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LOCAL, FAITH, AND TRANSFORMATIVE PARTNERSHIPS HUB

Limited Excess Property Program





USAID/LEPP

Photo by Sierra Kinkade:
sierrasummitfilms.com

Masima from Tanzania wearing a new pair of eyeglasses with the help of LEPP donations.

The Limited Excess Property Program (LEPP) provides Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs) access to federal surplus property to support their humanitarian and development projects abroad. LEPP utilizes an innovative model of recovery and reuse to support a variety of development projects that promote sustainability in developing countries. LEPP is managed by USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA), which is part of the Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation's Local, Faith, and Transformative Partnerships (LFT) Hub.

Third Quarter LEPP Property Transfer Highlights

A variety of items valued at \$2,222,755 were requisitioned and processed through LEPP in the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2021. Most of the property was earmarked for regional hospitals and health care centers that serve remote populations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

- CURE International, in partnership with LEPP, processed more than \$60,000 worth of orders for Glidescopes to be disbursed to CURE Children's hospitals in Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Philippines, and Zambia. Glidescopes are video devices that help practitioners see a patient's airway during endotracheal intubation. CURE Children's hospitals are specialty teaching hospitals providing medical, surgical, and rehabilitative care for children with treatable disabilities in some of the most under-resourced countries in the world. The children receiving care have conditions such as clubfoot, bowed legs, cleft lip and palate, and untreated burn contractures. Investing in the appropriate management and maintenance of biomedical equipment is fundamental to delivering the highest quality medical and surgical care for these young patients. All of this is done in an environment where patients, many of whom have been rejected by family and friends, are treated with love and dignity. CURE's vision is to transform lives and communities by offering a pathway to self-reliance and resiliency so that children with disabilities can reach their full potential.
- OneWorld Health, in partnership with LEPP, ordered a 15-passenger van for \$22,448 and \$6,120 worth of face masks to be disbursed to Honduras. The organization currently operates a primary care facility in Siguatepeque (Central Honduras) where they will use most of the face masks. OneWorld Health plans to use the 15-passenger van for mobile service delivery, which will eventually include a medical trailer complete with exam rooms. The mobile medical services will provide care to smaller communities within an hour's drive of Siguatepeque that cannot sustain their own facility. OneWorld Health anticipates serving over 4,000 patients per year in communities like El Rosario with a population of 7,000 to slightly larger towns like Jesús de Otoro with a population of 11,000. These rural communities will receive visits once or twice a week from OneWorld Health's medical team.
- Food For The Poor, in partnership with LEPP, processed \$491,415 for 16 vital patient monitors and five oxygen concentrators to be disbursed to the Children's Hospital Juan Pablo II in Mixco, Guatemala. The only pediatric hospital in Guatemala, Juan Pablo II also provides maternity and gynecological services and serves more than 125,000 people a year. In addition, Food For The Poor ordered \$85,398 for 25 Dell laptop computers and 21 desktops to be donated to the New Horizons Foundation for the Poor (Fundación Nuevos Horizontes Para Los Pobres) in San Salvador, El Salvador. Many schools in El Salvador lack computer and other resources necessary for learning and preparing students to join the workforce. The program supports public schools in 14 of the country's departments by providing both computer equipment and computer training.

PVO Spotlight on Food For The Poor



Luz Oyola, Government Programs Manager with Food For The Poor



Photo/Food For The Poor

A small, rusting shack was inadequate shelter for this family in Jamaica. Now, they live safely in a new FFTP home.

We are proud to present our third PVO Spotlight! As our PVO partners strive to impact the world by offering disaster relief, humanitarian aid, and emergency preparedness where needed, we will continue to highlight the good work they are doing as well as the good people who are doing the work. In this issue, we are featuring Luz Oyola, Government Programs Manager with Food For The Poor.

PVO Spotlight on Food For The Poor

Q: Food for the Poor is one of our longest-standing PVO partners. Twenty-six years! We appreciate your partnership. Can you tell us a little about your program and your role?

A: Food For The Poor (FFTP) is a U.S. registered, faith-based 501(c) (3) nonprofit whose mission is to improve the health, economic, and social conditions for millions of poor people in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Founded in 1982, FFTP is today one of the largest, most effective, and efficient of U.S. nonprofits, and is highly rated by numerous charity watchdog organizations, including the Chronicle of Philanthropy and the Better Business Bureau. FFTP operates in 17 LAC countries where in the past 39 years it has provided more than \$17 billion in aid.

