



Building a Brighter Future:

Evaluating the Impact of Home
Upgrading by Youth Volunteers in
Latin America



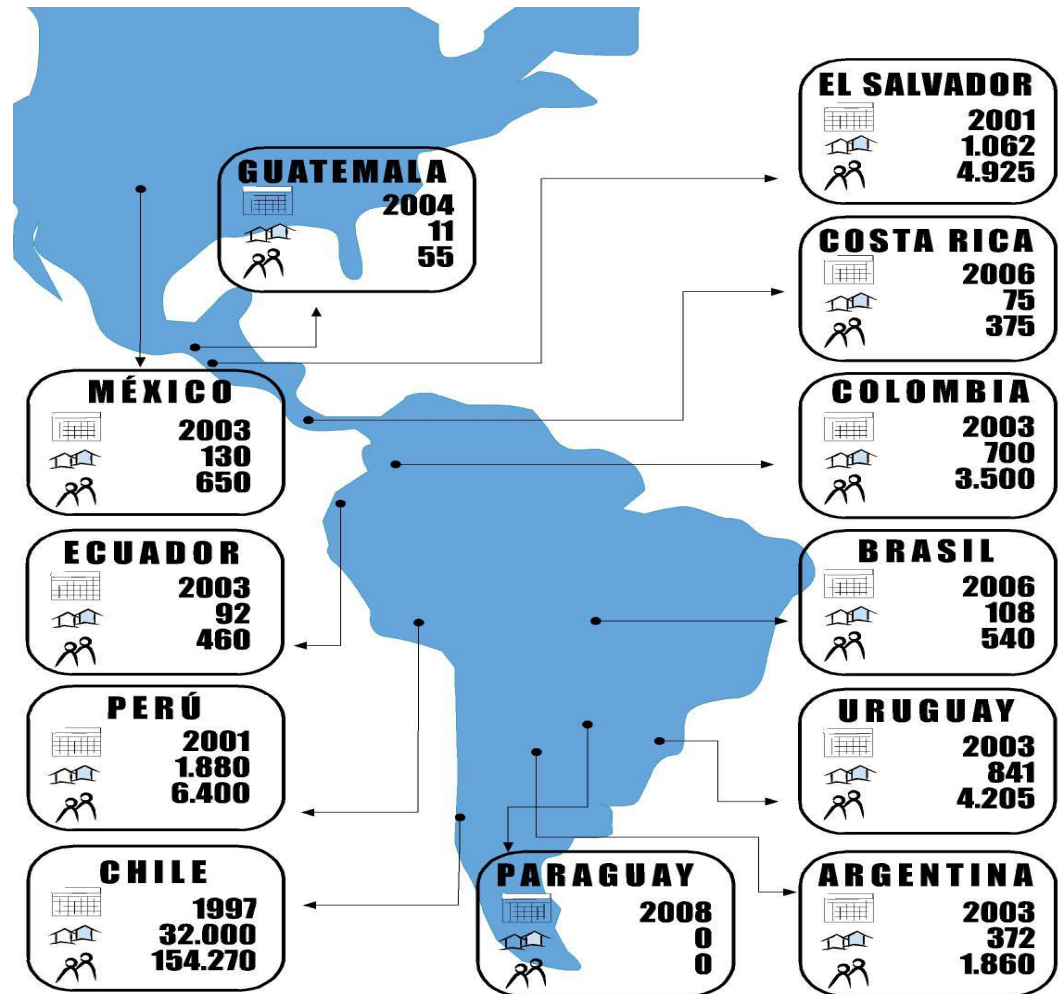
Un Techo Para Mi País (UTPMP)




- UTPMP – “A Roof for My Country”
- Youth led, volunteer based organization
- Founded in Chile in 1997 by a group of college students
- Provides improved/emergency housing for poor households
- Intervention funded through **corporate sponsors** and **IADB donation** to cover administration costs.
- Youth to actively contribute to the development of the “poorest of the poor” in their societies.

Regional Operations

**37 thousand
houses built**

**177.000
thousand
volunteers**



 Año inicio
  Casas construidas a Dic. - 2007
  Jóvenes movilizados

Improved Housing Structure



- 18 m² (6*3) wood or aluminum structure:
 - Raised off of the dirt floor
 - Weatherproof roof and walls
 - Improved ventilation
- Built in 1-2 days by a team of 6-12 volunteers
- Cost of materials: US \$1,000
 - beneficiary contribution of 10%

Selection of Beneficiary Households

1. Targeting of informal settlements with lowest marginality index in urban and rural areas
2. Within selected settlements, household eligibility is based on socio-economic status and housing characteristics
 - Proxy Means Test (PMT) includes:
 - Housing materials (\ waste materials such as cardboard, tin, plastic)
 - Presence of dirt floors
 - Absence of potable water and sewage
 - Per-capita income and consumption
 - Family size and composition
 - Health indicators

Evaluating the Impact of UTPMP

- 1) **Housing Evaluation:** Impact of the program on the welfare of the poor
 - Partnership with the World Bank and the University of California at Berkeley
 - Financing through World Bank Research Support Budget and DFID-ESRC grants
 - Baseline collected 2007-2008
- 2) **Volunteer Evaluation:** Impact of the program on youth volunteers
 - New component of the evaluation
 - Baseline scheduled for Fall 2008
 - Searching for funding sources

Identification Problem

- Fundamental Identification Problem.

