

DOS CORRIENTES JOURNAL

Issue 6, Published February, 2021 from Liguiki, Ecuador
Visit Dos Corrientes at www.doscorrientes.com

In this issue:

- Introduction
- First Some Facts
- Hunger, Malnutrition and Stunting.
- Lack of Education
- An Economic Engine
- The Dos Corrientes Solution: Industry in the form of an Ecovillage.

Welcome to the Dos Corrientes Journal

Yesterday while walking along the beach that is on the western boundary of the Dos Corrientes farm, a woman tossed a pebble into the ocean. It didn't seem like much as the Pacific is so vast but the question arose, "How far will the ripples go"? Possibly as far as the other side of the world, but as they travel, they will change. Could the same be said for the impact of the Dos Corrientes project? A ripple with the potential to reach the other side of the world?

The answer is still in question. As businesses go, Dos Corrientes is still in its infancy having passed only its second anniversary. Yet accomplishments to date have been many. Several of these were chronicled in last month's Journal. A reasonable amount of research indicates that the Dos Corrientes project has a distinct and unique character. There are thousands of projects that are interested in solutions to alleviate poverty and additionally there are many that are interested in finding ways to decrease hunger and malnutrition. Yet despite all of that, the blend of food sovereignty, skill-based education coupled with an economic driver to propel industry and employment seems to stand alone. That's the Dos Corrientes model! It's just a matter of time until more people find out about what Dos Corrientes is doing and the excellent results of the organization. Hopefully the ripple effect will take hold and they will want to emulate what is being done in Ecuador. In March for example, an article was written about Dos Corrientes in a monthly magazine with a readership of several thousand expats residing throughout Ecuador. As well, there have already been indications of international interest through Instagram and word of mouth. A small but steady ripple.



Welcome to issue #6.

First Some Facts

For most of us, living on less than \$2 a day seems far removed from reality. But it is the reality for roughly 800 million people around the globe. Approximately 10% of the global population lives in extreme poverty, meaning that they're living below the poverty line of \$1.90 per day. While the rural poor in Ecuador as a whole don't fall into this low-income group, they suffer similar

There's no one catchall solution to poverty, nor is there a single cause of poverty. In fact, most cases of poverty in 2021 are the result of a combination of factors. Understanding what these factors are and how they work together is a critical step to sustainably ending poverty. Almost one quarter of the population in Ecuador lives in poverty, most of them in rural areas. The poverty rate in rural Ecuador was 43% in 2018, almost triple the urban rate (15.9%). The higher poverty rate is attributable to high unemployment (other than in fishing, almost 85% in Liguíqui), low fishing income and limited access to technology, water, credit and deficient market understanding.

Families with low incomes are at risk of experiencing poor health outcomes due to reduced access to healthcare services, barriers to living a healthy lifestyle and stress related to living with limited resources. Families in rural areas lack access to important health and human services because of limited transportation options, lack of accessibility to healthcare providers and social services. In addition, there is significant physical and social isolation.

Living on a low income can reduce a family's ability to overcome these challenges and obtain the services they need such as public assistance programs to address food insecurity and healthcare services such as preventive screenings, oral healthcare, behavioural health, and family planning services.

Dos Corrientes is Responding!

Hunger, Malnutrition and Stunting

You might think that poverty causes hunger and you would be right! But hunger is also a cause and maintainer of poverty. If a person doesn't get enough food, they'll lack the strength and energy needed to work. Or their immune system will weaken from malnutrition and leave them more susceptible to illness that prevents them from getting to work.

This can lead to a vicious cycle, especially for children. For children born into low-income families, health is also a key asset to their breaking the cycle of poverty. However, if a mother is malnourished during pregnancy, that can be passed on to her children. The costs of malnutrition becomes generational.

The Dos Corrientes Solution: The "Backyard Garden System". The second course in food production for all will start shortly. The curriculum and materials have been prepared and teaching dates are being finalized.



Lack of Education

Not every person without an education is living in poverty. But most adults who are in this condition did not receive a quality education. And, if they have children, they're likely passing that on to them. There are many barriers to education in rural Ecuador, including a lack of money for uniforms, books, technology and transportation. Education is often referred to as the great equalizer. That's because it can open the door to jobs and other resources and skills that a family needs not just to survive but to thrive. UNESCO estimates that 171 million people could be lifted out of extreme poverty if they left school with basic reading skills. Poverty threatens education, but education can also help end poverty.

