

Churches Reach Out to Help Poor, Pregnant Brazilian Women

Overview

Many young, pregnant women of Recife and Jaboatão dos Guararapes and their families are spiritually poor and live in unhealthy conditions. Others have little enthusiasm about giving birth and consider abortion an option to pregnancy. Through this 12-month project, the implementer expanded its evangelical and social mission to poor pregnant women and their families, working through Hope Anglican Mission, Betel Mission and Saint Paul Parish, all affiliated with the Anglican Diocese of Recife. The implementer worked with hundreds of poor, young pregnant women and their families, encouraging them to seek at least six prenatal medical visits, providing an orientation and dental care, encouraging healthy relationships with newborns and drawing them closer to Christ through Bible studies. The grant provided salaries for two teachers, a dentist, a social worker and two students. Funds also covered expenses for three youth camps, three adult retreats, baby kit materials, dental equipment, Bibles, Bible study materials, building materials, equipment, and transportation.



Women and PAES leaders gather for a day of fellowship, exercise and life-skills training.

Expected results	Actual results
500 pregnant women and their family members receive dental care	464 women and their family members
About 500 pregnant women and their family members engage in regular Bible study	464 women and their family members
220 women are encouraged to seek at least six prenatal checkups and complete the PAES program for pregnant women	225 women
220 newborns experience the love and care of their mothers	225 newborns
720 unique lives impacted	689 lives

Successes

Workshops and Bible study groups encouraged pregnant women to support each other and strengthen their faith.

Concerns

Long distances and understaffing made it difficult for PAES to work with local parishes and coordinate workshops and family events.

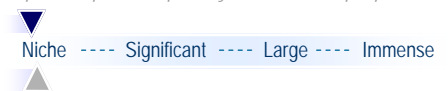
In brief

Funding agency: [XXX]
 Organization: Paróquia Anglicana do Espírito Santo (PAES, Holy Spirit Anglican Parish)
 Location: Brazil
 Geneva Global ID: 1-103XU-0706
 Grant amount: \$56,910
 Disbursed to date: \$56,910
 Grant date: Feb. 21, 2007
 Evaluation: October 2008

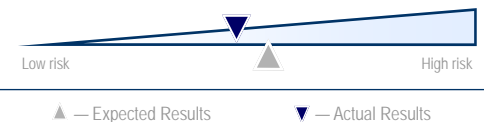
Performance

Magnitude of impact

Depth of impact multiplied by the number of people



Combined risk



Delta Score

Expected*	Actual
2.47	2.38

*All Delta Scores shown in this report are compiled with Geneva Global's latest analytical methods. A Delta Score of 1 represents a successful child sponsorship: One life changed in multiple ways for \$360 in one year. All other scores are directly proportional to that benchmark. If the project was originally rated using an earlier Delta Score computation, the expected results were recalculated for accurate comparison with the actual results.

Achievement rating

Achieved

PAES achieved all four benchmarks. Bible studies and retreats helped 464 pregnant women find support and prepare emotionally and spiritually for motherhood. As a result, 220 children now receive love and care from their mothers and families.

Read the full assessment and recommendation inside.

