

American Non-Profit Extends COVID aid to South America by empowering local women

South America has been hit hard by COVID-19 and continues to struggle with the distribution of the vaccine. While governments continue to try and piece together a response, the populations of many of these countries continue to suffer. According to the UN, before COVID 23.8% of South America's population is below the poverty line and 10.3% of these people live in absolute poverty. This number is expected to grow significantly in the wake of COVID. In addition, human trafficking remains one of the most prominent industries in this area. The need for hope in this area of the world is extremely apparent and has not gone unnoticed by Denver-based non-profit, Get HOPE Global.

Founded in 2008, HOPE exists to transform the lives of at-risk women through redemptive, faith-based business training and support. The non-profit seeks to encourage, equip, and empower women to build a better business, a better life, and transforming their faith in Jesus Christ. Get HOPE Global focuses on raising women in local communities to lead others.

After seeing the need for practical solutions in South America, the board of directors at Get HOPE Global commissioned a Spanish translation of the HOPE Business Program: Starting and Growing Your Business in early 2020. It was announced on Monday that this translation has been completed. Nearly 240 million people in South America speak Spanish. In addition, Spanish is the primary language of 20 countries around the world, spoken by over 450 million people. With only Mandarin Chinese claiming more native speakers, a Spanish translation opens up the opportunity for more growth and impact. HOPE's translation has been worked on tirelessly by our partners in the Dominican Republic for the last year. By using HOPE partners, this translation helped to provide jobs and experience to locals that will allow them to build a greater future.

This new curriculum will start to be used immediately and allows HOPE to expand the reach of its many programs. Training teams are expected to take this translation to 5 different countries in South America in the summer of 2021 with the hopes of establishing HOPE groups.

The women in these groups will be receiving a loan known as a microloan, which comes in varying amounts based on need. Before receiving a loan, the candidate must have completed one of HOPE's training curriculums as well as maintained a certain level of responsibility. She must have completed all homework assignments, been punctual in meeting attendance, and encouraged those around her. Each woman must agree to repay her loan amount plus the 10% loan fee. The entire group also assumes responsibility for the repayment of all the loans within the group, should this be necessary. The whole process can take up to a year and requires a significant time commitment from all the women involved.

Most of the women in these groups may be single mothers, most of whom have little to no education. Through these new businesses, they will be able to provide food for their families, pay their children's school fees, and even go back to school themselves. HOPE has long planned to begin programs in these areas as there has been interest from these countries for many years, so these groups are expected to contain a record-breaking number of women. "We are thrilled to see HOPE's mission and vision expand to South America." said communications director Mariah

Hart, “We expect to see significant growth in the next year and many small businesses that signal a new source of income for South American women.”