



2015 Millennium Promise Annual Report on the Millennium Villages Project



A founding partner of the





Millennium Promise 2015 Annual Report on the Millennium Villages Project

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

Publication Note:

This 2015 Annual Report is a description of the 2015 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 2016 and results will be made available in 2017.

Cover photos: CHW performing Malaria RDT in an under 5 years child in Potou, Senegal and Green house tomato farming in Sauri, Kenya

Acronyms and Abbreviations

1mCHW	1 Million Community Health Workers
ACE	Agriculture Commodity Exchange
AEA	Agriculture Extension Agent
AFEX	African Exchange
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
AHCX	Auction Holdings Limited
APHRC	Africa Population and Health Research Center
CBE	Curriculum Based Establishment
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CEW	Community Education Worker
CHW	Community Health Worker
CSD	Center for Sustainable Development
CTL	Connect To Learn
DHS	Demographic and Health Service
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
GAP	Good Agronomic Practices
GHS	Ghana Health Service
GHS	Ghanaian Cedi
HC	Health Center
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ISFM	Integrated Soil Fertility Management
KCPE	Kenya Certificate of Primary Education
Ksh	Kenya
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
LP	Lead Farmer
LFP	Lead Farmer Program
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation (
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MP	Millennium Promise
MV	Millennium Village
MVHS	Millennium Villages Health System
MVP	Millennium Villages Project
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OM	Outcome Monitoring
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
PTA	Parents Teachers Association
SADA	Savannah Accelerated Development Authority, Ghana
SBA	Skilled Birth Attendance
SBMC	School-Based Management Committees
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

SDP	Sustainable District Program
SDSN	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
SFA	Seaweed Farmers' Association
SMP	School Meals Program
TB	Tuberculosis
TCCAF	Coca-Cola Africa Foundation
TFT	Table for Two
UGX	Uganda
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNWTO ST-EP	Foundation
UPS	United Parcel Service
USD	United States Dollar
VSVA	Vital Statistics and Verbal Autopsy
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

Mission & Vision

At Millennium Promise, we believe that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the end of poverty, can be achieved by 2030, even in the most challenging and remote parts of the world.

The **mission** of Millennium Promise (MP) is to advance sustainable development in communities across rural Africa using innovative solutions and scalable systems aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals including the end of extreme poverty.

From 2005-15, Millennium Promise provided the operational platform and resource mobilization for the Millennium Villages Project which deployed a holistic, science-based approach to accelerate progress on the Millennium Development Goals for more than 500,000 people across sub-Saharan Africa.

Today we build on this work to implement the SDGs at the sub-national level, working closely with national, regional, local governments and their partners to mobilize cutting-edge science and technology for effective local development.

Letter from the CEO: Millennium Promise's Current Achievements and Future Plans

While many details are still being finalized, **Millennium Promise will carry on**, delivering innovative solutions and scalable systems that build upon the Millennium Villages Project and other important sustainable development work in collaboration with the Earth Institute at Columbia University and Jeffrey Sachs.

As you know, at the end of December 2015, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) reached their deadline. These goals—halving extreme poverty, improving maternal and child health, ensuring universal primary education, and more—are at the heart of the Millennium Villages Project (MVP) and have defined the mission of Millennium Promise since its beginning in 2005. We have been working determinedly toward these goals with our global network of partners, including you.

Currently, **final evaluations of the MVP are being completed** to measure the success of the Project's interventions against MDG-based targets. The final results will begin to be made available later this year. We expect to see impressive progress overall, and to learn valuable lessons that will inform future initiatives, including the many MVP-inspired replication and scale-up programs launching across sub-Saharan Africa.

Now Millennium Promise is shifting focus from the Millennium Development Goals to their successor, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Approved by UN member states in September 2015, the 17 SDGs present a new universal agenda that promotes the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, including gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

Our mission going forward is to advance sustainable development in communities across rural Africa using innovative solutions and scalable systems aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals including the end of extreme poverty. Millennium Promise is well positioned to help governments apply the tools, systems, and protocols created, tested, and refined over the past 10 years across the Millennium Villages to achieve the SDGs in their districts and countries. Our large network of partners and experts—most notably the teams working in the regional centers and Millennium Village clusters across sub-Saharan Africa—have accumulated invaluable expertise and experience on rural economic development. It is envisioned that these teams will continue to help drive the SDG agenda alongside government partners, including through our new flagship initiative, the Sustainable Districts Program.

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 use 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. Additional scale-up and replication projects are expected to take shape over the coming year.

In terms of leadership, I will become CEO of Millennium Promise on January 1st, 2016. As you know, I have led the MDG Center for West and Central Africa in Dakar, Senegal, for nearly a decade, and I am highly familiar with MP's program, staff, and relationships with governments in Africa and key partners.

Professor Jeffrey Sachs is currently interim Chairman of the Board of Millennium Promise, succeeding Jacqueline Corbelli. It is expected that a new board chair will be selected before the end of 2016 as new members are added during the course of the year. Professor Sachs will remain a member of the board and key advisor for Millennium Promise.

Sustainable Districts Program

Building on the innovations and systems developed over 10 years through the Millennium Villages Project, this year Millennium Promise will launch the Sustainable Districts Program to provide governments and partners with practical tools, powerful technologies, and proven community-based strategies for achieving the SDGs at the local level. By complementing district government resources with MP's operational and technical expertise, and by building capacity for local leadership and action, Millennium Promise aims to help accelerate achievement of the SDGs in these districts across all SDG-related sectors. Partnering with governments specifically at the district level allows for more immediate action and nimble response to local needs.

Across 10 countries to start (corresponding to the countries where the MVP has operated), and more in the future, these programs will cover sustainable agriculture and economic development, health, education, infrastructure, women's empowerment and good governance, ecosystems and climate, and information technology. Many of these programs will evolve out of current MVP-implemented initiatives, systems, and tools, such as the Community Health Workers (CHW) program (through the 1 Million CHWs Campaign), the Community Education Workers (CEW) program, the Lead Farmer Program (LFP), Connect To Learn, and various ICT and M&E tools and technologies.

