



# Turimiquire Foundation



**Recipe for a Community: Cairo in Action**

# The Cairo Consensus

## A GLOBAL VISION OF CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

In 1994, the world's nations forged a visionary plan in Cairo, Egypt, to foster economic development and reduce poverty, with a focus on three goals:

- promoting human rights
- empowering women
- erasing inequities within societies

While much progress has been made, there is enormous work still to be done. A billion people still live in abject poverty. And women in poor countries are as likely to die today from pregnancy or childbirth as they were in 1990. The reality is that persistent poverty and lack of access to family planning services continue to undermine efforts to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

*Family Planning Services and Women's Education are essential strategies for paving the way to an overall higher quality-of-life.*

**The Turimiquire Foundation is part of the Cairo journey.**



# Turimiquire Region

## FROM THE GLOBAL TO THE LOCAL



The rural and low-income populations in the Turimiquire region in Venezuela suffer from staggering deficits in health care, education, and even the most basic necessities – clean water and electricity – that citizens in the developed world take for granted. The region is among the poorest and most rural in Venezuela, with an estimated 80% of the population subsisting at poverty level, according to the U.N.

Unintended fertility is particularly high among rural women, and the teenage pregnancy rate is among the highest in the Caribbean and South America.



## Turimiquire Foundation

### REACHING TOWARDS THE U.N. MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS FOR 2015

**First** NGO to offer family  
planning services in State of Sucre

**62,000** women and  
families served to date

**2** Community Centers for education,  
livelihood, and computer literacy

**First** generation of rural youth in the region to graduate from high school and  
attend college

**94%** of every dollar goes directly into the field



# Recipe for a Community

## INVESTING IN HUMAN CAPITAL FIRST



The Foundation's **Recipe for a Community** is an organic outgrowth of years of experience responding to what low-income families have told us that they need. It brings together **three tiers** of Foundation services based on the “internal clock” of our clients – how *they* typically choose to utilize our services. The Recipe offers the services that are most relevant to *their* success. It invests in human capital first.

## Our Recipe:

1. *Step One*  
**Stabilize the Family**  
Family Planning, Reproductive Health Education
2. *Step Two*  
**Focus on Education**  
Teacher Development, Student Scholarships, Public Schools
3. *Step Three*  
**Improve Infrastructure and Opportunity**  
Community Centers, Computers and Internet, Sustainable Livelihood

# [1] Family Planning Services: STABILIZING THE FAMILY



## 1. Service Delivery

When we began in 1997, family planning services in the State of Sucre were virtually defunct after years of neglect. Many local public health officials did not even consider family planning to be an important element in their reproductive health agenda, even though it is a stated public health goal in Venezuela. The Foundation has helped to change this through education and service delivery. Over the past decade, we've worked closely with local and regional officials to deliver birth control information and contraceptives to more than 25,000 women through a broad network of public and private health care facilities. This is done in full accordance with Venezuelan public health policies and in collaboration with the State of Sucre Ministry of Health.

## 2. Reproductive Health Education

We've conducted more than 1,700 educational workshops to more than 37,000 participants emphasizing family planning, sexually-transmitted infections, responsible sexuality, and reproductive health rights. We hold many of these workshops for adolescents, as we have seen firsthand the pernicious impact of premature pregnancy and sexually-transmitted infections on young people. *Pregnancy-related complications remain the leading cause of death for young women aged 15 to 19 worldwide.*

## 3. Laparoscopic Surgery

We offer non-invasive outpatient laparoscopic sterilizations for mature women with established families – *the only such low-income service in our state.* This has consistently been one of our most popular programs over the years.

## [2] Education Programs: EMPOWERING TEACHERS AND STUDENTS



### 1. Teacher Development

How do you educate children who live hours from the nearest road in remote areas off the grid? By finding dedicated teachers who are willing to meet the challenge. Our success has come from personally tutoring and developing teachers from within our own community, starting at an early age. A number of the children we tutored in early education have now become certified adult teachers employed by the State Ministry of Education.

### 2. Student Scholarships

In 2003, our scholarship program for remote rural students who wished to go on to high school began with just six students. There are now more than 50 students participating yearly. The first generation of these students from our remote valley has just graduated from high school, and several of them are attending local colleges with our continued support. These committed students must walk several hours a day up and down the valley to reach school. Their mostly illiterate parents watch with great pride.

### 3. Public School Facilities

The Foundation has spearheaded a number of infrastructure improvements working with the Ministry of Education. We built the first kindergarten in our rural area; refurbished a child care center; rejuvenated the (largely abandoned) elementary school; established a new school cafeteria; built the first school library and computer center in the valley with Internet facilities in town; and offer subsidized school supplies and uniforms to low-income students out of several home-based outlets.

