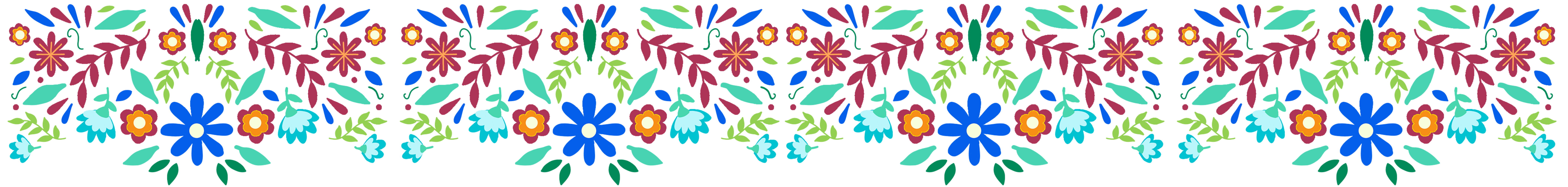


VIA INTERNATIONAL AND THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



On 1 January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit — officially came into force. Over the next fifteen years, with these new Goals that universally apply to all, countries will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

The SDGs, also known as Global Goals, build on the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and aim to go further to end all forms of poverty. The new Goals are unique in that they call for action by all countries, poor, rich and middle-income to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and addresses a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

It is useful to reflect on how the work of Via International fits into the global context and what our role is in addressing poverty, social injustices and spreading learning about simple processes that contribute to integrated responses that achieve human and community development goals.

The goals are shown below and the table demonstrates how Via initiatives fit in and respond to these global intentions.





No Poverty / Combating Poverty

End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

- Extreme poverty has been cut by more than half since 1990- however, more than 1 in 5 people live on less than \$1.25 a day.
- Poverty is more than a lack of income or resources- it includes a lack of basic services, such as education, hunger, social discrimination and exclusion, and lack of participation in decision-making.
- Gender inequality plays a large role in the perpetuation of poverty and its risks; They then face potentially life-threatening risks from early pregnancy and often lost hope for an education and a better income.
- Age groups are affected differently when struck with poverty; its most devastating effects are on children, to whom it poses a great threat. It affects their education, health, nutrition, and security. It also negatively affects the emotional and spiritual development of children through the environment it creates.

- Programs are located in communities where incomes are below the poverty line.
- Initiatives offer popular education, nutrition intervention, inclusive processes and call for full participation in decision-making.
- Women are primary participants in programs; having access to education and income opportunities.
- Children are key participants in nutrition and environmental programs. They are the beneficiaries of many of the infrastructure projects in schools.

Quality Education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

- Major progress has been made for education access, specifically at the primary school level, for both boys and girls. However, access does not always mean the quality of education or completion of primary school. Currently, 103 million youth worldwide still lack basic literacy skills, and more than 60 percent of them are women.
- Target 1 "By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and Goal-4 effective learning outcomes"- shows the commitment to nondiscriminatory education outcomes.

- Via provides nutrition and ecology programs in schools and as lifelong education for mothers. In our Formation and Education for Promotoras program, women are offered opportunities to complete secondary education, and includes a literacy component.
- Many of our service projects are focused on improving school facilities, and providing a dignified and safe place for children to learn.

Zero Hunger

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

- Globally, 1 in 9 people are undernourished, and the vast majority of these people live in developing countries.
- Agriculture is the single largest employer in the world, providing livelihoods for 40 percent of today's global population. It is the largest source of income and jobs for poor rural households. Women comprise on average 43 percent of the agricultural labor force in developing countries and over 50 percent in parts of Asia and Africa, yet they only own 20% of the land.
- Poor nutrition causes nearly half (45 percent) of deaths in children under five – 3.1 million children each year.

Family Health and Food Security programs are focused on food security and ecology (gardens).

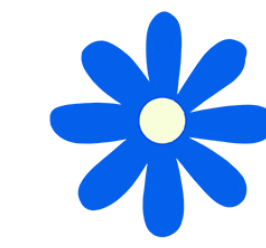
- Children in our communities suffer from under and malnutrition. Those undernourished are stunted, and obesity is also prevalent.
- Ecology programs encourage family gardens, and/or support the development of agricultural family income (honey, cactus).
- In some communities where we work poor nutrition contributes to child death from respiratory diseases and other child-related illness.

Gender Equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

- Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large.
- While a record 143 countries guaranteed equality between men and women in their Constitutions by 2014, another 52 had not taken this step. In many nations, gender discrimination is still woven through legal and social norms.
- Though goal 5 is the gender equality stand-alone goal- the SDG's can only be successful if women are completely integrated into each and every goal.

- The Formation and Education of Promotoras program supports women to access higher education.
- Micro Credit offers opportunities for self-employment and decision-making around family income.
- All programs provide opportunities for full participation on the part of women, men, youth, and children and encourage engagement across sector barriers (age, race, etc).



Good Health and Well-being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

- Significant strides have been made in increasing life expectancy and reducing some of the common killers associated with child and maternal mortality, and major progress has been made in increasing access to clean water and sanitation, reducing malaria, tuberculosis, polio, and the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- However, only half of women in developing countries have received the health care they need, and the need for family planning is increasing exponentially, while the need met is growing slowly - more than 225 million women have an unmet need for contraception.

An important target is to substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from pollution-related diseases.

- Family Health and Food Security programs provide healthy options for communities struggling with diabetes, heart disease, and obesity. Through ESTIMA we seek to diminish the spread of HIV/AIDS and STDs.
- Our promotoras serve as references for family health and referrals to medical professionals when needed.
- In Guatemala, the programs support school infrastructure that alleviates water borne illness and respiratory problems from open fires.

Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Underlying all our work are inclusive practices promoting social justice and the well-being of the families and communities we serve. We share these principles with all visitors and volunteers.

Partnerships for the Goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Our volunteer programs provide a rich context for visitors/volunteers to learn and return home with an awareness of sustainable development practices.

Clean Water and Sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Ecology programs encourage water stewardship. Central Mexico supports water catchment.

Life on Land

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Not a focus of our work, but modest efforts are made to include water stewardship, recycling and the creation of items from recycling, and the production of compost from household waste to enhance family gardens.

Decent Work and Economic Growth

Decent Work and Economic Growth - Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

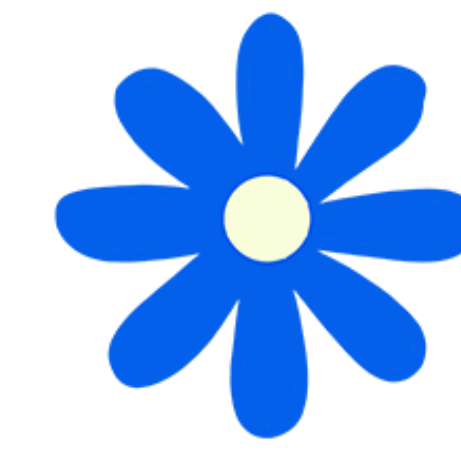
Microcredit offers opportunities for home businesses for families with children. Volunteer tourism contributes to the economy and community.

Reduced Inequalities

Reduce income inequality within and among countries.

Providing avenues for higher education and access to credit moves more families to higher income brackets.

Sustainable Development



Via International
Integrated Community Development

ECONOMY

Volunteer Travel
Micro Enterprise

SOCIETY

Peace and Social Justice
Leadership Education
Formation of Promotoras
School Infrastructure
Health
Nutrition

BIOSPHERE

Community/Family Gardens
Recycling/Ecology