



FOOD FOR EDUCATION

for healthy & productive futures



Key stakeholders are essential for long lasting results:

- **Parents:** Parents are the single most important stakeholder in ensuring the success of school feeding programs. PCI ensures that each school has a functioning and committed parent's committee that is involved in all aspects of program implementation.
- **Teachers:** PCI provides training and support to teachers to improve instruction and the learning environment for children.
- **Local Governments:** PCI develops relationships with national ministries and local government officials to obtain support for activities and ensure program implementation aligns with local government's short and long term goals.

PCI'S INTEGRATED APPROACH TO EDUCATION, HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT

Quality education is fundamental to gender equality, human security, community development and national progress. For nearly 30 years PCI has worked to improve the access to and quality of education for children and youth around the world, especially for girls. In partnership with local governments and community members, PCI uses schools as a platform to deliver essential education, nutrition, health and development services to hundreds of thousands of vulnerable children attending schools worldwide.

With funding from USDA's McGovern-Dole Global Food for Education Program, the UN World Food Programme and PEPFAR, PCI has implemented school feeding programs in **Bolivia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Tanzania and Zambia**, including current USDA-funded programs in Nicaragua, Guatemala and Tanzania. The purpose of the programs is to increase school enrollment and attendance (especially for girls); improve student health and nutrition; improve school infrastructure; improve the quality of education; and strengthen the role that the school can play in improving the lives of surrounding communities now and into the future.

PCI is currently providing over 200,000 meals per day in 1,640 schools throughout Nicaragua, Guatemala and Tanzania.

LITERACY: Increasing attendance of school aged children through community educational awareness activities is an approach PCI integrates into its school feeding programs, with an objective of ensuring that those children are not just attending school but receiving a quality education resulting in increased literacy. PCI works to support literacy improvements in a variety of different community and school based activities. In **Tanzania**, PCI provided a total of over 49,000 library books to establish school libraries in participating schools, and has trained over 300 teachers to continue to strengthen their capacity in methodologies and literacy teaching.

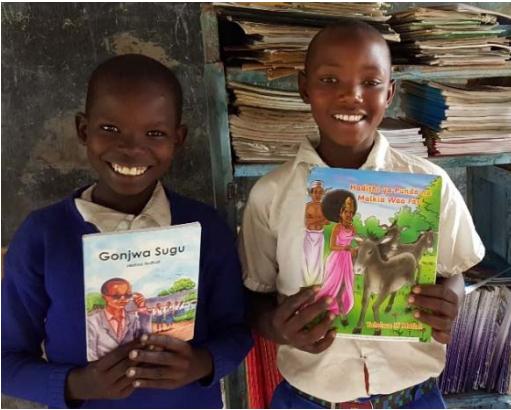
IMPROVED SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE: PCI works to improve learning environments for children through infrastructure upgrades such as construction and repairs of school latrines, hand washing systems, kitchens, and fostering the use of environmentally friendly and healthy stoves. PCI's approach ensures that local stakeholders are invested and take ownership for infrastructure projects through various ways, such as in-kind contributions and volunteer labor. In **Nicaragua**, local stakeholders contributed in-kind donations of rock, sand, wood, and physical labor which helped construct or repair a total of over 90 latrines, 105 water systems and/or hand washing stations, and over 55 kitchens. PCI ensures that schools have separate latrines for boys and girls as lack of infrastructure, especially for pubescent-age girls, can be a barrier to education.

"I believe learning levels have improved thanks to the food. The children learn faster and they don't fall asleep anymore. They have more energy."

- Teacher from Municipality of Chayanta, Oruro, Bolivia



PCI (Project Concern International) is an international nonprofit on a mission to enhance health, end hunger and overcome hardship worldwide. Founded in 1961, PCI impacted the lives of more than 19 million people last year alone through programs in 15 countries spanning Asia, Africa and the Americas.