The Dos Corrientes Solution: Skill-based Education Program. This program is underway and while it is still evolving, the results so far are excellent. In addition, our relationship with universities in both Ecuador and Canada will enhance the course material. Once that education is obtained, it is necessary to connect it with mentoring and employment. For example, there are many unemployed engineers in Ecuador due to the lack of growth and development. Dos Corrientes has contracted four engineers and two students to develop the alternative energy systems for the project.

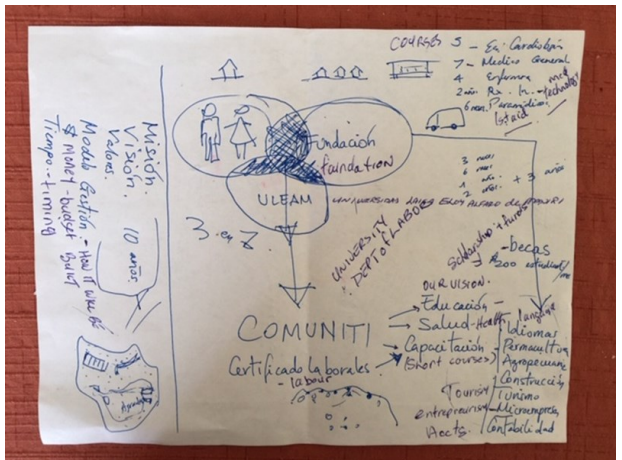


An Economic Engine

If the popular mantra of “jobs, jobs, jobs” seems familiar, it’s because you’ve heard it before in political campaigns. In their article, “10 Ways to Reduce Poverty in the World”, the Borgen Project suggests “Create and improve access to jobs and income and develop entrepreneurial talent”. This is where it gets really exciting for Dos Corrientes!

The Dos Corrientes Solution: Industry in the form of an Ecovillage.

The founders of Dos Corrientes had the good fortune to meet Miguel Camino in 2010. At the time, Miguel was a professor of architecture at the Universidad Laica Eloy Alfaro de Manabi (ULEAM). A friendship followed and Miguel became very interested in some of the early ideas for Dos Corrientes. He particularly liked the blending of skill-based education and the growth of industry in Liguiqui,



coupled with food production. When Miguel later became the Dean of ULEAM his vision for expanding opportunities for his university blended with that of Dos Corrientes and during a casual lunch and on the back of a placemat our combined visions were first put to paper. (We all understood his English translations).

From there, a formal agreement was signed whereby both parties agreed to work together for the betterment of Liguiqui, the Province of Manabi and the country of Ecuador

The university would use their faculty and student resources for research and teaching skill-based courses. These courses would be on construction trades, tourism, business, engineering and architecture. Lasting anywhere from six months to two years, the courses would lead to certification from ULEAM. While the university would teach the courses, Dos Corrientes would provide the facilities for practical aspects of the student's education and industry where employment would follow.



It made sense in the Dos Corrientes model for industry to utilize resources that are natural to the area. Liguiqui, the village that is served by Dos Corrientes, is on the coast of Ecuador. The beach is beautiful and the sea is full of a variety of fish species; consequently the area has been populated for thousands of years. Many archeological findings are still intact.

It was decided to build on the back of tourism to create an opportunity for industry; to enhance this opportunity an ecovillage will be built.

The ecovillage will provide a place for practical education and employment for construction trades, marketing, administration, civil and electrical engineering and tourism. This conception blends with the sustainable philosophy of Dos Corrientes which is made up of three pillars: the economy, society, and the environment.



With great sadness, we were advised in 2020 that our dear friend and co-convisionary Miguel Camino passed away from the effects of Covid-19. The main road in the farm is named after him, "Miguel Camino Way".

"Art has a great mission. Through great art, cruelty and lust for dominance are forced out and replaced by empathy and passion for others which serve us better both individually and collectively. This is the purpose of art" – Leo Tolstoy

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donations will be directed to Dos Corrientes through the University of the Fraser Valley and a tax receipt will be issued.

DONATE