Lead Farmer Program

Since 2013, the MVP has been developing a cadre of agriculture extension officer and Lead Farmers in the Millennium Villages. The LFP brings extension services to the farm gate while creating linkages to value chain actors and facilitating access to agricultural finance. Millennium Promise and our collaborators are now seeking to take the Lead Farmer Program to scale.

Community Health Worker Program

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. The **1 Million CHWs Campaign** is an effort to help countries with national-scale professionalized CHW programs. The CHW program promoted in MVP sites is well positioned for scale due to its strong management focus, supportive supervision, and smartphone-based mHealth tools. A program to scale up the CHW program in Ghana is currently underway.

Education Programs

The focus going forward is on quality of education and learning outcomes, as well as improving access to universal education, especially for girls, and early childhood education. 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 carry on and expand in the SDG era. The **Community Education Worker** program started by the MVP is also likely to be scaled up to encourage enrollment and attendance, provide counseling and tutoring services, and assess reasons for low attendance or school dropouts.

Key Partners in the SDG Era

Millennium Promise continues to be part of an organizational ecosystem with the Columbia University Earth Institute as a core partner. Now in addition, we are partnering with the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), the public benefit corporation Sustainable Economy Solutions (SES), and the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at Columbia University.

Sustainable Development Solutions Network

U.N. 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 helps to overcome the compartmentalization of technical and policy work by promoting integrated approaches to the interconnected economic, social, and environmental challenges confronting the world. The work of the SDSN will be anchored in newly established “SDG Centers,” with their Africa-based headquarters most likely in Kigali, Rwanda. In addition to Kigali, it is expected that SDG Centers will exist in Nairobi, Dakar, and several other African cities, and will have deep partnerships with local universities and other institutions.

Center for Sustainable Development

The Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at Columbia University mobilizes the scientific expertise of the Earth Institute to create tools and research that shape new solutions to the challenges of sustainable development, and to provide policy support as requested by governments and development organizations to address these challenges in the context of a global society. CSD creates the triple-bottom line impact that accounts for social, environmental, and economic objectives. The CSD’s advising team includes specialists in agriculture and nutrition, economics, climate sensitive policy, systems design, health, education, and monitoring and evaluation.

As we look forward to 2016, we wanted to provide you with this snapshot of the plans ahead for Millennium Promise. We look forward to sharing more information with you as our new mission, priorities, and programs are further developed.

The Millennium Promise 2015 Annual Report will provide you with brief updates on each program sector and selected achievements and success histories from the Millennium Villages Project sites.

Thank you for your past support of our work to end extreme poverty, and we hope you will join us moving forward into the era of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sincerely,

Amadou Niang
Chief Executive Officer
Millennium Promise Alliance Inc.

Map of the Millennium Villages, 2015



1. Introduction

The Millennium Promise 2015 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 was conducted in 2015 and results will be made available in 2017.***

Covering January 1 to December 31, 2015, this report provides brief updates on each program sector, each Millennium Village (MV) site, and major partnerships, as well as monitoring and evaluation and the organization's emerging post-2015 plans.

In 2015, sector priorities built on the groundwork laid over ten 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 program responsibilities to the government.

During the final year of its 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, collected the final round of survey data in each MV and comparison sites in each country. The final report on the MVP will be issued in the first quarter of 2017 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 2015. 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.

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.

2. Activity Highlights by Program Sector - 2015

Agriculture and Business Development

Success Stories - A Farmers benefited from orchard development: the case of Koraro Village

Haleka Gebrekidan Girmay is one of the farmers living in Koraro Millennium Villages Project (MVP) site and one of the farmers who participated in orchard development.

He got involved in agribusiness after receiving the appropriate farming inputs and training organized by the project on cultivation and management of horticultural crops, preparation and use of compost, and technical support from MVP staffs.

At the beginning in 2005 he had a small dug well which can irrigate only 0.125ha using treadle pump on a bare/marginalized plot of land along the Afegate River very far from his village. Currently, he has two well-developed bigger diameter and depth irrigation dug wells with the potential of irrigating more than 2 ha under surface irrigation and two diesel water pumps with their accessories from the Project to irrigate the given area.

Now he covered all his farm land with Mango, orange, citron, coffee, guava, Papaya and avocado fruit trees supplied by the project since 2006. Hence he has more than 800 fruit trees of orange (170), mango (158), Lemon (46), Guava (240), citron (56), avocado (143) and papaya (16) plants fully matured trees and he sales to the potential markets, Wukro, Hawzien and Koraro, as retailing and whole sell.



“Besides the nutritional impact to my family, I earned annually about 65,000 ETB (Ethiopian Birr) cash income from the sale of fruit produces”. He added that, the money he has got from the farm enables him to send his children to school, build two new houses in Koraro and Gelebeda small towns. *“I also have two paired oxen for plowing and five cows for dairy”*, he said.

For an experience sharing visit organized for farmers from the Koraro village, his farm was taken as a model for the promotion of irrigated crop production and improved agricultural management practices in the area. He was happy and explained to the visitors with confidence about the benefits he earned so far from being involved in horticultural crops production, and his future plans. His plan, as he presented it during the occasion, is to plant more Mangoes and oranges not only in areas close to water sources but including in his back yard which is far from the water source in the area.

Several farmers from among the visitors, after visiting his farm have decided to be involved in similar horticultural crops production along the river Wer’ee and irrigation dug wells constructed by MVP. Gebrekidan has become a model farmer in the village because of his growing and benefiting from horticultural crops production.

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 five key areas: (1) strengthening agricultural advisory and monitoring services, (2) increasing and sustaining agricultural productivity, (3) developing and strengthening cooperatives and other farmer-based organizations, and their access to markets, (4) improving value chain service delivery, and (5) promoting access to financial services and public-private partnerships.

As part of the transition process, farmers were trained to adopt best agricultural practices, increase farm productivity, and put in place good farm and business management practices. These measures were meant to empower farmers to run their farm businesses sustainably, and subsequently lead farmers to wean themselves off of farm subsidies. Several meetings also took place to properly transfer facilities such as cereal banks, rice mill, and poultry houses to appropriate local public and private institutions.

Activities in these areas in 2015 are highlighted below.