FFTP's commitment has resulted in highly effective programs that strengthen the organizational and implementation capacity of local institutions throughout the region. The organization helps build productive and sustainable communities by increasing educational attainment, improving health standards, promoting economic opportunity, building safe shelter, and delivering humanitarian assistance and disaster relief where and when needed. In doing so, we contribute to the region's stability and democratic development. FFTP works through a wide network of partners in each country that are empowered to carry out relief, sustainable development, and emergency programs.

As the Government Programs Manager, I manage the implementation and reporting of USAID's federal grant programs, specifically LEPP, Ocean Freight Reimbursement (OFR), and the International Food Relief Partnership (IFRP). I also foster and maintain positive relations with our in-country Partners, Government agencies, international agencies, and others.

Q: What types of humanitarian aid or development programs are utilizing the federal surplus property transferred by your organization?

A: FFTP has worked successfully with the Limited Excess Property Program (LEPP) for approximately 26 years, acquiring a wide range of federal surplus government property which is distributed to nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) throughout the LAC region. Between 2018 and 2020, FFTP distributed through its in-country partners federal excess property valued at approximately \$4,944,474, which included the following items: medical equipment and supplies, dental equipment and supplies, educational supplies, computer equipment, and meals ready to eat (MREs). Since 2020, FFTP has shipped medical equipment and supplies to the Children's Hospital Juan Pablo II in Guatemala, Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre in Jamaica, and Linstead Public Hospital in Jamaica, among others. This surplus property equipped the hospitals with much-needed commodities that build and strengthen their capacity to provide medical services to the most vulnerable.

PVO Spotlight on Food For The Poor



Photo/Food For The Poor
Lacking a nearby source of potable water, this 5-year-old in Nicaragua trekked two hours twice daily to gather water for his family.

Q: What community challenges/problems do these programs try to address? Can you share with us any statistical data related to the problems/challenges?

A: FFTP's participation in the LEPP program supports our objective of breaking the cycle of poverty while strengthening the capacity of local organizations in the countries we serve. The LAC region continues to have some of the highest rates of income inequality in the world, and economies have slowed. Since 2015, the levels of poverty, especially extreme poverty, have increased throughout the LAC region. Poverty rates in Central America remain higher than the rest of Latin America and the Caribbean, with Nicaragua ranked as the second poorest country in the hemisphere after Haiti, followed by Honduras and Guatemala. Regional progress in health masks some of the inequalities between and within countries. To add to the high levels of poverty in LAC, worsening citizen security, fueled by a violent transnational drug trade, is hindering growth and undermining democratic institutions in parts of the region. Furthermore, severe, chronic drought threatens lives and livelihoods, and climate change has emerged as a major factor threatening Central America and the Caribbean.

Q: What have the programs/organizations/institutions been able to accomplish as a result of property donations made available through LEPP?

A: FFTP's overall strategy is to build in-country organizational capacity to foster sustainable development and advance human dignity through partnerships and investments that save lives, reduce poverty, and strengthen democratic governance throughout the LAC region.

In partnership with LEPP, FFTP has used federal surplus equipment and supplies to outfit hospitals, clinics, group homes, infant feeding centers, vocational facilities, and schools. In doing so, FFTP and its in-country partners have increased the impact of their development projects in the communities they serve and helped vulnerable people throughout the LAC region emerge from humanitarian crisis and progress beyond assistance.

PVO Spotlight on Food For The Poor

Q: Do you have any examples of smart, flexible, and creative solutions implemented by local stakeholders who were actively engaged in the planning and implementation process of projects that made/make use of federal surplus property donations?

A: FFTP practices a community-driven, bottom-up approach to its humanitarian and development work. FFTP and partner organizations (local stakeholders) communicate regularly about needs, priorities, and program impact with FFTP U.S.-based staff. We receive annual “needs lists” from each in-country partner and acquire and distribute commodities that NGOs specifically request that will directly benefit the poor. FFTP prefers to work directly through NGOs as we believe that involving the civil sector in its programs encourages citizens to take a more active role in community health, education, and development projects. When citizens are involved in programs that help build their own local and sustainable communities, it helps break the cycle of poverty and improves access to economic opportunities. Furthermore, FFTP’s in-country partner organizations maintain records of all direct beneficiaries, including their age and gender, which they submit to FFTP for reporting purposes and to help us develop success stories to share. In addition, each year FFTP surveys the countries in which it works in collaboration with the local ministries of health, agriculture, and education.

Q: Do any of your programs utilizing federal surplus property work on increasing women’s access to income, productive resources, or technology?