HEALTH & NUTRITION: Improving the health and nutrition of vulnerable children is a key focus of PCI's school feeding programs. PCI provides training to parents, teachers and students on topics such as the importance of good hygiene practices, proper nutrition, and the importance of water disinfection. School gardens are used as a hands-on, participatory learning tool to teach children about the importance of consuming fruits & vegetables, as well as to produce nutrient-rich foods like leafy greens, broccoli, cauliflower, tomatoes, and carrots that are served in the school meals. PCI also works with local ministries of health to provide Vitamin A and deworming medications to children. In **Guatemala**, school health fairs are organized to share best hygiene, health and nutrition practices. These are an opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned and for parents to provide cooking demonstrations featuring nutritious foods. In **Tanzania**, student-led health clubs are one of the program's primary vehicles for health education for boys and girls. Through these clubs, PCI is tackling head-on one of the barriers to girls' education by providing girls with locally-produced menstruation kits with reusable pads (nearly 2,000 distributed to date!), together with education and support.

COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION: Mobilizing community members to identify and address key issues related to education is extremely important and quite challenging to do effectively. PCI assists with the development of Parent Committees or Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) as PTAs are the conduit for ensuring implementation and sustainability of activities implemented by the program. PCI provides training and ongoing support for proper food management, storage and handling, food preparation, distribution and planning for sustainability of activities. Parents provide significant support in the way of volunteer time, complementary food, and local materials required for building infrastructure, etc. PCI currently works with over 1,450 PTAs worldwide.

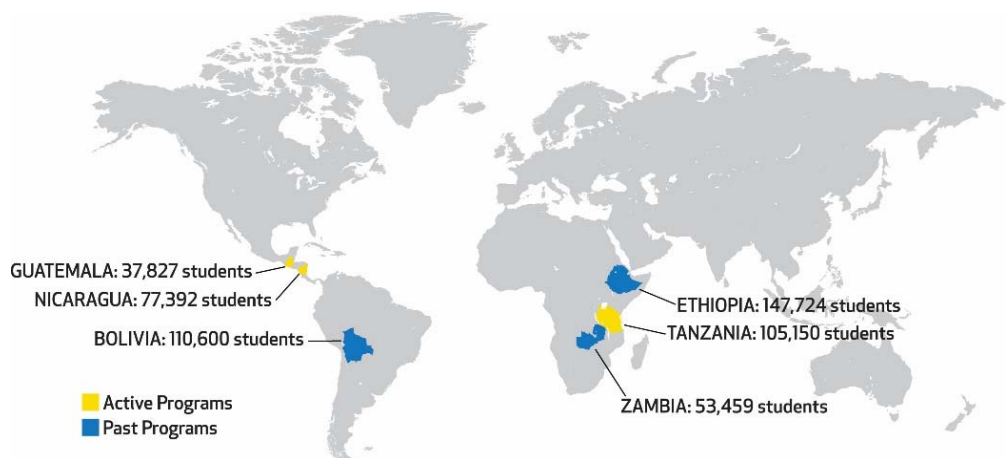
SUSTAINABILITY

From the start, PCI works to ensure that stakeholders such as parents, teachers and local governments are committed to the program and are equipped to support the successful implementation of activities long after program funding has ended. Exemplary of our approach is the successful transition of program activities to 49 municipal governments in **Bolivia** who today, over a decade later, continue to provide daily meals to over 110,600 Bolivian schoolchildren.

Through custom-tailored approaches such as Sustainability Commissions in **Guatemala**, targeted strengthening of the MOE to manage the national school feeding program in **Nicaragua**, and Women Empowered village savings and loan groups in **Tanzania**, PCI continues to build local ownership and leadership critical to sustaining the school feeding programs and complementary activities long-term.

SUPPORTING GIRLS' EDUCATION: In many countries parents elect to send their male children to school, while their girls are required to stay home to assist with household chores. Through training and house to house visits, PCI works to educate parents and community leaders on the life-long benefits of sending all their children to school. Educated women are more likely to recognize the importance of health care and know how to seek it for themselves and their children. In **Guatemala** PCI is working with over 130 Women Empowered groups on social and economic empowerment. The savings and lending group method implemented resulted in 10% of loans given to women were used to support their children's education through the purchase of books, uniforms, and school supplies.

PCI'S SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS WORLDWIDE



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