Strengthening Agricultural Advisory and Monitoring Services

The Lead Farmer Program (LFP), launched in 2013, continued to extend the provision of agriculture extension services to the farm gate in remote, resource-poor rural areas across MVP sites. In 2015, the LFP was refined to develop a more robust, accessible and sustainable system of providing services to farmers. The program

also grew by the end of 2015 to close to 4,000 farmers, elected by their peers and deployed to serve as Lead Farmers (LFs) across the MVP. LFs are innovative and successful farmers with aptitude and commitment to innovate and learn Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) from extension officers and they worked with approximately 100,000 farmers throughout the sites.



Lead farmers receive incentive farm implements in Sauri-Kenya

The Project continued to empower LFs by providing training and reinforcements in good agricultural practices, water conservation methods, safe use of agrochemicals, participatory and outcome monitoring, and leadership and communication skills. Many of the MV sites have also implemented various strategies to motivate LFs and reward their performance. For example, in the MV of Sauri (Kenya), Lead Farmers received incentives, such as wheel barrows, hoes, spraying pumps, milking cans, honey and fish harvesting gears and bicycles, costing on average \$80 per Lead Farmer per year, based on merit. In the MVs of Koraro (Ethiopia), Mwandama (Malawi), and Mbola (Tanzania), Lead Farmers received certified seeds and fertilizer for every planting season. In Bonsaaso (Ghana), LFs were provided with cocoa insecticides to control cocoa Capsid infestation for two acres each.

The program assists smallholder farmers to sustainably manage their farms and increase their incomes. In 2015, LFs, supported by agriculture extension officers, continued to provide 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. For example, in Pampaida (Nigeria), we partnered with AGRA to improve soil fertility, productivity and livelihoods of 30,000 smallholder farmers through large scale adoption of Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) technologies. The project also established 45 demo plots with improved varieties of maize and soybean along with baby and mother trails. The demo plots are used to teach farmers about the benefits of integrated soil fertility management practices (ISFM) and improve soil health. Over 75% of farmers in Pampaida are now practicing ISFM technologies in the cluster. Overall, productivity and overall yields have increased per hectare.

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

Increasing and Sustaining Agricultural Productivity

A growing number of farmers are now accessing agro-inputs and new technology through linkages with financial institutions and the private sector. These range from certified seeds and fertilizer for staple food crops and high value crops, to modern bee

hives, improved poultry and animal breeds, mechanization, and better access to water for irrigation.

In the MV of Pampaida (Nigeria), provision was made for the sinking of 25 deep wells in the cluster to increase productivity during the off season when dry spells do occur. Construction of the 25 wells was completed, each with the capacity to irrigate 1 hectare. This intervention benefits an average of 10 farmers per well, capable of reaching 250 farmers.

The Project also helped farmers to make informed harvesting and marketing decisions by connecting them to systems and resources on climate and markets. In Senegal, one weather station was installed in Léona to monitor climate measures related to temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and rainfall, and 128 demonstration plots were georeferenced to map land occupation. SADA signed a contract with Esoko, an ICT firm, to provide weather and market information and post-harvest tips to Agriculture Extension Agent (AEAs) and smallholder farmers via a phone-based platform. Throughout the year, a total of 1,793 farmers benefitted from this service and received data three times a week.

From very few assets, and with the training and empowerment process, I have built this modern house from maize farming, I am educating my children from dairy farming, learning new technologies of planting new grass pasture varieties, my farm has been used for a field day, and as a lead farmer, I have an opportunity of assisting my fellow farmers”
George Orny, a farmer from Sauri.

Across the sites there have been improvements in crop yields. Farmers have reported that these improvements are

largely due to the LF trainings they have received in GAPs, as well as access to improved inputs and access to information systems.

Success story - Coca-Cola Irrigation Project

"I am Seynabou Diop and I am the president of the village section. Farming and livestock breeding are the main activities in the Diery area. In the past we did not have the opportunity to do vegetable gardening, because our village is located very far away from the river. We used to rely on rain-fed crop growing for livelihood. Due to the shortage of rainfall, the harvest was usually poor and we could no generate much income. Thanks to the Coco-Cola irrigation project, we have a borehole with a motor-pump within reach and all the community members, particularly the women and youth are fully involved in vegetable gardening all year long. The project has helped us cut down on rural exodus and the income generated from that activity enables us to replace our straw huts with cemented houses and to satisfy our daily needs".



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

In 2015, the MVP continued to work on capacity building for cooperatives and other FBOs 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. As cooperatives become stronger, they are better able to help and serve their members.

In Sauri, cooperatives are using revolving funds to purchase and distribute inputs to their members. In 2015, two cooperatives mobilized a total of \$119,781 to purchase and distribute 28 tons of varied certified seeds and 52.5 tons of fertilizer. These cooperatives used the revolving funds, but were also able to partner with Western Seed and Monsanto to provide inputs to farmers on credit.

In the district of Micheweni, Pemba Island, Zanzibar (Tanzania), the Project worked with the Seaweed Farmers' Associations (SFAs) to build the leadership capacity of the associations and increase seaweed production. The Project provided training on management, and administration to 78 members of the cooperative management committees of the SFAs. Seaweed farming is a leading income generating activity in the district and engages about 3,000 villagers.

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 Pampaida the Project helped farmers partner with African Exchange Holdings (AFEX), a new investor in input and output markets, on a fertilizer-for-grains program. Through this initiative, interested farmers exchange one bag of maize for one bag of fertilizer based on the commodity's prevailing market price. The AFEX program provides farmers the opportunity to access quality, unadulterated fertilizers at their doorstep, saving money on transport to local markets.



Grains for Fertilizer warehoused in Cereal bank - Pampaida

In Bonsaaso (Ghana), as part of the cocoa replacement program, 200,000 hybrid cocoa seedlings were nursed and provided to over 500 households to replant about 500 acres of moribund cocoa fields. The high yielding, early maturing and disease resistant hybrid seedlings were procured from the seed production unit of Cocobod and nursed by the 21 farmers' cooperatives as a business unit.

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. Remarkable gains were also made in the horticulture subsector. Three irrigation schemes in Mwandama were rehabilitated,

allowing farmers to produce leafy vegetables, tomatoes, onions, and green maize.