A: FFTP has over 250 programs in Guatemala that work to increase women’s access to income, productive resources, and technology. The Rural Community Training Centers for Women provide women with technical and vocational training in the production and commercialization of products that are in high demand in beneficiary communities. This program benefits more than 1,100 women per program site each year by giving them the technical and vocational skills training to generate income. Eighty percent of the women who complete this program get jobs and can provide for their families as dressmakers, bakers, and handicraft designers. In 2019, over 1,268 women were trained in 19 Centers throughout the department of Guatemala.



Women from Amatitlan, Guatemala undergoing their evaluation in the Rural Training Centers for Women program.



Women training in the Center in San Lucas, Guatemala.

PVO Spotlight on Food For The Poor

Furthermore, The Greenhouses for Women Program provides rural women entrepreneurs with business and technical skills around plant propagation. Land for farming is scarce, therefore women farm in greenhouses. Qualified agronomists train women in modern, healthy farming technologies, which enables them to supply high-end produce for the international export market and earn a stable income. Due to its great success, the Greenhouses for Women Program now includes a packaging plant which allows women farmers to increase their productivity, product quality, and price per pound of produce, offering them a sustainable business model. Over 450 indigenous women have been trained through this program.



Photo/Caritas

Production in macro-tunnels in the Greenhouses for Women Program in Palencia, Guatemala.



Photo/Caritas

Women harvesting produce in Palencia, Guatemala.

PVO Spotlight on Food For The Poor

Q: Do any of your programs support agricultural or other projects that advance food security (e.g., projects that help provide a reliable source of quality food and/or sufficient resources to produce or purchase it)?

A: Promoting Food Security and eliminating hunger is at the core of many FFTP interventions. FFTP delivers millions of pounds of rice, beans, and grain each year. FFTP operates and supports feeding programs that feed hundreds of thousands of people every day throughout the LAC region. To accomplish this, we partner with churches, schools, hospitals, missionaries, and charitable organizations such as the Salvation Army, Caritas, the American Nicaraguan Foundation, the Order of Malta, and others. In 2020, FFTP provided more than 243 million meals to malnourished children and their families.

In addition, FFTP's micro-enterprise programs provide the poor with long-term, sustainable solutions through self-sustaining, income-generating, and food-producing projects. These programs include fishing villages, agricultural programs, greenhouse farming, apiculture and honey productions, aquaculture fish farms, animal husbandry, woodworking shops, sewing enterprises, bakeries, biodigester projects, and women's vocational training centers.

Fishing villages are a prime example of the effectiveness of self-help projects. When destitute coastal villages are selected to participate in FFTP's fishing villages program, a fishing cooperative is formed. The co-op is supplied with fiberglass boats with outboard engines, global positioning systems, fishing tackle, 100-quart coolers, safety equipment, gear sheds with a freezer, a generator, a powerful solar-powered light for the village common area, and training in deep-sea fishing. Thanks to these resources, fishermen can fish in deeper, more bountiful waters and catch larger fish that yield more profit. The entire community benefits from this enterprise, because many will buy wholesale to sell retail, while others sell fish to residents. Additionally, the fishermen are required to return a portion of their proceeds to those who are less fortunate. There are 74 fishing villages in operation: 15 in Jamaica, 43 in Haiti, 15 in Honduras, and one in Dominica.



Photo/Caritas



Photo/Caritas

Sowing the fry ponds and feeding tilapia in the fishing village in Escuintla, Guatemala.

PVO Spotlight on Food For The Poor

Q: How is COVID-19 impacting your programs? Are you using LEPP property in your COVID-19 response? If so, how?

A: The COVID-19 pandemic has created a greater need for medical equipment and supplies. Due to severe economic inequalities in the LAC region FFTP serves, public health care systems are the only source of medical care for a large sector of the population who work in the informal economy or are unemployed. In 2020, FFTP acquired three surgical sterilizers through LEPP that were shipped to our in-country partner in Jamaica to be used in two medical facilities in the region. Sterilizers are important for every medical facility as they reduce infections during surgical procedures. More recently, FFTP transferred 50 emergency relief beds, acquired through LEPP, to Kingston Public Hospital (KPH) in Jamaica, the largest and oldest multidisciplinary hospital in the Jamaican Government Health Service as well as the largest trauma center in the Jamaican public hospital system. The hospital serves the entire population of Jamaica, as they offer services that cannot be accessed elsewhere. The beds are used throughout KPH and benefit many underserved people who have access to the free services that KPH offers. In addition, FFTP shipped 21 exam beds, 16 patient monitors, and 5 oxygen concentrators to the Children's Hospital Juan Pablo II in Mixco, Guatemala. The Children's Hospital Juan Pablo II is the only pediatric hospital in Guatemala and serves more than 125,000 people a year.

