

EDUCATION

the key to unlocking lifesaving doors



ABOUT PCI

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 10 million people last year alone through programs in 15 countries spanning Asia, Africa and the Americas.



“The most important achievement of the project is making parents aware of the importance of their children’s education”

- *Teacher, Food for Education Program, Nicaragua*

OVERVIEW

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.

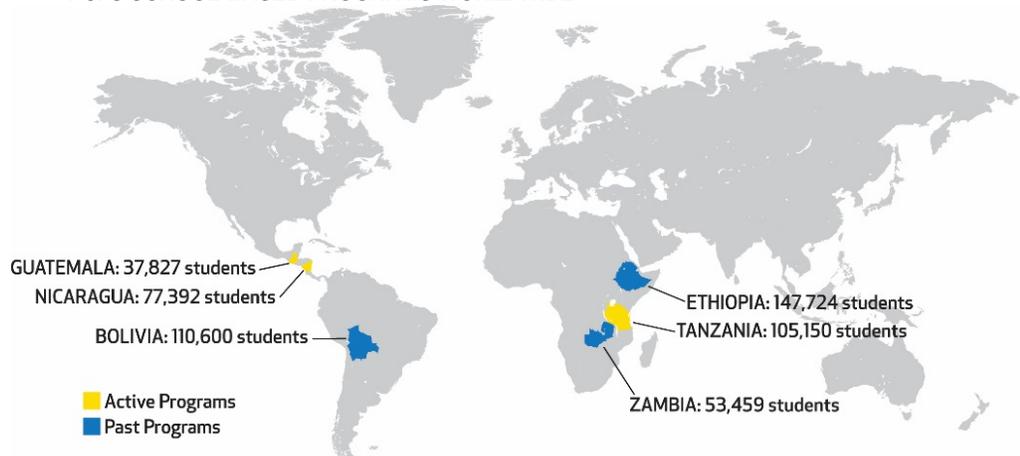
BUILDING ON SCHOOL PLATFORMS

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 across Africa, Asia and the Americas and, by extension, their families and communities. With funding from USDA’s McGovern-Dole Global Food for Education Program, the UN World Food Programme and PEPFAR, PCI has implemented school breakfast programs in **Bolivia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Tanzania and Zambia**, including current USDA-funded programs in Guatemala, Nicaragua 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.

Engaging key stakeholders in the planning and implementation of complementary activities is key to ensuring that PCI’s programs are sustained beyond the lifecycle of any particular project. All participating schools benefit from complementary activities, such as:

- Strengthening parent-teacher associations
- Teacher training in participatory teaching methodologies and techniques
- School-garden construction and nutrition education
- Economic empowerment support to caregivers of school children
- Health promotion activities, including deworming and vitamin supplements

PCI’S SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS WORLDWIDE



CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING TOOLS

SUSTAINABLE PROGRAMMING

From the start, PCI works to ensure that all stakeholders involved in its school-based programs - 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.

Journey of Life: In Botswana, PCI is employing the Journey of Life (JOL) methodology, a technique designed to sensitize and mobilize communities for effective action to ensure a child succeeds on its "journey of life" from birth to adulthood. This highly effective process for both adults and children brings a diverse range of community actors together to address shared community concerns like a child's education. External evaluators found that students benefiting from PCI's JOL activities felt more appreciated, developed more trust in teachers participating in JOL, and were able to talk more openly about sensitive issues. By combining increased awareness of problems with action to do something about them, participating students and teachers experience improved self-esteem, confidence and a sense of ownership.

Say and Play: While school-aged orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) may be reached with a variety of services, those children too young to attend school are often unable to access education and other OVC-related support services. Since 2008, PCI has been a leader in engaging communities to develop materials that address a universal gap in providing psychosocial support to OVC under 7 years old in Zambia. *Say and Play* is a unique, easy-to-understand tool that helps children from three to six years old express themselves naturally through pictures, stories and games. *Say and Play* also helps adults to talk to their children about difficult subjects such as sexual abuse and death of a parent, listen to young children talk about their concerns as well as plans for the future, and mobilize change in their communities for a healthier and safer environment for young children. PCI is currently providing training to local and international agencies to take the model to scale.

ADDRESSING EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF HIGHLY MOBILE CHILDREN

Vocational Training & Services for Street & Working Children: An estimated 100,000 children and youth are living and working on the streets of Delhi alone. These children might escape to the streets to be free of abuse or neglect, or they might be abandoned by their caregivers. A lack of access to adequate food and shelter leaves them extremely vulnerable to disease and further abuse. PCI's Children and Youth Legacy Program provides services to children and youth through its shelter home and vocational training center. By providing life skills training, education and healthcare, children are prepared to attend public schools. Vocational training equips young adults, primarily girls, with the skills they need to pursue post-secondary education and secure apprenticeships and formal employment.

For the past 15 years, PCI's Children and Youth Legacy Program has transformed the lives of more than 60,000 of India's most vulnerable children and youth.

Strengthening Support Networks for Youth: For over a decade, PCI has worked to address the unique needs of vulnerable children of all ages in Zambia through *KidSAFE* (Shelter, Advocacy, Food and Education), a network of grassroots organizations working to meet the most basic needs of children living and working on the street through shelter, food, medical care, counseling, HIV/AIDS prevention, and livelihood skills training through a wide-range of services including mobile health clinics, street outreach programs, economic empowerment, and family re-integration. At drop-in centers, *KidSAFE* provides literacy, numeracy and life skills training, along with food and medical care. Over 7,000 children benefited from *KidSAFE*, with more than 1,000 children being withdrawn from the streets and thousands more enrolled in school.



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