

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, POVERTY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Washington State is home to many non-profits, foundations, companies, universities and communities that are alleviating poverty and promoting economic development and social justice through innovative technology and product development, research and education, policy and advocacy. Our findings show diverse non-profit and academic contributions, with opportunities to expand the private sector's engagement with issues of economic development, poverty and social justice.

### Economic development, poverty alleviation and social justice work in Washington State:

- 163 non-profit organizations & foundations address poverty and promote economic development and social justice internationally
- 99 non-profit organizations & foundations focus on global economic development, poverty and social justice within the U.S.
- 74 private sector companies alleviate poverty and promote economic development and social justice through product development, business practices and philanthropy
- 64 university-based centers produce world-class poverty, economic development and social justice research, engage in community outreach and teach the next generation of global citizens

### NON-PROFIT AND PHILANTHROPY STRENGTHS

Surveys were completed by 186 non-profit organizations and foundations addressing issues of economic development, poverty and social justice.

#### Core Competencies

- **Community leadership:** 111 organizations focus on community development, and 97 focus on education & literacy.
- **Social justice:** 67 non-profits address inequality, 38 promote human rights, 32 support democracy and political participation and 20 focus on fair trade.
- **Economic development:** 59 groups promote employment and income generation, 32 specialize in microfinance, and 12 focus on international trade.
- **Technology:** 32 organizations contribute to transportation issues and 28 to internet and communication technologies.
- **Global focus:** 12 organizations hold expertise in foreign policy, international trade and/or fair trade, 19 focus on security, conflict and violence and 12 on migration.

#### Approaches

- **Public awareness, education & training:** These approaches predominate within the non-profit and foundation sector.
- **A focus on skills and services:** 41% of organizations provide service delivery and capacity building skills, 40% focus on technology assistance and 18% on technology development.
- **Collaboration:** 77% of the non-profit organizations and foundations identified that they collaborate with other organizations domestically and 40% have collaborations internationally, mainly with other non-profits.

#### Global Reach

- Washington's non-profit poverty, economic development and social justice organizations work on all continents, and focus on both international and domestic issues. 51% work internationally, with 49% contributing their efforts domestically. The greatest number of non-profits work internationally in the Americas (58), followed by Asia (43) and Africa (42).

### Washington's Non-Profits at Work Worldwide

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE** has collaborated in India with SEEMA and UASB to build the capacity, knowledge and understanding of those NGOs to independently provide ongoing technical assistance to micro-plot land distribution programs.

**GLOBAL VISIONARIES** partners with Café Esperanza to fund-raise through directly traded, sustainable coffee. This ensures participation in the Global Visionaries program to educate and empower youth to become active community leaders and global citizens who promote social and environmental justice through community service at home and abroad.

**ESPERANZA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION** partnered with Microsoft to refurbish and prepare 9 computer centers in the Dominican Republic, providing over 6,500 young people with computer and business development skills.

## PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERSHIP

The study identified 74 companies headquartered in Washington State addressing poverty and promoting economic development and social justice through responsible corporate citizenship.

### Core Competencies

- **Education:** Washington State's companies improve education and increase literacy through both service provision (21 products and services) and philanthropic activities (68 projects).
- **Economic development and decreased inequality:** Over 100 philanthropic activities promote economic development and work to address economic and social inequality.
- **Job creation:** The private sector promotes sustainable development through a focus on employment and income generation activities through philanthropy (38 projects) and service provision (13 products and services).

### Approaches

- **Development of products and services:** 43 products and services have been identified that span a diversity of issues including international and fair trade, microfinance, income generation, transportation, and community building.
- **Responsible business practices:** 46 companies promote economic development and social justice and alleviate poverty through sustainable business principles and operations which range from employee gift and education programs to using fair trade products in their operations.
- **Leadership in philanthropy:** More than 90 philanthropic projects supported by Washington's businesses have been identified thus far, addressing a diversity of issues including the internet and communication (25), conflict and violence (11), human rights (28), housing (11), transportation (7) and microfinance (7).

### Global Reach

For the private sector, reach was determined only for philanthropic projects. 92 philanthropic activities were identified.

- **International emphasis:** 83 philanthropic projects had an international focus with 30 implemented in Asia, 14 carried out globally and 14 in Europe.

### Washington's Businesses at Work Worldwide

**MICROSOFT UNLIMITED POTENTIAL** is a long-term global business and citizenship commitment to bring the benefits of technology to 1 billion people by 2015, through partnerships with businesses, governments and NGOs worldwide.

**PURA VIDA COFFEE** is a specialty coffee company providing 100% fair trade, organic coffee. All proceeds benefit at-risk children in coffee growing countries.

**HOLLAND AMERICA LINE'S** employee and guest matching gift program contributed \$170,000 to the Indonesian Red Cross for victims of the 2004 Tsunami and \$210,000 to the American Red Cross for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

## UNIVERSITY EXCELLENCE

Across the six public four-year universities in Washington State, 64 centers address issues related to economic development, poverty and social justice.

### Core Competencies

- **Economic development:** 28 centers promote economic development, and 27 specialize in employment and income generation.
- **Inequality and rights:** 34 centers focus on economic and social inequality and 20 promote human rights.
- **Political and policy leadership:** 16 centers specialize in policy, 15 focus on security, conflict and violence, and 13 promote democracy.
- **Technology:** 18 centers demonstrate expertise in internet and communication technology and application.

### Approaches

- **Holistic approach:** Of the 64 centers in Washington State that address poverty and promote social justice, 24 also address environmental sustainability and 29 address global health concerns.

### Global Reach

- **Equal international and domestic focus:** 41 centers do international work, and 41 work domestically.

### Washington's Universities at Work Worldwide

**THE MARC LINDENBERG CENTER FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION, INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AT UW,** is a leader in issues of human security, good governance and responsible citizenship from the local to the global level.

**THE CENTER TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE AT WSU** provides a unique example of center-based work that is addressing inequality in access to technologies.

**THE INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AT WWU** focuses on building community capacity for disaster resiliency, as well as participatory processes in emergency planning here in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest.