

Brigade (n): A passionate group of volunteers mobilizing toward positive social change.

WHO ARE WE?

Global Brigades is the world's largest student-led organization focused on International development.

Our mission is to empower university volunteers and under-resourced communities to collaboratively resolve global health and economic disparities.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Today, **400 million** people lack access to basic health services, and 57 countries face critical shortages of healthcare workers.

The Global Brigades movement is committed to working alongside targeted communities to execute sustainable solutions that address this gap of quality of life.

We send volunteers on a brigade, a short-term trip (7-10 days) during which students utilize their skills to support rural communities by implementing health and development projects.



7 Global Brigades currently offers **different programs** that work together to make communities in Ghana, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama more resilient.



A holistic model of development.

HOW ARE WE SUSTAINABLE?

Global Brigades' holistic model uses a constant stream of student volunteers and full-time staff in Ghana, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama to complete large projects in one-week increments.

Our Medical, Dental, Public Health, Water, and Engineering programs improve health opportunities, while our Business, Microfinance, Environmental, and Human Rights brigades improve economic opportunities.

In between brigades, our full-time in-country staff continue to build relationships with our community partners and local leaders to ensure follow-up and sustainability of projects year-round. The capacity building that our local teams conduct pre- and post brigade distinguishes Global Brigades from other international volunteer organizations and has positioned us a game-changer for international development.

WHO'S WITH US?

We've had some amazing partners join our global movement:



In 2014, Global Brigades
worked with:

9,647 **Volunteers**

210 **Community
Partners**

Since 2004, we've inaugurated:

15 **Holistic
Communities**

Nicaragua, Est. 2013 *Medical, Dental, Public Health, Water, Microfinance*

COUNTRY IMPACT

- Working in **70 communities** across all programs.
- Public Health program has constructed latrines and washing stations for **426 families** across **4 communities**.
- Water program has successfully completed a water system in Hermita de Sarawaska. Now working on a system in La Corneta to be completed July 2016.



SPOTLIGHT ON: MICROFINANCE

Global Brigades Nicaragua works with communities to establish microfinance co-ops that provide access to loans and savings accounts. Our staff partner with communities and get their buy-in to form a co-op committee. We then provide financial training to all members so they can properly manage their co-op.

Each co-op includes a rural bank that the community owns and runs. Through the co-op, community members can secure loans and access at-cost agriculture supplies. They can also receive financing for eco-stoves and water filters to bolster the projects implemented by Water and Public Health brigades.

The co-op offers loans at extremely low, simple interest rates (approx. 18%, or 4-5% lower than market rates), and the interest is used to capitalize the co-op and the general community fund. The co-op committee approves all loan requests with supervision and support from Global Brigades staff.

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**Current
Co-ops**

5

**Expected Co-ops
in 2016**

\$5,000

**Cost to Capitalize
1 Co-op**