"Before, my children used a dim smoky kerosene lamp to do their homework. Now, they are able to revise more, because we have better lighting from the biogas and I also get money from the sale of milk. Out of the 20 liters of milk I produce a day, 3 liters goes for our home consumption and 17 liters for sale, from which I receive 17,000 UGX (6 USD) per day"

Mr. Geoffrey Kamushwa, a 60 year Ugandan old farmer and one of the programs earliest beneficiaries, whose children now drink milk for the first time.

In Sauri (Kenya), farmers have been able to access credit to put towards the construction of 19 greenhouses for the production of tomatoes, capsicum and squash.

In Koraro (Ethiopia), farmers have benefitted significantly from accessing water for irrigation. In partnership with the regional government, the Village constructed one major river diversion and dam, which has increased the area under irrigation from 249 hectares to over 3,000 hectares to date. Farmers are now able to grow a variety of crops ranging from onions, tomatoes, green maize and capsicum. Twenty-four horticultural plots of 1.5 ha and eight of 5 ha were developed and equipped with irrigation systems.

In the SADA cluster in Ghana, the Project promoted pepper cultivation to enhance income generation among smallholder farmers. A total of 442 smallholder farmers embraced this high value crop, cultivating 94 hectares and harvesting a total of 46.4 tons of pepper in 2015.

Promoting Access to Financial Services and Public-Private Partnerships

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

In Bonsaaso, the Opportunity International Input Credit Scheme provided input credit to over 1,100 cocoa farmers during the 2015 planting season, to the value of over GHS 400,000.00 (\$100,000). Unicom, a

licensed buying company, continues to expand its operations and has instituted a scheme to supply inputs to over 400 farmers. Twenty Village Savings and Loan Associations have been formed and operationalized in 10 communities. This activity is in collaboration with Care International.

In Pampaida, there was a noticeable increase in the number of farmers interacting with financial and microfinance banks, and access to bank loans has increased in the cluster, with the women unions taking the lead. The loan obtained from AFEX has been completely paid.

Health and Nutrition

Success story – Seynabou Ndiaye, Community Health Worker (CHW), Potou, Senegal



I am Seynabou Ndiaye, CHW of MPV/Potou. I graduated from primary school and I have undergone many health trainings from PVM. Now I benefit from 10 years of experience in community health. I have integrated the CHW program since 2007 to partake in the community health development and to help my brothers, sisters and parents get easy access to health care. For 80\$ as monthly motivation, I cover 113 households and monthly monitor 202 children aged under 5 and more than 20 pregnant women. The monitoring is focused on household hygiene,

bednets, Antinal Care, malnutrition, fever and diarrhea management, the identification of the danger signs among children and pregnant women for early referrals. I also do counseling on behavior change and I am a link between the health facilities and the community. My activities as CHW make me feel overwhelmingly happy to be useful to my community.

The Millennium Villages Health System (MVHS) has over the years aimed at ensuring universal access to health services free of charge at point of care, with a continuum of services from household to clinic and to referral hospitals. Central to this system has been the Community Health Worker (CHW) program, in which select community members are empowered, trained and equipped to deliver basic yet essential health care services at the household level. Furthermore, at the primary health facility level, MVP has invested in infrastructure, staffing and an essential commodity supply chain to ensure delivery of comprehensive and quality health care services. Unique to the MVHS was the collection, analysis and use of real time health-system data, including the

recording of all vital events (births and deaths) and verbal autopsies, allowing for real-time management and improvement of the quality of operations.

In the final year of implementation, the MVP's Health Sector approach was two-pronged: continued implementation of activities to sustain gains, and the transfer of operations and infrastructure to communities, host governments, and non-governmental organizations.

Strengthening Health Systems

In 2015, the Project continued to focus on enhancing access to quality facility-based health services. Such interventions included: improved geographical access

such as the construction of delivery huts in the MV of Pampaida (Nigeria), staff housing at the clusters clinics for 24-hour services in Ruhira (Uganda), and connecting clinics to the national grid for a steady energy supply in SADA (Ghana).

The MVP also focused on deploying a seamless referral system, from telephone communications to transport systems, that guides patients from household to health facility levels and beyond to higher-level facilities. This included refurbishing ambulances and negotiating with governments to ensure maintenance of services post 2015.



(L) Head motorcycle ambulance driver of Ruhira Parish, Joshua Tsubira says *"I teach and remind my fellows of what they're supposed to do, and put more energy in them so that they love their job"*

(R) Expectant mother, Doreen, bends over in labor, as her CHW watches the ambulance rider secure Doreen's belongings to the back of his motorcycle



Site teams working in collaboration with host health ministries and other key stakeholders put in place measures to establish a steady supply of essential commodities. Such measures included: the use of appropriate forecasting methodologies, engagement with local and international partners to fill stock gaps, procurement of buffer stock of essential commodities; and the use of stock management tools. Strong partnerships with both local and national governments have seen improved and sustained access to essential commodities particularly during this transition period. For example, in Pampaida, Nigeria, TB drugs are now accessible at local facilities within the cluster at no cost in addition to the provision of nutritional support for TB patients.

Community Health Worker (CHW) Program

CHWs continued to serve the MVP sites in 2015, improving the health outcomes of the communities they live in by bridging the gap between households and the clinic system, with each CHW responsible for covering about 100-150 households.

The success of the CHW program model has been embraced by host governments who recognize the benefit of empowering elected, trained, supervised and motivated community members to improve the health of their communities. The MV of Bonsaaso (Ghana) has been at the forefront of expanding the CHW program, expanding to six districts in the Ashanti region. Through

the sensitization and empowerment of the relevant district assemblies and regional coordinating council, Ghana is preparing for a national scale up, working closely with 1 Million Community Health Workers (1mCHW) Campaign. (Learn more about it at 1millionhealthworkers.org).

The sustainability of the CHW program is heavily reliant on successful community engagement and participation. In 2015, the CHW program in SADA (Ghana) led the formation and training of zonal level management committee in accordance with the Ghana Health Service (GHS) policy for community-based participatory supervision and quality assurance. In Sauri, Kenya, a series of community-targeted capacity building sessions were conducted, such as training community health committees on support supervision and resource mobilization and training PLWAs on household water treatment and safe water storage, among others.

