Girls and Women

padf.org/girls-and-women

Strong Women, Strong Communities

Though poverty rates have decreased dramatically in Latin America and the Caribbean in recent years, the region still has some of the greatest income inequality in the world. PADF believes that empowering women and girls is will lessen that inequality. Today, vulnerable populations are disproportionately female and are largely found in indigenous, Afro-descendant or communities displaced by conflict.

Providing girls and women with increased access to education, jobs, healthcare, and other services has a substantial ripple effect, improving not only individual quality of life, but also that of the surrounding community. We know that girls and women multiply the impact of investments by extending the benefits far beyond themselves. They are heads of families, leaders in their communities, business owners, and change-makers. Through our programs, PADF takes a nuanced approach to combatting inequality, assisting communities through targeted support to girls and women.

Leadership and Participation

Ensuring women’s participation in civic and community dialogues

Women are rarely given a platform to voice their needs, and those of their community. However, as heads of households and caregivers, they are often in position to assess these needs best. In order to empower women, PADF works within communities to create education and awareness around the importance of giving voice to women. PADF takes pride in ensuring that women’s voices are not only heard, but acted upon, in all of our programming.
Social Inclusion

*Promoting the equitable inclusion of women and girls in project activities*

Social inclusion is a measurement of equal access to services. An increased participation of women in the labor force has already reduced extreme poverty by 30 percent, proving that women are an integral part of any economy. PADF views social inclusion as a vehicle for social change and a means to create sustainable economic prosperity in the region.

Economic Empowerment

*Stimulating inclusive environments that encourage the growth and success of women and girls*

Women who are able to support themselves economically are empowered to dream bigger. To empower female entrepreneurs, PADF provides technical assistance, business training, counseling and connects women with local business associations and banking institutions to obtain seed capital. In some instances we provide in-cash assistance or matching grants to help grow women’s businesses.

Life Skills

*Focusing on initiatives that equip girls and women to combat violence and other external pressures in order to realize their own potential*

PADF aims for girls and women to come away from our programs with a comprehensive toolkit of life skills to draw upon and pass on to their own daughters and friends. This includes teaching women about effective nutrition and sanitation; facilitating access to education; teaching job application and interviewing skills; and building self-esteem to help shield women from gender-based violence.

About PADF

The Pan American Development Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, brings together many stakeholders to improve livelihoods, empower communities, strengthen civil society, support human rights, protect the environment and respond to natural disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean. Established by the Organization of American States in 1962, PADF has worked in every country in the region. In 2017, PADF reached more than 10 million people in 16 Latin American and Caribbean countries.

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