Millicom Social Investment 2016

Our priority is to align our social investment activities with our core business mission and expertise. To that end, our activities are focusing on supporting digital and financial inclusion, education and entrepreneurship – as well as aligning to our material corporate responsibility issues, such as child online protection and supporting diversity.

We highlight some of our key social investment projects from Latin America (LatAm), Africa and our corporate offices here.
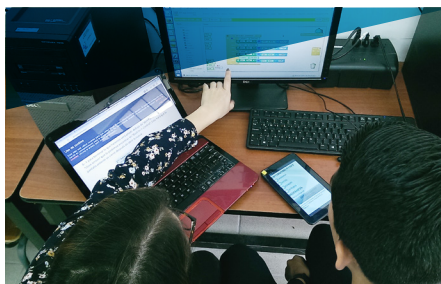
LatAm

Bolivia

In Bolivia we have played an important role in having 28,280 children registered between January 2014 and September 2016, in partnership with the National Electoral Tribunal (Sereci) and UNICEF. This program allows low-income families and those living in remote areas to access a universal, free of charge and timely birth registration. Beyond supporting economically the implementation of this project, Tigo also provides free internet connection to the Sereci's child registration booths.

Honduras

Tigo Honduras, in alliance with the Ministry of Environment and Amitigra Foundation, will take part in a reforestation program of 300 hectares of pine trees over the next three years in two areas: Parque Nacional la Tigra and San Jose watershed. The project started in September with 10 hectares, approximately 5,000 pine trees, with 400 Tigo volunteers taking part. This project will be used to offset Tigo Honduras carbon emissions.

El Salvador

As part of the Adopt a School project, in cooperation with USAID and FEDAPE, Tigo El Salvador inaugurated five digital centers in 2016. Each digital center will have 30 computers and free internet access for a year. We estimate they will benefit more than 2,260 students, 90 teachers and 1,420 families.

Costa Rica

Tigo Costa Rica in partnership with Fundación Paniamor and Ideas en Acción implemented the "Apps for Good" program that teaches high school children to program apps with social impact. 26 students participating in the pilot learned about responsible and positive uses of technology, social entrepreneurship and programming language, and created six app prototypes.

Paraguay

Tigo Paraguay continues to support the Ministry of Health in connecting medical staff with their patients across the country online. The aim is to facilitate live medical consultations and remote analysis of medical exams for patients, many of whom would not have had access to such services due to geographic distance and/or other demands on their own resources. Within 18 months of launch, more than 135,000 direct users benefited at no cost to the patients.

This year almost 100 hospitals were connected online to the Telemedicina initiative. The Minister of Health, Dr. Antonio Barrios, said that the program "responds to a big need from many citizens in remote areas", a valuable reason for it to be extended to 176 hospitals.

Guatemala

Through our digital inclusivity and volunteering programs, we built three new schools and refurbished 53 schools in Guatemala, constructing and furnishing digital classrooms – equipped them with 1,200 computers and internet enabled phones, donated 15 water eco-filters and school kits, with over 1,000 children and 40 teachers benefiting.

Africa

Rwanda

Launched in June 2016, Ruhunda Ekocenter is a partnership between Tigo Rwanda, Coca Cola, Pentair and Ericsson that provides 25,000 local residents with a hub where they can enjoy wi-fi enabled internet access, mobile charging units and access to clean drinking water.

Through this partnership, we also improved the residents' access to high-speed internet, where we upgraded our services from 2G to 3G. Tigo is also providing free wi-fi access to medical staff the neighboring Ruhunda Health Clinic.

Chad

Tigo Chad, in partnership with The Digital Changemakers 2015 winner Technidev – a project that provides online quality educational content – launched an online campaign to teach IT skills to 900 young people. In September, all students participated in a ceremony with the Minister of Education and the Minister of Youth to receive a certificate of successful completion. As part of our commitment to promote diversity at our workplace, we are offering internships to ten young women who participated in the training.

Ghana

The "Literacy 4 Life" reading camps is a project implemented by the 2014 co-winner of Tigo Digital Changemakers Award, Sheila Osei-Boakye. The traveling reading camps are geared towards complementing teachers' efforts by helping to train children to develop the vital literacy skills to become proficient readers. By the end of August 2016, the reading camps had succeeded in visiting all the five rural communities: Afienya, Apollonia, Ashaiman, Otchebleku and Mobole. So far, this project has improved 3,000 children's literacy skills. Literacy 4 Life hopes to eradicate illiteracy among children in Ghana by 2030, and it strives to reach 10,000 children by 2021.

Volunteering program launches in our corporate offices

To mark the launch of our volunteering program, employees in Luxembourg and London organized fundraising activities to support building of a sewing and embroidery training center at the SOS Village d'Enfants in N'Djamena – an orphanage Tigo Chad has been working with since 2010. Overall, both offices raised over US$24,300 and organized a total of 13 activities to raise funds.

Tanzania

Zantel has donated Tshs 10 million to the Association of Seaweed Farmers in Zanzibar. Going forward, Zantel will conduct training for 2,000 women in the year 2016–2017 in entrepreneurship and finance management both online and offline, in collaboration with the University of Zanzibar in areas of management. Seaweed farming is an important economic activity in the communities of the islands of Unguja and Pemba. This type of farming is mostly dominated by women, with 80% of the over 20,000 farmers being women.

Senegal

In partnership with Reach for Change, Tigo Senegal laid the first cornerstone of the Aiwa CyberCase building in Diakhao, Fatick region in April. The CyberCase will provide a multi-functional room of 50 machines, a video-conference room, a cinema club and an internet cafe. Furthermore, it will also enable women to run their own businesses. Finally, the project aims to establish digital platforms in rural areas and remote locations allowing students to have access to powerful IT tools.