Faces, Voices and Places

The **Faces, Voices and Places (FVP)** initiative was created by the **Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)** in order to address the invisibility and vulnerability of communities in the **Americas**. FVP empowers the poorest communities in this region to work towards the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** and to reduce social, economic, and health inequities within nations. This is done through partnerships with mayors, local authorities, non-governmental organizations, grass roots organizations, and other development agencies. To date, the initiative has grown to include over 40 communities in 23 countries and four transnational territories (Altiplano, Amazonas, Chaco and Mosquitia).

The ideal candidate will...

- Be a Master's student (Social Sciences or Public Health) with a GPA of 3.00 or above
- Language requirements will depend on the country of placement. An intermediate level of Spanish, French or Portuguese is an asset yet fluency in Spanish is required for Latin American countries
- Be knowledgeable in the culture, socio-economic conditions, political environments, and public health conditions of Latin America and the Caribbean
- Be technologically proficient and have their own digital camera and laptop.
- Be willing to live in a vulnerable community

This is an unpaid internship that should count as credit towards your academic program. In addition, Young Professionals should ensure that they are able to cover their own travel and living expenses for the duration of the program.

Contact Information

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Faces, Voices and Places

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Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Young Professionals for the Millennium Development Goals

faces, voices and places

Program Outline

Over a period of **11 weeks**, a Young Professional will…

- Receive a three-day specialized training
- Visit the PAHO/WHO office in an assigned country
- Live and work in a vulnerable community in an assigned country
- Travel to Washington, D.C. to debrief and present a final report
- Produce a booklet about the FVP community, participatory diagnoses and systematization of best practices at the national and local level, which will be published by PAHO/WHO.

Past Generations

Four Generations of Young professionals for the MDGs:

- **First Generation** (9 countries): Panamá, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guyana, Ecuador, Paraguay, Bolivia, and Peru.
- **Second generation** (4 countries): Montserrat, Grenada, Dominica, and Anguilla.
- **Third Generation** (3 countries): Panamá, Honduras, and Guyana
- **Fourth Generation** (4 countries): Belize, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, and U.S.A. (Washington, D.C.)

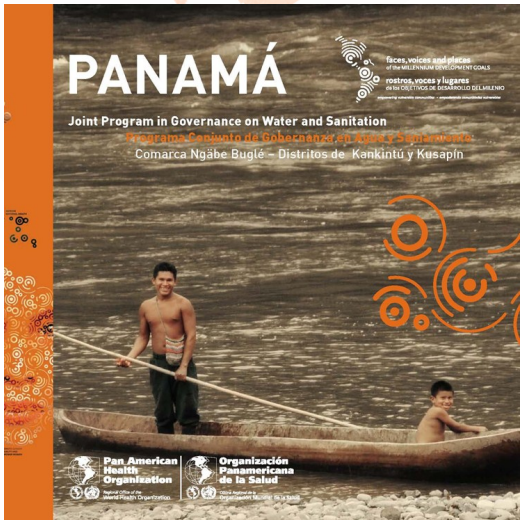
The Young Professionals Program

The **Young Professionals for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Program** was established in order to document the FVP experience in the most vulnerable communities in the Americas, develop **participatory diagnoses**, and identify **best practices** for MDG achievement at the local level. The program gives **Masters students professional field experience at the international and community level.** While living in the communities, Young Professionals will document their experiences as well as those of the community through audio and visual mediums. This, along with local partnerships, is a way of representing invisible communities by giving them a face, a voice and a place in development.

Leandra's Experience

"Faces, Voices and Places was the most incredible personal, professional and educational experience I could have asked for. Through this program I was able to use the skills I was acquiring in my studies in a concrete way, and see them directly applied. Through the training we received, and the faith PAHO put in me, I was able to work independently in the Comarca Ngöbe-Buglé, where I experienced tremendous personal growth, developed a deep connection with my work and life-long relationships with the people around me. The community based participatory approach gave me space to learn from an inspiring group of people, to feel good about the work that was being done there, and to share some of their stories."

—Leandra, Third Generation Panamá



Faces, Voices, and Places booklet for Panamá produced by Leandra and PAHO