a core strategy. Efforts are underway to create a Global Education Fund that will help to finance new education initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa and beyond.

The Community Education Worker (CEW) program is also likely to be scaled up. Based on the premise that strong community engagement will strengthen the education interventions in the community and the schools, CEWs are low-cost dedicated extension officers whose responsibilities involve identifying children at “educational risk” and working with households, parent-teacher associations, schools, and the wider community to facilitate their enrollment and attendance.

CEWs are drawn directly from their home communities, and ideally have completed secondary school. Their primary role is to motivate students and their families to continue education, and provide counseling and tutoring services to students at risk of dropping out. They also conduct assessments to identify the primary reasons for low attendance or school dropout, which has been linked to early pregnancy, harvest season, child labor and

employment, poverty, and poor academic performance.

The CEW program and other education initiatives will be essential in supporting the proposed SDG 4, to “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”.

Infrastructure & Energy

In order to build upon the work of Modi Labs at Columbia University in pioneering off-grid energy systems like SharedSolar for the MVP, a public benefit corporation has been formed to roll out and scale-up these innovations. The company, called Sustainable Economy Solutions (SES), will be funded by patient social impact investments, and will be able to take this work to many more customers across Africa. Besides solar off-grid systems, SES will work to promote Formhub and other information systems utilized and refined by the MVP, and advise on health systems and other sustainable development systems.

Scaling Up the Millennium Villages Approach

Another focus on the post-2015 period will be providing technical support and advisory services to governments seeking to scale up or replicate the Millennium Villages approach, or to implement MV-developed tools, systems, and protocols. Already several of the MVP’s host country governments—including Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Uganda—are working on scaling up the Project model to reach more

communities. Other governments are working with Project staff to bring components of the MVP approach to help with specific issues, such as the government of Guinea consigning the health team to help with the Ebola crisis by adapting the CommCare system to track cases of the disease. To date, more than 20 countries across Africa are now hosting or starting

Millennium Village-related projects run by different entities. As the world prepares to adopt a new set of goals in September 2015, the MVP team is well-positioned to help national governments apply the tools, systems, and protocols created, tested, and refined over the past ten years across the Millennium Villages to achieve the SDGs in their countries.

5. Partnership Updates

A global network of partners makes the Millennium Villages Project possible. Updates on major partnerships in 2014 are provided in this section.

International Governments

Government of Japan

A major early supporter of the Millennium Villages Project, in 2013 the Government of Japan promised a new gift of \$5 million per year for three years (2013-2015). These funds are supporting four Millennium Villages: Sauri and Dertu (Kenya), Pampaida (Nigeria), and Mayange (Rwanda) in keeping with Japan's commitment to conflict prevention and peace building in Africa.

KOICA and the UNWTO ST-EP Foundation

Funds for the first of a two-year pledge supported the Millennium Villages Project - Saemaul in the MV of Mbola (Tanzania) in 2014, with a portion also provided for technical and in-kind support of agriculture programs in the MV of Ruhiira (Uganda). The partnership includes integrating aspects of Korea's Saemaul Undong ("new village movement") into the MVP.

The UNWTO ST-EP Foundation continues to support the "Millennium Villages as Tourism Destinations" project through a significant five-year pledge. Ecotourism

projects supported by this grant are under development in several MVs, including Koraro (Ethiopia) and Sauri (Kenya) as of 2012, Mayange (Rwanda) and Mbola (Tanzania) as of 2013, and West Africa sites in 2014. These funds facilitate tourism-related business development activities in the MVP. In addition to this donation, another major gift was made by the Foundation for a greenhouse and irrigation project to spur business development in the MV of Sauri (Kenya).

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.

Foundations, Corporations, and Individuals

Agrium

A long-standing supporter of agriculture initiatives in the MVP, in 2014 Agrium renewed their support with another significant contribution. This support, which will continue in 2015, funds the agricultural intervention budget, as well as cooperative and business development activities, agricultural coordinators, extension workers, and the Lead Farmer Program in seven MVP sites (all but the three IsDB-supported sites), as well as related operating expenses in the regional offices. Agrium also supports the two annual agriculture and business development workshops held West and East Africa.

Bechtolsheimer Family/Mistral Stiftung

Following five years of generous support for the MV of Ruhiira (Uganda), Mistral Stiftung made a new pledge to benefit the MV of Mwandama (Malawi), especially the Community Health Worker program there, thru 2015.

The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation

The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation (TCCAF) pledged support in 2012 for two water-related projects in the MVs of Mwandama (Malawi) and Potou (Senegal), which will be carried out through 2015. In Senegal, support from TCCAF helps smallholder farmers to access boreholes and low-cost irrigation systems in order to boost their production and income-generating capacity. In Malawi, the project supports 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.

Curaterra Foundation

Building on support provided during Phase I of the MVP, in January 2013 the Curaterra Foundation made a new three-year pledge to support the MVP.

Eliminate Poverty Now

Following their many years of support for income-generating activities in the Millennium Villages, including the funding of a grain warehouse in Ruhiira (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.

Embrace Innovations and UPS

A new campaign with Embrace Innovations was launched in May 2014 via the crowdfunding platform Catapult on the one-year anniversary of the Chime for Change concert. The 150-day campaign raised a total of over \$136,000, thanks in large part to support from Gucci and singer Beyoncé Knowles-Carter.

With these funds, Embrace infant warmers have been supplied to all MV sites to help

save the lives of thousands of at-risk newborns. Trainings are underway, many via Skype. UPS shipped the warmers from the manufacturer in India to all 11 MV sites, charging a charity rate and providing an in-kind donation of services.