Q: I understand that Food for the Poor is also an ASHA partner since 2015. Can you tell us about development projects you have worked on utilizing both LEPP and ASHA resources?

A: One of FFTP's development projects that utilized both ASHA and LEPP resources was the installation of a hospital-wide solar power generating system at the Children's Hospital Juan Pablo II in Mixco, Guatemala. This project was funded through a \$500,000 ASHA grant. The ASHA funds were also utilized for the procurement of new energy efficient laundry equipment, an emergency generator, and a rotary screw air compressor. The Children's Hospital sought to solarize the facility because of frequent power outages and the high cost of electricity. Solarization would also help to ensure that the hospital can continue functioning during disasters and reduce its environmental footprint.

Federal surplus property provided through LEPP augments the impact of FFTP's development projects. Through LEPP we have also distributed 125 computers to the Children's Hospital to be used in the hospital's clinics and other areas of care. With the donated laptops, the hospital's medical team is now able to update patient files digitally at the time of service, which has helped to optimize patient care and administrative services. In addition, the laptops donated by LEPP provided a timely solution for health care workers and other staff who were required to work from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The computer resources allowed hospital staff to continue their work remotely without compromising patient care.

PVO Spotlight on Food For The Poor

Q: What is most gratifying about working with Food for the Poor and partnering with LEPP?

A: What I find most gratifying about working at FFTP is seeing first-hand the impact that FFTP has in the communities it serves. FFTP does much more than feed millions of hungry children and families living in poverty. This interdenominational Christian ministry provides emergency relief assistance, clean water, medicine, educational materials, homes, support for orphaned and abandoned children, care for the aged, skills training, and micro-enterprise development assistance in 17 countries in the Caribbean and Latin America.

Federal surplus property acquired through LEPP helps FFTP and its in-country partners build productive and sustainable communities by increasing educational attainment, improving health standards, promoting economic opportunity, building safe shelter, and delivering humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Q: I'm sure your work is extremely rewarding but also has its challenges. Can you give me an example of a challenge you've faced in your work and how you've overcome it?

A: The work I do at FFTP is extremely rewarding but, as you mention, it also has its challenges. Perhaps the greatest challenge I have faced is hearing the heartbreaking stories directly from my in-country partners regarding food insecurity, health disparities, poverty, and inequality among the communities we serve. While it is not possible to solve all these issues, it has helped me to focus on the many impact stories we receive from our partners. As Mother Teresa once said, "We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."



Photo/Food For The Poor

A 5-year-old girl in Nicaragua sat on the front step of her home wearing her best dress.

PVO Spotlight on Food For The Poor

Q: As one of our longest standing PVOs, can you give some tips for other PVO partners on how you've used federal surplus property and/or property and ASHA grants to successfully support your programs?

A: While FFTP has worked successfully with the LEPP program for approximately 26 years, I personally just celebrated my one-year anniversary at FFTP in June of this year. With that said, there have been some things that have helped me manage our LEPP program successfully that might benefit other PVO partners.

- **Communicate often with your in-country partner** – The more you know your in-country partner, their programs, and the demographics of the communities they serve, the better prepared you are to help them acquire federal surplus property that will add value to their programming and address their needs.
- **Obtain as much property information as you can up front** – It is important that you have all the property details up front, such as photos; current packaging; weight and dimensions; year of manufacture, make, and manufacturer name (if applicable); loading and labor requirements at the holding location; base security details, etc. Having these details up front will: (1) help you and your in-country partner make a better-informed decision about the property to ensure that it is in good condition and that the property will do no harm, and (2) expedite the process of removing the item from the holding location. Once the property has been allocated to your organization, it must be picked up from the holding location within 15 calendar days. Time is of the essence. The more details up front, the better!
- **Request the property early** – Keep in mind that property acquired through LEPP is allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis; therefore, the earlier you request the item, the better your chances of receiving the allocation.

Thanks so much for taking the time to help us learn more about your program and your passions, Luz. We look forward to many more years of partnering with Food For The Poor to continue to serve underserved communities.

— The LEPP Team

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[Read](#) the LEPP FY 2020 Annual Report.

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For further information on the LEPP program, please email: LEPP@USAID.gov.

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