



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS



WHAT WE DO

At the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), we believe in promoting sustainable livelihoods. We help people acquire the means to support themselves and their families, control their own destinies, and be self-reliant in a way that is socially, financially, and environmentally sustainable. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Latin America and the Caribbean was in a period of slow growth and facing increasing climate change threats. With the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, sustainable livelihoods are as, or even more, important than ever.

IN 2020 PADF SUPPORTED OVER
1.1 MILLION PEOPLE
IN THE AFTERMATH OF COVID-19 THROUGHOUT THE REGION WITH CASH, SUPPLIES & OTHER ASSISTANCE.

HOW DO WE PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS?

EDUCATION

Through our education programs, we work to bridge the digital divide and prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow. With support from strong private sector partners like Boeing and Royal Caribbean, we introduce students and teachers to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) or STEAM (including art) education.

EMPLOYABILITY

We reskill and upskill those who are entering or are already in the workforce to help them secure new jobs or start businesses. Our programs support Venezuelan migrants in adapting to their new host countries through vocational and language classes, skills training, and mentorship. In the Caribbean, we use specialized curriculum and life-coaching to help vulnerable youth realize their potential and access employment opportunities.

WE FOCUS ON THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PEOPLE, PRODUCTION, AND PLANET TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH.

PEOPLE

PADF supports vulnerable groups enter the job market or launch their own businesses. We help them access new capital, train for jobs, and learn from mentors and coaches.



PRODUCTION

PADF works with producers in the blue and green economies to introduce new production models and methods. This leads to higher yields, more income, and preserves key ecosystems.



PLANET

PADF supports businesses and workers in the blue economy, green economy, nature-based solutions, and renewable energy sectors.



A hemisphere of opportunity. For all.

www.padf.org

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) are the economic backbone of Latin America and the Caribbean. They are responsible for 60% of jobs created in the formal sector. However, these businesses struggle with low productivity and competitiveness, often maintain poor working conditions, and have difficulty accessing capital. MSMEs have been particularly hard-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. At PADF, we use incubators and accelerators to help local start-ups get off the ground, encourage their growth with access to capital, business support, and advisory services. We partner with them to promote innovation, create sustainable jobs, and employ vulnerable populations.

ENVIRONMENT

The Latin America and Caribbean region is the world's largest provider of ecosystem services, and it supplies an important share of the world's food supply. It is critical to empower communities to protect and manage the natural resources in the region. Fortunately, investing in the environment does not mean sacrificing jobs or growth. At PADF we believe that investing in agroforestry, nature-based solutions, blue economy, and renewable energy is the path forward. We train local farmers in using agroforestry techniques to both generate revenue and protect the forest ecosystems. We promote the circular economy by creating jobs for recyclers, and we advocate for alternative energy solutions.

TOOLS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS



TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Nimble and adaptive, we incorporate technology and other innovations into our solutions, such as remote monitoring, Earth from Space data, GIS mapping, massive open online courses (MOOCs), and more. In Haiti, we are using drones to monitor coastlines and identify pollution hotspots.



IMPACT CAPITAL

We recognize the need for inclusive financing to achieve development goals. We can work with a variety of donors (corporations, foundations, development finance institutions, and development banks) and partners (financial intermediaries, chambers of commerce, incubators and accelerators, fintech, and microfinance institutions) and leverage different types of capital (concessional, debt, equity and blended funds) to support sustainability.



SOCIAL INCLUSION

We are firmly committed to creating a hemisphere of opportunity for all. We work to ensure the inclusion of women and girls, migrants and displaced populations, youth, indigenous groups, afro-descendants, and members of the LGBTQ+ community.

ABOUT PADF

PADF believes in creating a hemisphere of opportunity, for all. We work across Latin America and the Caribbean to make our region stronger—more healthy, peaceful, just, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable for current and future generations. For nearly 60 years, we have served the most vulnerable communities, investing resources throughout the hemisphere. We partner with and enable civil society, governments, and the private sector for the greater good of the region.

STAY CONNECTED!

SOWMYA KRISHNAMOORTHY
Economic Opportunities Practice Area Leader
skrishnamoorthy@padf.org