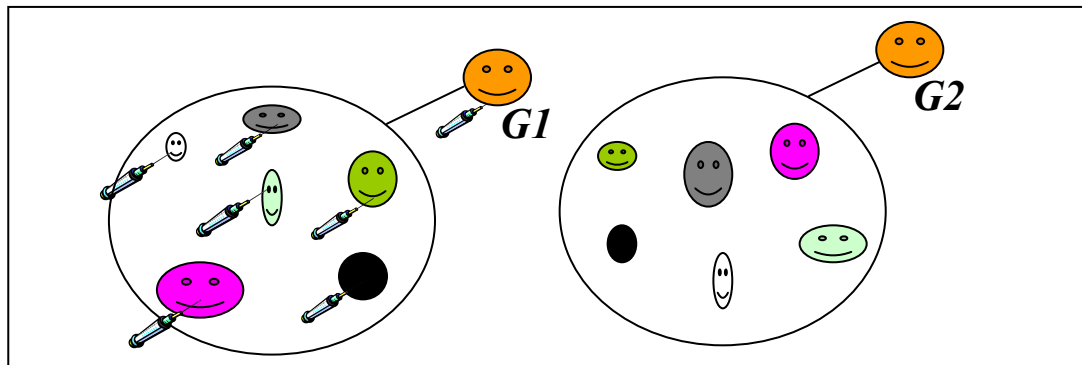
IDEAL WORLD



REAL WORLD



- Randomized experiment.



Housing Evaluation

- Three UTPMP countries: El Salvador, Peru, Uruguay
- Random assignment to treatment/control
- Two stage randomization:
 1. **Amongst eligible settlements**, select intervention areas at random
 2. **Within treatment settlements**, identify eligible households and assign to treatment/control

Evaluation Sample

In each evaluation country, collect sample of 1200 households:

- Treatment Group: 400 eligible families.
- Internal Control Group: 400 eligible families.
- External Control Group: 400 eligible families.

Total evaluation sample = 3600 households

** External Control Groups are created to measure possible spillovers of the house effect.*

Rich set of Socio-economic and Biometric Indicators

a) House Upgrading and Investment:

- Improvement in housing conditions
- Expenditure on housing improvements

b) Income and Labor Market Participation:

- Household income and/or consumption
- Labor market participation of adults and children
- School attendance of children

c) Happiness and Mental Health Outcomes:

- Measures of depression and perceived stress for mothers of children under 6 years old
- Female head of household satisfaction with house quality and quality of life

Indicators (continued)

d) Child Health Outcomes:

- Maternal reported **diarrhea** in children in the last four weeks
- Stool samples to determine the presence of various types of **parasites in fecal matter**
- **Anthropometrics** statistics to measure stunting and wasting
- **Anemia** finger prick test

e) Cognitive Development Outcomes:

- Vocabulary Test applied to children 3 to 5 years old.
- Ages and Stages Cognitive Test applied to children 3 to 33 months old

Time Line

- Base Line: 2007-2008.
- Home construction: 2007-2008.
- 1st Follow up measurement. 2009.
- 2nd Follow up measurement. 2010.
- 3rd Follow up measurement. 2011.

Volunteer Evaluation

- **Core objective of UTPMP** – Expand the social awareness of Latin American youth by offering volunteer opportunities working to improve the lives and livelihoods of the poor.
- In practice, most volunteers are university students from more privileged backgrounds
- Provides an important opportunity for volunteer youth to interact with different social classes and experience first hand the realities of living in poverty.
- Anecdotal evidence of a “**life altering**” experience for some volunteers

Evaluation Design

- Random assignment to treatment/control
 - In recent years, number of volunteers has exceeded available volunteer slots (i.e. Peru).
 - **Generate further oversubscription** through intensive advertisement/promotion to key target groups such as college students
- Objective sample sizes:
 - 400 eligible volunteers selected for program in each country
 - 200 to 400 control volunteers in each country
- Volunteer evaluation likely feasible in El Salvador and Peru (subject to funding)

Impact of UTPMP volunteer experience on:

a) **Volunteer activities:**

- Participation in future UTPMP interventions and programs.
- Participation in other volunteer initiatives.

b) Perception of social reality in Latin America/**social “awareness”**.

c) Labor market decisions.

- Percentage of ex volunteers who work in public sector.
- Percentage of ex volunteers who work in NGO sector.

d) Civic participation

e) Educational outcomes and economic behavior

- Educational attainment
- Income
- Social investment and donations.

Other types of outcomes to consider?

Attrition

- **Beneficiary effect:** High levels of geographical mobility.
- **Volunteer effect:** Long term results.
- Minimizing Attrition rates ex-ante.
 - Base line data includes phone number information of respondents and there neighbors and family.
 - Longitudinal monitoring by phone call questioners every 6 months.



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