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6 international organizations that support jobs and businesses

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1. Miracles in Action - Guatemala

Operating in the Central American country of Guatemala, Miracles in Action works to help impoverished individuals help themselves in the areas of education, vocation, and sustainable development. At the turn of the 21st century, flight attendant Penny Rambacher and her mother, Noreen, visited a Guatemalan garbage dump in which families lived and worked; the younger Rambacher, shocked by the quality of life there, vowed to return and bring supplies to those in need. Using her employee discount on flights certainly helped her accomplish this, but she changed the focus of her efforts after realizing that material aid was only a temporary solution to poverty. In 2004, the Miracles in Action foundation was created, and the construction of a school was funded for and organized by the Rambachers a year later. Today, Miracles in Action continues to support schools as launchpads for long-term growth and progress; the 25th school was finished in 2010. The foundation also provides Guatemalans with vocational and teacher training, student scholarships, water filters, and vented stoves.

2. Lambi Fund - Haiti

With an overall goal of supporting the popular democratic movement in its country, the Lambi Fund of Haiti sees civil society as the foundation for development. The word lambi is the Haitian-Creole term for a conch shell; at the turn of the 19th century, the call of the conch shell organized Haitian slaves against the colonizing French. Today, the fund uses the conch shell as a symbol for coming together as a community. This is certainly true of its 1994 founding, as Haitians, Haitian-Americans, and Americans collaborated to better the lives of those living in the west half of Hispaniola. With the social and economic empowerment of the Haitian people in mind, the Lambi Fund finances the activities of local organizations, along with providing them with resources. In order to qualify for this backing, these groups need to be nonviolent and nonpartisan, and work in the following areas: advancement of women, educational and training empowerment, and overall promotion of democracy. Reforestation efforts are also part of the Lambi Fund’s pursuits.

3. Develop Africa - 5 African countries

The African continent is often the focus of charitable organizations, and Develop [Africa](#) is no exception. Working in the

countries of [Cameroon](#), [The Gambia](#), [Kenya](#), [Sierra Leone](#), and [Liberia](#), this nonprofit believes that human resource development is the catalyst for what it terms “nation-building capacity.” This will result in “an African continent fully developed in terms of its human and resource capacity.” To accomplish this, Develop Africa has a four-pronged strategic mandate involving transformational education, resource development, investment training, and strategic empowerment. Prospective donors can sponsor a child, along with funding computer equipment, books and school supplies, and mosquito nets. All of these means of support contribute to individuals furthering their entrepreneurship in the professional world. For the arm of Develop Africa that promotes business, microfinance loans – usually less than \$200 – are made to budding entrepreneurs to start or expand a small business. What this does, Develop Africa says, is gradually lift individuals out poverty; lives are changed forever, and so are entire communities.

4. TECHO - 19 Latin American and Caribbean countries

Working in 19 Latin American and [Caribbean](#) countries – too many to list here – TECHO forms partnerships between impoverished families and volunteer youths in efforts to overcome poverty and set up long-term human development. Also known as Un Techo Para Mi País – Spanish for “a roof for my country” – TECHO was founded in 1997 and today has three strategic objectives: community development in slums, social awareness and action, and political advocacy. To accomplish these, the organization utilizes what it terms a community intervention model. The model’s three parts are as follows. In the initial phase, volunteers enter slums and diagnose them, along with first engaging with community members. The second phase is marked by joint work projects like the construction of transitional housing and community meetings, in which long-term solutions to local issues are developed. Finally, these work projects are wrapped up, and volunteers organize residents. Multinational corporations such as [JPMorgan Chase](#) and [DHL](#) have partnered with TECHO in its work.

5. EcoLogic - 4 Central American countries and Mexico

One thing always leads to the next. This is certainly true of the work of EcoLogic, which utilizes the restoration, conservation, and protection of the environment to produce sustainable livelihoods and human development. The organization operates in [Mexico](#) and the Central American countries of [Belize](#), Guatemala, [Honduras](#), and [Panama](#). EcoLogic isn’t your average nonprofit in terms of swooping in and doing everything itself: instead, it puts individuals and communities in charge of the work need for long-term growth and sustainability. This work is divided into five areas: water resource management, forest conservation, the CarbonPlus program, payment for ecosystem services, and sustainable livelihood alternatives. What has made EcoLogic’s activities successful is the organization’s learning philosophy: “We learn from our partners and collaborators, as they do from us, and we look for ways to spread the lessons we have learned together to other villages, communities, provinces and countries. ... We transform the activities of individuals into an expanding mosaic of complementary effort and impact.”

6. Border Partners - Mexico and the United States

Community building is essential to the work of any charitable organization. So it must be even more important to Border Partners, a group working with two towns literally right next to each other on the US-[Mexico](#) border! Operating primarily in Puerto Palomas – a small Mexican town on the border of Mexico and New Mexico – Border Partners describes its activities as bringing resources to address needs, which in turn help people create change. Families often have members on both sides of the border; the only hospital in the area is not in Palomas, but in a [New Mexico](#) town 45 minutes away. Palomas unfortunately faces even more challenges: an unemployment rate of 80 percent, no government assistance, no banks, no natural gas, little firewood. So to face these challenges, Border Partners helps people help themselves in four areas: education, health and recreation, sustainable technology, and economic growth. The first three of these help individuals increase the value of their human capital, and the fourth helps individuals and businesses alike.

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