CommCare

In 2015, CHWs continued to work with CommCare, the cloud-based mHealth system that provides unprecedented, near real-time monitoring of CHW program performance as well as providing indicators for process and outcome assessment of the health system. CommCare has helped to improve 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 health coordinators about illness trends so problem areas can be rapidly identified and investigated. 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 improve ease of collection, increase timely reporting, and create more seamless integration of information with data collected through other reporting systems. In the last 12 months, program staff tabulated the deaths that occurred at the cluster sites, visited affected households within a month of the death, carried out an interview and recorded responses on a mobile phone, sent the data to a central server and, by using decision support algorithms, arrived at a probable cause of death. Every six weeks, health teams held discussions on specific cases to identify preventable social or medical reasons that could have led to the deaths. Healthcare teams greatly reduced child and maternal mortality and designed strategies to care for the underprivileged after Project completion.

Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health

In 2015, all sites bolstered interventions geared towards improved access to skilled birth attendants (SBA), as it remains a pillar in the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortalities. This was achieved in Pampaida (Nigeria), through the installation of four

fully functional delivery huts, which decentralized SBA and other essential maternal child health services throughout the cluster. In 2015, skilled midwives assisted by traditional birth attendants' huts conducted a total of 92 deliveries in the four huts. Furthermore, the Pampaida, Fadama Kale and Kwari health facilities were renovated and equipped to provide quality maternity services, thus enhancing their capacity to deal with referral cases. In the Pampaida clinic, for example, 91 pregnant women benefitted from the newly installed ultrasound machine.

The Project also continued to partner with Embrace Innovations to distribute Embrace Warmers, which are inexpensive, safe and effective wraps that keep an infant warm to prevent death from hypothermia. Experts taught MVP healthcare workers to use them and closely supervised their work.



Health care workers in Ruhira MVP being trained on the use of Embrace Warmers by the MVP RMNCH Facilitator

In Ruhira Uganda 78 healthcare workers were taught to use Embrace Baby Warmers for managing under weight babies with hypothermia.

“Before these warmers were donated here we resolved that any baby with hypothermia is

referred immediately to the nearest hospital which is located several kilometers away” Dr. Deo elaborated.

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.

MVP launched GenØ, another novel approach to improving retention, in late 2014 and in 2015 successfully implemented it in four sites: Sauri, Ruhira, Mwandama and Mbola. GenØ is a web-based electronic tool that registers and monitors care given to all pregnant mothers living with HIV and their children. In comparison to paper-based mechanisms, GenØ allowed site teams to efficiently and accurately account for every single HIV-infected pregnant mother, and their HIV-exposed infant. It significantly reduced losses due to lack of follow up and non-adherence.

Training sessions on HIV related issues were also carried out to support adherence and retention in HIV treatment programs. In 2015, Sauri MVP identified and trained 22 volunteers on HIV treatment related issues, particularly the newly adopted life-long triple therapy for all pregnant women (Option B+) in Kenya. Afterwards, these

volunteers actively supported pregnant mothers living with HIV, reaching 150 mothers in six months. Now enrolled in support groups, the mothers continue to receive care; there have been no drop-outs reported to date.

Malaria

Universal access to insecticide-treated nets is the recommended strategy to control for malaria. All sites worked to ensure the high-risk population, particularly pregnant mothers and children under five, had access

to a long-lasting insecticide treated mosquito net. Furthermore, Community Health Workers tracked bed-net coverage and usage and counseled household members on correct and consistent bed-net usage. Sites such as Sauri, Kenya, stepped up vector controls by deploying Indoor-Residual Spraying in 99.8% of buildings, surpassing the WHO-recommended 80%. As a result, we recorded a lower incidence of malaria related deaths and fewer cases of severe malaria.

Eye camp Story: Free Eye Treatment in Isingiro, Uganda

As part of its corporate social responsibility program, the Millennium Villages Project II (MVPII) supported by Islamic Development Bank and government of Uganda through the Ministry of Local Government has once again successfully conducted the 2015 annual eye camp in Isingiro District under the theme "Eye Health is Every ones Business, your vision is our focus", the third of its kind ever since it was introduced 3 years ago.

An eye care service is one of the specialized health care that is not easily accessed in remote hard to reach places. When need arises for eye care services, the community in the MVP area have to move to Mbarara town which is approximately over 60km away since the Ministry of Health does not provide eye care services in its primary health care packages. This is very costly in terms of transport costs, up-keep, eye care and treatment which end up ranging from 50 – 80 USD depending on the magnitude of the problem and the type of treatment required.



Patients who were operated upon line up for medical review



An eye patient in Theater being operated

With funding and donation of eye glasses from United States based Tommy Hilfiger Foundation and technical collaboration from the staff of Mbarara Regional Referral Eye Hospital over 740 patients have benefitted from this year's camp from the two selected site centers of Kabuyanda HCIV and Nyakitunda HCIII, adding to 1200 who benefitted last year, and 2000 for the year 2013. This brings the total number to over 4000 patients treated, operated and provided eye lenses.

"Poor nutrition is among the cause of eye problems in the children and adult aged population we are seeing. Said Dr. Sam Ruvuma. Isingiro is one of the districts in Uganda that has grappled with challenges of malnutrition and according to MVP baseline report, at project inception in 2006 over 50% of children under 5 were malnourished and stunted Dr. Sam Ruvuma, an eye specialist with Mbarara University Hospital Eye Department encouraged the communities to keep a good diet.

Among the services offered during the eye campaign are mass screening of common eye conditions, basic treatment for eye problems, diagnose cases that need further treatment or surgery and those for referrals, give medication for some of the ailments, carry out minor surgeries like cataracts and provide glasses/lenses required.

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

Education

Success story - Grade Seven School Learning Camps 2015, Mbola MVP, Tanzania

Improvement of school enrolment, attendance, completion rates and general academic performance requires a substantial commitment. During a 33 days learning camp that was organized at Mbola and Lolangulu Primary Schools respectively in June-July 2015; Mbola MVP invested in school meals program whereby the project offered meals to 1,662 grade seven and four pupils at both learning camps. A total of 100 treated mosquito bed nets were given to both Mbola and Lolangulu primary school learning camps to prevent malaria and thereby enhance smooth learning.

The project also facilitated some teachers who took part to train the students. A small token was advanced to the teachers to just recognize and motivate them as they left their families and homes to concentrate in re-sharpening the students as they prepare themselves for the national examinations.