## [3] Infrastructure Projects: DEVELOPMENT WITH REAL HUMAN IMPACT



### 1. Casa Barrancas Community Center (Rural)

The Foundation's *Brito-Barrancas Community Center* brings many of our programs together for our valley community. The Community Center offers a staffed library; computer center with lessons; tutoring for schoolchildren; cultural programs; carpentry and other livelihood classes; a transit storage and staging site for the valley's commerce (cash crops like yucca, casaba, and cashews); and periodic veterinary and medical services with the support of the State Ministries of Agriculture and Health.

### 2. Sustainable Development

We focus on development in the community by installing solar panels for rural electricity far from the grid; building gravity-piped water systems that free women from having to carry household water up from the river; installing public composting toilets for both rural hygiene and agricultural fertilizer; introducing new tree crops that conserve the ecosystem and offer local sustenance as well as commercial opportunities; teaching carpentry using ecologically-harvested local fallen wood; and improving the pack animal trails that are the only means of access for these remote populations.

### 3. Casa ServYr (City)

The Foundation's base of operations in the city of Cumaná, *Casa ServYr*, has become a busy center of activity for our administrative, medical, and youth-related activities. Our urban Internet center is packed with teens seeking to join the digital world and acquire computer-based skills they can take into adulthood.

## The Recipe in Action: 12 YEARS OF GROWTH AND CHANGE



- Renewed emphasis on family planning as Venezuelan public policy
- Very few unplanned children anymore – large families are no longer the norm
- Infant and maternal mortality now rarely occur – we haven't had a local case in years
- Children from the valley are now regularly attending high school – some are going on to university for the first time
- Most valley residents now have running (gravity piped) water and electricity for first time
- New livelihood opportunities are being introduced, including carpentry, tree crop farming, tutoring and education, computers, and community work
- Children from illiterate families are now computer savvy and using the Internet
- Upper valley is returning to lush woods as the effect of repeated slash-and-burn agriculture is reduced – depriving no one and benefiting *everyone* with renewed natural resources
- After 400 years of non-stop exploitation of the rain forest with diminishing returns, there is now less erosion and more forestation in the valley

**IN OUR EXPERIENCE: When population stabilizes and the human environment improves, the natural environment improves too. This transition has occurred in *less than one generation*, and shows how rapidly people will respond to services that actually meet their needs.**

## Major Results ON A MINOR BUDGET



- Small budget of approximately \$80,000 USD per year with a major social impact
- **94%** of all contributions go directly into the field (average for past 12 years)
- All Foundation officers and board members serve voluntarily and without compensation
- The numbers:
  - 25,000+ women have been provided with ongoing family planning services
  - 37,000+ attendees have participated in 1,700+ sexual and reproductive health workshops
  - 2 community centers
  - 2 computer and Internet centers
  - Rural kindergarten, school library, and school cafeteria
  - Gravity-piped clean water and solar electricity in the valley for the first time
  - A community significantly transformed
  - Nature on the rebound

**“It’s been a pleasure working and learning with Turimiquire Foundation since 2003. We’ve been impressed with Turimiquire’s remarkable ability to create and sustain a big impact on a small budget through collaborative practice with its local public entities.”**

**Nadine Goodman, Founder, CASA Mexico**

# Our Web of Support

## INSTITUTIONS AND DOCTORS WHO SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION



Gobierno Bolivariano de Venezuela

Ministerio del Poder Popular Para la Salud

Municipio Sanitario Sucre

CUMANA, 30/01/08

**Clínica Santa Rosa**  
**Clinica Grupo Medico Sucre**



American Airlines



### Doctors:

- Dra Silvia Quijada
- Dra. Del Valle Smith
- Dra. Maria Eugenia Yañez
- Dra. Gilmar Maurell
- Dra. Mayrena Carrabs
- Dra. Mercedes Esperque
- Dra. Mena Fiore
- Dra. Olyma López
- Dra. Yvelice Parella
- Dra. Mariolga Berrisbeitia
- Dra. Mirla Orsini
- Dr. Luis F. Siso
- Dr. Gustavo Bernasconi
- Dr. Oclides Carrasco
- Dr. Venancio Carrera
- Dr. Francisco Tang
- Dr. Gil Laya
- Dr. Santiago Carmona
- Dr. Rodolfo Carballo

**“When we are dreaming alone, it is only a dream. When we are dreaming with others, it is the beginning of reality.”**

**Don Helder Camara**

**Thank you for your support!**

Please send your check, payable to the  
Turimiquire Foundation, to:

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33 Richdale Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02140 USA  
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wittcreative@comcast.net

Or donate online at:

**[www.turimiquire.org](http://www.turimiquire.org)**



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