



FOOD FOR EDUCATION

for healthy & productive futures



SUSTAINABILITY

From inception, PCI works to ensure that key stakeholders including parents, teachers and local governments are committed to the program and equipped to support the continued 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** which 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 which is critical to sustaining the school feeding programs and complementary activities long-term.

“PCI awakened us. They encouraged us and made us realize that we were able to change our situation.”

- Juana Geleno, mother of two schoolchildren in Taleno, Nicaragua, where parents mobilized to build a school for their community.

PCI'S INTEGRATED APPROACH

Quality education is fundamental to securing futures for children, development of their communities, gender equality, 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 schoolchildren worldwide.

With funding from USDA's McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, the UN World Food Program 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. These programs seek to sustainably improve student literacy and nutrition by building the capacity of schools, communities and local governments in the areas of literacy education, student health and nutrition, infrastructure, and community engagement.

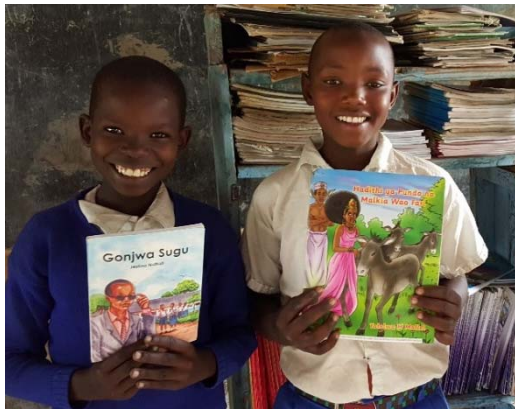
PCI is currently providing over 250,000 meals per day in 1,640 schools throughout Nicaragua, Guatemala and Tanzania.

LITERACY: PCI supports quality education and targeted literacy interventions through a variety of approaches, with an emphasis on improving reading in grades 1 through 3. In all participating schools, PCI trains teachers in improved literacy teaching methodologies and provides them with instructional materials; ensures that students have access to textbooks and other learning materials; and equips classrooms with mini-libraries and basic supplies. In **Nicaragua**, PCI is collaborating with the Ministry of Education to train 1,800 teachers in the “FAS” reading methodology (which in English stands for Phonetic, Analytic and Synthetic), a new teaching approach which had been stalled due to the government's limited resources. PCI is also providing scholarships to certify 200 teachers in an effort to address a widespread problem of teachers lacking formal education credentials that in turn prevent them from receiving salaries from the Ministry of Education.

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 including the importance of good hygiene practices, proper nutrition, and the importance of clean water. School gardens are used as a hands-on participatory learning tool to teach children about the importance of consuming nutrient rich fruits and vegetables. They are taught the skills necessary to produce healthy foods like leafy greens, broccoli,



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cauliflower, tomatoes, and carrots on school demonstration farms that in turn are served in the school meals. PCI also works with local ministries of health to provide Vitamin A supplements and deworming medications to children. In **Guatemala**, locally-established Sustainability Commissions and school PTAs organize school fairs throughout the year to raise enthusiasm and support for education and share best practices across participating schools and communities. The fairs provide ideal opportunities to promote hygiene, health and nutrition practices and for parents to provide cooking demonstrations featuring the nutritious foods produced.

IMPROVED SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE: PCI improves learning environments for children through infrastructure upgrades such as construction and repairs of school latrines, hand washing systems, and environmentally-friendly stoves. PCI's approach ensures that local stakeholders are invested and take ownership for projects through cash and in-kind contributions, as well as volunteer labor. In **Nicaragua**, local stakeholders including municipal authorities and parents contributed in-kind donations of rock, sand, wood, and physical labor in helping to construct or repair 418 latrines, 400 water systems and/or hand washing stations, and over 412 kitchens. PCI ensures that schools have separate latrines for boys and girls to eliminate cultural barriers that can limit access to education.

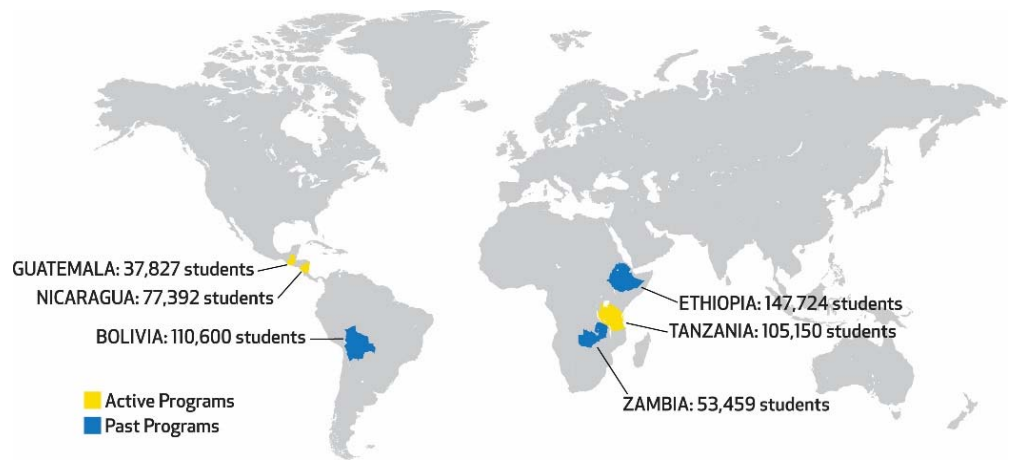
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: In all of its programs, PCI focuses on developing local community participation and commitment. This process includes complementary activities focused on the development of leadership skills within parent-teacher associations and income-generating activities for vulnerable families, enabling them to keep their children in school. PCI ensures that all schools maintain an active Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) and provides them with training and ongoing support in leadership skills development. PCI currently works with over 1,400 PTAs worldwide in planning for sustainable school feeding program management.

In **Tanzania**, farmers and schools are partnering to increase and enhance food production and nutrition for thousands of students. To date, PCI has connected 30 farmer groups with participating schools, which together with local parents, have donated 12 metric tons of food to support school meals.

ABOUT PCI

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PCI'S SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS WORLDWIDE



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