Results in Detail

Expected	Actual
<p>500 pregnant women and their family members receive dental care</p>	<p>Achieved. A total of 464 pregnant women and their family members received dental assistance. PAES held two events, Achieving Dental Health and Dental Health Day, which were attended by some 260 people. At the events, pregnant women, their children, and family members watched visual presentations on basic dental hygiene. PAES also offered families fluoride treatment, hygiene kits and dental surgery as needed. The implementer faced difficulties opening treatment locations in Mission Hope and Mission Sao Paulo, as well as delays in the hiring of a qualified dentist. Once these issues were resolved, PAES offered families cleaning, treatment and dental surgery on a regular basis for the remainder of the project period.</p>
<p>About 500 pregnant women and their family members engage in regular Bible study</p>	<p>Achieved. A total of 464 pregnant women and their family members attended regular Bible studies, where they engaged in lively discussion and experienced relevant teaching. Studies focused on specific groups or needs, including pregnancy, motherhood, children and family relationships. Topics included self-esteem, self-control, God's love and forgiveness, marriage and parenting, faith, the importance of family, love for neighbors, happiness in the home, Christian leadership and education.</p>
<p>220 women are encouraged to seek at least six prenatal checkups and complete the PAES program for pregnant women</p>	<p>Achieved. A total of 225 pregnant women completed PAES' program and received at least six prenatal checkups. PAES worked with government health services to help women overcome their fears and discover the importance of strong family support, marriage and a stable home environment for them and their children. PAES also hosted Pregnant Women's Day, Women's Day and Children's Day. Designed for pregnant mothers and their families, these events encouraged families to celebrate the new lives of the unborn children and to build support networks with Christians in their local communities. All 225 pregnant women attended sewing, painting and aquarobics workshops, where they engaged in fellowship, learned homemaking skills and worked to maintain personal fitness in preparation for the birth of their babies. At the end of each workshop, women heard the Gospel message and received a brief word of encouragement from the Bible.</p>
<p>220 newborns experience the love and care of their mothers</p>	<p>Achieved. A total of 225 newborns experienced the love and care of their mothers. PAES maintained contact with mothers after childbirth and encouraged them to receive postnatal checkups and immunizations for their babies. New mothers continued to attend Bible studies and training sessions focusing on domestic violence and sexual abuse prevention, family health and children's education. In addition to Bible studies, PAES found innovative ways to maintain contact with mothers and their children, including second-hand baby clothing sales and raffles for strollers, children's furniture and other goods. As a result, each new mother built lasting relationships with PAES staff, local Christian families and other new mothers in their communities.</p>

Results in Detail

Picturing Life Change



PAES provided aquarobics classes to help women prepare their bodies for childbirth.



In addition to medical care, Bible studies and support groups, women received training in homemaking skills, such as sewing.



PAES invited pregnant mothers to send their children to Children's Day events, where kids played games, learned Bible stories and heard the Gospel.

Conclusion

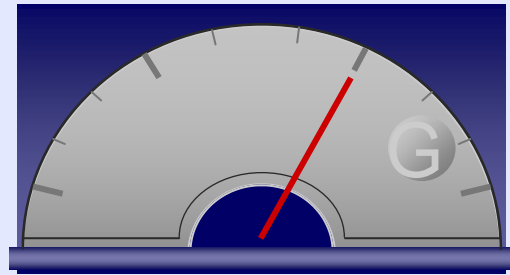
ACHIEVEMENT RATING

Overachieved

▶ **Achieved**

Underachieved

Not achieved



Assessment and recommendation

PAES provided the required information and responded to Geneva Global's questions in a timely manner.

Low self-esteem, spiritual emptiness and a lack of adequate healthcare or emotional support leave many young, pregnant women in Recife and Jaboatão dos Guararapes without hope. Many consider abortion a viable alternative to the responsibilities and joys of childbirth. This project provided women with prenatal and postnatal care and helped them discover the hope of Christ for themselves, their families and their unborn children. The women developed self-confidence, friendships and practical skills in preparation for motherhood. Bible studies in relevant topics also helped each woman build a spiritual foundation through which to grasp the value and importance of her unborn child. PAES offered life-skills training, so women could learn homemaking, teaching and relationship skills. Aquarobics offered an exciting activity that helped women stay healthy. After childbirth, PAES monitored each mother's physical and emotional health through home visits, and mothers completed questionnaires that evaluated their family relationships and spiritual growth. The project also encouraged women's families to become actively involved in the lives of their newborns. Workshops, Bible studies and group events reinforced family values and brought families and friends together to support and encourage one another.

During the project, PAES created new partnerships with government agencies and a neuropsychology institute. The Brazilian government's Family Health Program offered medical care for pregnant women and the institute provided educational films, health discussion, exercise classes and massage therapy.

The expected Delta Score for this project was 2.47. The actual Delta Score is 2.38. The organization received an overall "achieved" rating because the actual Delta Score was within 20 percent of the expected Delta Score.

Based on this project's success, we recommend that PAES be considered for future philanthropic investment.

Prepared by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "David Obando M.".

David Obando

Research Analyst

From the Field

In the implementer's own words

Geneva Global is not responsible for this information, which was supplied by the implementer.