This particular investment by Mbola MVP consequently yielded fruits as there was a sharp improve in academic performance by the students. Comparing the three years results it can be seen that the pass elevated from 27.5% in 2013, to 47.12% the year 2014 and to 60.93% the year 2015. MVP Mbola advised the district education department to look for possibilities to continue this useful initiative that commenced at the project area in the year 2014. The initiative was implemented following poor students' performance in the cluster where grade seven national examination pass rate assumed a sharp drop from 63.2% in the year 2012 to 27.5% in the year 2013.

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 2015 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. Capacity building and community engagement, particularly school management boards and teachers, was also a major focus in 2015 to ensure the sustainability of the Project's initiatives and gains in preparation for the post-2015 transition.

Community Education Workers (CEWs)

The CEW program has been key to promoting primary school enrollment, motivating families to keep their children in school, and providing support to students who are at risk of dropping out. CEWs reach the community through sensitization campaigns in the local language, focusing on the need to send children to school and the importance of girl's education. Additionally, the CEWs collected outcome-monitoring (OM) data to track school attendance, basic reading and numeracy skills, and teacher presence. These results were shared with communities, schools, and the district government education office for faster remediation.

Improving Quality of Education

To improve the quality of education in the MVs, the MVP team has worked closely with local government partners to staff schools with qualified teachers. Efforts included: teacher training on core subjects, ICT lessons, and leadership skills. In some sites, specifically in the most remote areas where it is difficult to post qualified teachers, CEWs have filled the role of teachers while simultaneously receiving training in teaching methodologies to become trained teachers. Throughout 2015, the site teams have advocated for the professionalization of CEWs, and in some sites the District Education Authority has already committed to formally engage the CEWs.



CEW in Mbola during OM data collection

Other initiatives implemented by the sites promoted competition as a means to engage both teachers and students. Students competed in literacy and numeracy competitions and were given awards for their efforts. Teacher performance was rewarded during celebratory ceremonies with parents, community, and local government education representatives.

School Enrollment and Attendance

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 some sites, when students have not been enrolled in school at the appropriate age, they are given the option to enroll in a speed learning program and later rejoin their appropriate grade (Sauri, Kenya and SADA, Ghana).

The Project also continues to work to achieve gender parity and keep girls in school. Initiatives included the distribution of sanitary pads, training and sensitization on menstrual hygiene, and empowerment forums conducted together with local women's associations.

School Meals Program (SMP)

The School Meals Program (SMP) is another 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.



School meals program in Koraro, Ethiopia

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.

Strengthening Local Stakeholders

Over the years, the project has worked with Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) and School-Based Management Committees (SBMCs) play an important role in the sustainability of education initiatives implemented over the ten years of the project. Capacity building training sessions on school management, leadership, and student engagement were provided to enable PTAs and SBMCs to better support their school's development and the students' education.

Secondary School – Connect To Learn

Connect To Learn continues to help close the gap on girls' access to secondary education and broadband connectivity. Computer laboratories have been established with internet connectivity, where students and teachers are able to browse online resources.



CTL Scholars



Vocational training session

In addition to providing scholarships for girls, CTL began to focus on vocational training to equip girls with skills they could utilize after school. Some of the vocational training would also lead to income generation and allow for girls to be able to cover their schooling expenses. For example, in Pampaida girls have been trained in soap-making; now the CTL scholars are producing most of the soap used to teach hygiene practices in primary schools. Other skills being taught to boys and girls include carpentry, clothes design and tailoring, and honey production.

Success story - Amidst insecurity MVP boosts learning in Dertu MVP, Kenya

It is said that a friend in need is a friend indeed. The Millennium Villages Project demonstrated her friendship to the Dertu community when they were in dire need of teachers. 2015 was a year in which the North Eastern region of Kenya experienced a mass exodus of teachers from schools following occurrences of terrorist attacks. The shortage of teachers adversely affected learning not only in primary but also in secondary schools in Garissa. In most primary schools in the region, no proper learning took place because teachers declined to return to work since January for fear for their lives. As a result, teacher shortage constituted one of the thorny issues in education in Northern Kenya. The situation was escalated by insecurity condition that dominated the region for the better part of 2015.

Of the three schools in the Dertu village supported by the MVP, two schools - Dertu Primary and Dertu Girls Secondary Schools—were adversely affected by the teachers' exodus. The problem of teachers' shortage at Dertu primary school was compounded by influx of pupils displaced from locations with insecurity. As at end of March, Dertu had a pupil population of 917. Due to influx of pupils from insecure localities, the school population rose to 1067 as at end of May. The gap in terms of number of teachers required stood at 16 at Dertu Primary. At Dertu Girls Secondary, the gap stood at 8. As a Curriculum Based Establishment (CBE), the number of teachers required is determined by number of subjects taught. Each subject must have a subject specialist. 11 subjects were being taught at Dertu Girls Secondary School and the school had only 3 subject specialists.

Head Teachers from both the primary and secondary school sent an appeal to MVP for support in engagement of trained teachers to mitigate poor quality of teaching which was prevailing at the schools. A proposal for engagement of teachers and training of UTs was submitted to Millennium Promise. The approval of the proposal saw the engagement of 16 trained teachers (8 for Dertu Pri and 8 for Dertu Girls Sec) who were willing to relocate to Dertu and teach at the mentioned schools. Besides MVP paying for the salaries of the trained teachers for six months, the MVP also conducted 6 trainings over the course of the 6 months to provide 12 untrained teachers in the said schools with specific teaching skills related to learner centered pedagogy, classroom management, literacy and numeracy, and other subject specific content. A total of USD 41,172 was spent in the engagement and training of the teachers.

In his appreciation letter to Millennium Promise, Noor Aden, the Principal, Dertu Girls Secondary school said: *"Thank you very much. We remain indebted to you all the time. You have come to our aid when we needed it most"*.

Ali Mohamed, the Head Teacher, Dertu Primary school wrote: *"Thank you a lot for helping the school during the crisis of lack of teachers"*

At Dertu Primary, of the 60 pupils who sat for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE), 50 passed and joined national and county secondary schools. The school obtained a mean grade of 281.74 out of 500.