Millennium Promise UK

MP UK held two events in London in July 2014: a Ghana-themed business breakfast at KPMG and a dinner at the House of Lords, both hosted by Lord Hastings. His Excellency Victor Smith, the Ghanaian High Commissioner, held a small dinner for MP UK and prospective donors at his official residence on December 1, 2014. A Ghana-specific Case for Support was produced to assist with fundraising efforts. A donation from the South Africa-based equity firm Phatisa was received at the end of 2014. MP UK discontinued operations in early 2015.

My Book Buddy

My Book Buddy is a Netherlands-based international NGO that focuses on increasing literacy and knowledge for students in need at primary schools across developing countries by donating books and 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 to the bookcase, each child receives one waterproof book bag to carry their borrowed books to and from school.

After a successful implementation of the project in the MV of Ruhiira (Uganda) in 2013, the My Book Buddy program was brought to the MV of Sauri (Kenya), where 35 bookcases were installed in primary schools throughout the cluster. My Book Buddy hopes to expand the program to Ghana and Tanzania and they have been connected to the teams on the ground in those countries.

Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development

The new donation from Novartis—six-month supplies of Coartem to Bonsaaso and SADA (Ghana), Koraro (Ethiopia), Sauri (Kenya), Mwandama (Malawi), and Tiby (Mali) which experienced gaps in government supply—has been shipped to all sites.

Only the Brave

Only The Brave is supporting the MV of Koraro (Ethiopia) with a two-year pledge thru 2015. A long-time supporter of the MV of Tiby (Mali), OTB also finalized the agreement for the construction of a secondary school in Mali with both OTB and a local architect. Work on the schools is scheduled to begin in 2015.

Julia Perry

On May 14, 2014, Global Board member Julia Perry generously hosted a luncheon at Torrisi Restaurant in Manhattan with Sonia Sachs and Jacqueline Corbelli attended by a group of influential women from the private

sector. The luncheon focused on the work the MVP is doing to benefit women and girls across sub-Saharan Africa and raised several thousand dollars for Millennium Promise. In addition, Ms. Perry made a personal pledge to Millennium Promise in 2014.

Safilo

As part of the 2012 Promise Collection, Tommy Hilfiger partnered with the Italian eyewear company Safilo to manufacture and distribute sunglasses specifically designed for the collection. Funds raised from the sale of the Promise Collection eyewear were allocated to support eye health care campaigns in the MV of Ruhiira (Uganda). Funds will also support the health sector in the MV of Bonsaaso and a girls' empowerment program in the MV of Ruhiira in 2015.

Stichting Blossom

This Dutch foundation has been supporting the MV of Mwandama (Malawi) for many years. In November, Jeroen Nauta visited Mwandama and shared his observations and questions with the teams in Malawi and New York. A final major gift of support was made in Q1 2015.

Sumitomo

A new round of insecticide-treated mosquito nets has been donated by Sumitomo. All arrived to their destinations by the end of 2014 or beginning of 2015. The international logistics company SDV helped to transfer the donation from the

manufacturer to the various ports in Africa and through customs, and the site teams arranged local transportation.

Table for Two

The Japan-based foundation Table for Two continued 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. Three TFT staff members traveled to Mbola in May 2014 to visit schools and address questions related to the sustainability of the SMP. Funding for the first half of 2015 has been secured, and discussions to extend funding through the end of the year are in progress.

Tommy Hilfiger Corporate Foundation and TH Ambassadors

While the Tommy Hilfiger Corporate Foundation is no longer supporting the MV of Ruhiira (Uganda) and the annual Tommy Hilfiger Ambassadors employee trips have been discontinued, employees continue to support the MVP through in-kind contributions and fundraising and awareness campaigns. In 2014, funds were received to provide bicycles to teachers and to make infrastructure updates to a dormitory and secondary school. Ruhiira also received IKEA-like school desks and benches designed by a TH employee and manufactured in Amsterdam. All shipping and clearance arrangements and costs were managed and covered by the Tommy Hilfiger employees.

United Nations Agencies

UNFPA and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

At the end of 2013, UNFPA made a grant to Millennium Promise under a sub-award through UNFPA's implementing partner International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). The funds were used in 2014 to procure products related to prevention, detection, and treatment of HIV (specifically concerning mother to child transmission) and syphilis for all the 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 operates in more than 80 countries, often in the most challenging of environments, providing 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.

Special Project: Ebola Response

Ebola Response

In response to the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa in 2014, the Earth Institute, through Millennium Promise, is working to deploy real-time information systems to facilitate rapid control of transmission of the disease. We are working with the Government of Guinea and the United Nations to deploy 1,000 community-based contact tracers (CTs) to identify suspected cases before they can expose other people.

As the Ebola outbreak comes under control, CTs will be transitioned to country-wide health systems strengthening and repair.

This will include delivering essential maternal and child health interventions such as diagnosis and treatment of malaria, diarrhea, pneumonia, and malnutrition at the community-level. This is key in the long-term goal to create a robust community-based health worker program to strengthen health systems, built initially on the basis of emergency response.

Funding from a number of foundations, individuals, and governments, including the Government of Guinea, is making this work possible.

6. Conclusion

As December 2015 approaches, the Millennium Villages Project is in the final year of operations before the Millennium Development Goals deadline. As we transition from the 10-year MVP period to post-2015 priorities, activities in the Millennium Villages are focused on sustaining progress where communities are on target to achieve the MDGs while increasing focus on areas that need to accelerate progress.

At the same time, Millennium Promise and the Earth Institute are continuing to provide 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.

Final surveys are underway, and a series of final reports on the Millennium Villages Project will be issued beginning in 2016. These reports will 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 are extremely grateful to all our donors and supporters for sharing our vision of a future free from extreme poverty, hunger, and preventable disease, and helping to make this a reality in our lifetime.