Lessons we learned:

What worked well:

- Working across the three parishes was relationship building and good for sharing ideas and opportunities, these links despite the distances, will continue.
- The baby pack sewing workshops were a great success and had an excellent impact on the lives of the pregnant women and their babies.
- The bible talks and health talks also were a great success with a positive impact
- The children's work was also very successful, with many children growing spiritually.
- The group psychological therapy, aqua-aerobics, exercise and relaxation classes were a great success at Saint Paul's parish.
- The pregnant women's away day with the three Parishes was a highlight of the year, and built good relationships between the three parishes.
- Five women as a result of the sewing workshop joining art cooperatives to make a living. Also 12 volunteer ladies being trained in Christian leadership (including 4 ex-pregnant mothers).
- Many lives were changed as a result of these courses with a significant impact on family and community life. The transformation is literally visible in some of the women and their older children.

What didn't work well at all:

- Organizing the youth events and various weekend camps. All three projects are still completing this part of the project plan. The reason for this difficulty was the need for a person specifically working as "events organizer".
- The geographical logistics of three parishes working together has been very challenging; indeed, the distances are considerable which has made administration issues difficult.
- The socio-economic questionnaire, although excellent, took a long time to complete. Home-visits are time-consuming, because of difficulties in access (unclear addresses and poor road access). As a result the questionnaires still need to be computer analyzed and processed.

Our outlook on project or future plans:

- The pregnant women's work continues to meet weekly. Hope mission have a thanksgiving service planned for November.
- All three parishes have evangelistic family, youth events and camps planned for the next coming months.
- All three parishes are seeking further funding to continue the baby pack workshops, the long term aim is for these groups to become self-sustaining by selling other items made, this takes time to develop. Plans to expand the sewing and painting cooperatives are in process.
- Plans to extend the crèche facilities adjoining Hope mission are in process. Presently we receive 92 children with over 370 on the waiting list (many the children of our ex-pregnant women). Expanding the crèche will enable the women from the pregnant women's group to return to work and provide the families with ongoing orientation and support both spiritually and socially.
- Discipleship activities continue on a weekly basis, all three projects try to maintain contact with the women who have completed the course, through home-visits, clinics, church activities and evangelistic events.

From the Field

In the implementer's own words

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Testimonies:

Michelle says: "Videira changed many things, I did not have patience with my husband, but there (at Videira) I heard the preaching about having more patience with my child and husband. I treated my daughter and my husband really bad, but now I have patience. It changed my life, I didn't go any more to church, now I accepted Christ and returned to church, my daughter is there in the crèche and now that I have returned to church my spiritual life has changed. I hope that others participate in this project, because God speaks there and it is good, and we learn a lot. There are courses, and we learn about how to care our family, children and husband. It is very good.

Elisangela says: "I didn't want my baby, I wanted to terminate my pregnancy and one day my friend invited me to the crèche. When I arrived, Pastor Dorinha was speaking about mums that don't want to accept their baby. She prayed that God would bless their mind and give them more love. She asked us to put our hand on our tummy and pass love to the baby, but I did not want to. Now, I am other person. I transformed myself, and I am totally different. Three months ago I used to be one person, and today by the grace of God my life has changed. I thank Videira ministry for blessing me, and I recommend others to go and hope that God blesses their lives".

Renata says, "I changed many things when I became pregnant. I was very young, and I did not want the baby. Besides, I was not with the father of the child. When my friends invited me to Videira, I met a family which was different from those you meet in the street. When I joined, I accepted Jesus again and returned to church. I am very different now. I was very childish, but today I consider myself a mother."

Project budget vs. actual expenses:

Use of funds	Amount budgeted by Geneva Global (USD)	Amount budgeted by Other sources (USD)	Total budget (USD)	Actual Amount spent (USD)
Expenses for three youth camps and three adult encounters)	17,050		17,050	17,050
Salaries (social worker, two students, two teachers, one dentist)	15,280		15,280	15,280
Material for baby kits	13,100		13,100	13,100
Dental equipment and materials	3,100	1,930	5,030	3,100
Bibles and material for biblical study	3,000	1,500	4,500	3,000
Building material and equipment	2,180	14,900	17,080	2,180
Transportation	2,100	3,500	5,600	2,100
Food for participants	1,100	7,270	8,370	1,100
TOTAL	56,910	29,100	86,010	56,910



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