Infrastructure Maintenance, Energy, and WASH

Solar Lighting Kit Project Lights Up Dertu Community in Garissa, Dertu Site, Kenya

It was pomp and joy for the community members in Dertu, Garissa County in Kenya as they came together to witness the launch of the solar home lighting kits. The event served as the culmination of the project to equip 42 households with indoor lights between the month of February and March 2015.



Abdi Hussein, center, receives his solar kit from the chief guest Honorable Abdi Ali, right

The chief guest at the event was Honorable Abdi Ali, member of County Assembly, popularly known as 'Mwalimu' (Swahili word for 'Teacher') – Dertu Ward who thanked the Millennium Villages Project (MVP) team for their vision to help light up this part of the county. .

"It is exciting that the Millennium Villages Project has initiated solar lighting for Dertu homes," he said. "It is my hope that this lighting project will be expanded to more homes. I commend those who took interest in the lighting project and contributed 20 percent without hesitating – they had trust that MVP would fulfill their promise. I urge those who have benefited to take care of the solar kits to prolong their usefulness."

A few days following the installation of the solar kits to their homes, community members were not only optimistic about the project but were already giving positive testimonials.

"I have charged five mobile phones using the solar kit and made Ksh 100 (about 1 USD) in one day. I expect to recoup my investment by generating some income," Farah Askar said.

"Last night my wife had an easy time attending to our baby girl; she left the solar lighting dimmed," added Abdi Hussein, another beneficiary.

These remarks were indeed a different tune from the ones the community members made during the sensitization meetings earlier. Back then, Ms. Kamilo Ahmed Bull one of the mothers had narrated the difficulties her children had been undergoing when doing their school home work. *"I am tired of holding up my hand torch when my son is doing his class work at home,"* she had said.

WASH (Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene)

The cross-cutting nature of the WASH sub-sector concerns health, education, infrastructure, and gender equality. As such, increasing access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation has been a core priority in the MVP. We have constructed and rehabilitated pipelines, pumps, wells and rainwater collectors to increase and facilitate access to clean drinking water. In addition to providing this infrastructure, a great emphasis was also put on community member capacity building to ensure sustainability and maintenance of the systems put in place.

In addition to providing access to latrines at public institutions, a pillar of the WASH strategy was to increase demand for latrines in rural communities, and provide subsidies for basic materials to empower families to build their own latrines.

In the MV of Mbola (Tanzania) community-led sanitation campaigns and the enforcement of hygiene and sanitation practices by law have contributed drastically to the increase in areas considered sanitary from 7.2 % to 90%. In Pampaida (Nigeria) the WASH committees played a major role in mobilizing the communities for WASH related issues. On December 8th, 2015 the first ever WASH Committees day was celebrated in Pampaida to showcase and sensitize the communities on the importance of best WASH practices. The day also celebrated the WASH committees' efforts and

involvement in facilitating the construction of 819 household latrines, bringing the total to 1,058 in MV1 Pampaida and achieving Open Defecation Free areas in almost all MV1 communities.

Our partnership with UNILEVER to promote good hygiene and behavioral change among children was also an important contributor to our success in this sector. The promotion of handwashing with soap also had two important economic benefits in the community. Some schools, such as in SADA, were linked with local women soap producers, who also receive support from the Project to grow their businesses. In other sites, such as in Ruhiira, students were shown how to produce soap from locally available materials, helping to sustain the program beyond the partnership with UNILEVER.

Expanding Access to Electricity

Expanding access to electricity was a critical priority in the MVP. In partnership with governments, the Project supported extension of national grids to the MV clusters or provided alternative energy sources to meet community needs.

In SADA (Ghana), the government has agreed to extend the national grid to 32 of the 35 SADA MVP communities. So far the government has extended connectivity to 18 communities, benefitting 1,761 households. Grid extension work is ongoing in the remaining 14 communities. In Mwandama (Malawi) three institutions

which serve the larger population were connected to the national grid: Mwandama Clinic, Mwandama Primary School and Grain Bank. In Sauri, (Kenya) participatory approaches have been established to provide communities with the opportunity to access electricity. For example, eight households were connected to the electricity grid after paying 60% of the total cost, with the Project covering the remaining 40%. The households were also responsible for the wiring and related fixtures.

Some of the MV sites benefitted from Shared Solar, a modular, pay-as-you-go electricity system for remote, off-grid settlements, developed by the Sustainable Engineering Lab at Columbia University. In Ruhiira (Uganda), Shared Solar has helped to electrify households and businesses, and there are now plans to duplicate efforts in neighboring sub-counties as well as other countries such as Ethiopia and Rwanda

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) is a critical component of the Millennium Villages Project. Robust M&E systems allow for effective follow up on interventions, program strategy corrections during implementation, and the evaluation of the project's overall performance. Millennium Promise has developed a strong platform to effectively track the progress of the multi-sectoral programs implemented. This system is based on the tools and best practice assessments from a number of disciplines.

The core components of the M&E system include: (1) household surveys, (2) real-time performance monitoring, (3) process evaluation, (4) economic costing and, (5) facility inventory and infrastructure mapping. These are described in more detail in the following section.

The Monitoring & Evaluation team's primary task in 2015 was to lead a Final Impact Assessment of the 10 Millennium Village country sites. The objective of this final evaluation is to assess the MVP's ten-year effectiveness, between 2005 and 2015. Effectiveness was measured in terms of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, as well as describing its associated costs, processes, and systems. For most of 2015, data in all components of the M&E system were collected. This large data collection effort was completed in November 2015.

In every MV country, the Final Evaluation was prepared in five-parts, in an attempt to break down the information gathered into distinct areas. These included:

1. **Adequacy Assessment:** The Project assessed whether the MDGs were reached in the ten Millennium Village research villages (MV1s).
2. **Impact Evaluation:** The Project attempted to isolate the effect of the program in the MV1s, so that we can identify the cause of changes that took place. Data from both MV1 (the intervention village) and the comparison village are gathered to make a determination of impact of the MV model.
3. **Economic Cost assessment:** The Project calculated the annual on-site costs of MVP activities in every site relative to the project's annual per capita cost-sharing model.
4. **Process Evaluation:** The Project identified and documented the factors at each site that have contributed to the MVP's relative "successes" and "failures."

Adequacy and Impact

Since the MVPs were not designed as a controlled experiment, the impact evaluation team retroactively selected five control areas, called comparison villages, for each MV1, using geographic surveys and population data to identify areas similar to the MV1s in 2005. Each of the MV Sites

recruited about 100 data technicians, who were trained on how to conduct the survey modules. Adequacy & impact evaluation survey modules included: Household Survey (I&II), Adult Male & Female Health Survey, and a Nutrition Survey. These modules, comprised of detailed socio-economic and health quantitative surveys, will be used to assess progress toward MDG-related outcomes. Survey rounds were 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.

Household survey data was collected from household heads, adults aged 15-49 years, and children aged between six months and 14 years in the MV1s and comparison villages. A total of 300 households per MV1 and 60 households per comparison village were selected. Individual-level sample sizes vary according to the survey module. Costing data were collected from roughly 20 selected informants per site. The qualitative process evaluation data were collected from approximately 15 interviews and 13 focus groups per site. The costing and process data were collected only in the

intervention villages. Household survey data were collected from both intervention and comparison villages in all of the 10 country sites.

Economic Costing Assessment

Based on the MVP's model of spending \$120 per capita annually, the economic cost assessment documents both the absolute and relative contributions of project partners to all cluster-level activities within the Millennium Villages, which ultimately work to achieve the MDGs. Expenses were tracked via two mechanisms: (1) core project expenditures on a quarterly basis via the project's internal cost-tracking system; and (2) contributions made by external stakeholders including the government, the community themselves, and other donors.

The economic cost data was collected using a series of costing templates, focus groups, and interviews with relevant stakeholders from the government, communities, donors and project team. Together, these approaches were designed to capture all MDG-related expenditures yearly, within standardized categories: by sector, stakeholders, and cluster. MV1 and MV2 costs can be reviewed separately or jointly.

Process Evaluation

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 not well understood. Process Evaluation data was collected through questionnaires, focus groups, and interviews with key informants, from community members to government officials, stakeholders & project staff. Analysis of the process evaluation will document and assess the factors at each site that contributed to the MVP's relative "successes" and "failures" in implementing a ten-year, multi-sectoral intervention, hand in hand with communities and local governments.

Year 10 and the MVP Final Evaluation

For most of 2015, MVP was involved in data collection for each of the modules and components described above as part of the end-of-project evaluation. Our final data collection methodology was audited by a third party organization, the Africa Population and Health Research Center (APHRC). APHRC is committed to conducting high quality and policy-relevant research on population, education and health issues facing sub-Saharan Africa. As part of our final evaluation protocol, MVP contracted with APHRC to provide technical consultation for the final evaluation of the MVP in the 10 sites. APHRC's roles focused on assessing the quality of the evaluation procedures through observation of the implementation of the study protocol, validation of preliminary indicators, and audit of survey datasets for the ten sites to assess the quality of the data collected.

In 2015, APHRC completed these tasks in collaboration with MVP teams, assessing the implementation of the sampling framework, trainings, data collection and processing and analysis systems and advising on how to strengthen them when necessary. At the field level, Quality Assurance Advisors were in charge of supervising the implementation of the surveys. In parallel, a team of data quality experts were in charge of auditing the data collected and validating the various MDG indicators produced by MVP team. APHRC provided regular advice and feedback whenever areas of improvement were identified and emphasized best practices at each stage. Detailed reports were shared with MVP teams to document findings and propose specific recommendations to improve the quality of data collected.

APHRC's final audit assessment of MVP's impact evaluation methodology and procedures was deemed to be positive. In 2016, the analysis of all of the M& E data will be finalized. With regard to the MDG targets, the adequacy and impact assessment findings will be published in the *Lancet*, a peer-reviewed academic journal, as described according to our published protocol. Costing data results will be integrated along with process evaluation findings in a descriptive MVP book. The book will detail the 10-year implementation process of carrying out an integrated, rural development model in 10 different African countries.

4. Partnership Updates

A global network of partners makes the Millennium Villages Project possible. Updates on major partnerships in 2015 are provided in this section.

International and Governments

Government of Guinea

Millennium Promise continued to support the Government of Guinea's efforts to deploy real-time information systems to facilitate rapid control of transmission of Ebola. 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 corporations, including Google, is making this work possible.

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

A two-year pledge supported the Millennium Villages Project - Saemaul in the MV of Mbola (Tanzania) in 2015, with a portion also provided for technical and in-kind support of agriculture programs in the MV of Ruhira (Uganda). The partnership includes integrating aspects of Korea's Saemaul Undong ("new village movement") into the MVP.

The UNWTO ST-EP Foundation continued 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), Sauri (Kenya), Mwandama (Malawi), Mayange (Rwanda), and Mbola (Tanzania). 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.

World Bank

The World Bank financed the production of an online course related to the extractive industries by the production company Kontentreal, which also produces Jeffrey Sachs' online sustainable development courses.

Foundations, Corporations, and Individuals

Agrium

A long-standing supporter of agriculture initiatives in the MVP, in 2015 Agrium renewed their support with another significant contribution. This support funded 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.

Carleton University

Carleton University continues to be a major supporter of Millennium Promise. In 2009, the Carleton University students passed a referendum that made MP a recipient of yearly contributions as a portion of the University's tuition fees. Carleton's contributions have supported the MV of Tiby (Mali) and the general operations of the MP.

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 were carried out through 2015. In Senegal, support from TCCAF helped smallholder farmers to access boreholes and low-cost irrigation systems in order to boost their production and income-generating capacity. In Malawi, the project supported 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 through 2015.

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, launched in May 2014 via the crowdfunding platform Catapult, 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.

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) and Mbola (Tanzania), where 35 bookcases and 136, respectively, were installed in primary schools throughout the cluster.

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

A long-time supporter of the MV of Tiby (Mali), Only The Brave supported the MV of Koraro (Ethiopia) with a two-year pledge thru 2015.

Stichting Blossom

This Dutch foundation has been supporting the MV of Mwandama (Malawi) for many years. A renewed 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 2015.

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 continued to support the MVP through in-kind contributions and fundraising and awareness campaigns. In 2015, funds were received to support Eminyeeto, a girls' empowerment program in Ruhiira.

United Nations Agencies

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.



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If you are interested in partnering with us or contributing to our mission,
please contact us.

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