

TARGETING THE POOR AND VULNERABLE



Reaching poor and vulnerable beneficiaries to support the IDBG's work in creating economic opportunities and promoting poverty reduction is at the core of the MIF's mandate. MIF projects support micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, target base of the economic pyramid market segments, expand access to financial services, offer renewable energy and climate change adaptation solutions for smallholder farmers, and create access to basic services like health, water, and sanitation.

■ RECYCLING COOKING OIL

Every liter of used cooking oil discharged into a sewerage system contaminates more than 1,000 liters of clean water. A new MIF project under design in Brazil will use recycling cooperatives to collect oil to make biofuel. About 600 waste pickers—low-income, informal workers who suffer from economic and social exclusion—in São Paulo will increase their incomes while improving local water and sanitation services.

■ MEDICAL DRONES FOR REMOTE AREAS

Due to transport problems, it is difficult for low-income residents in isolated rural areas of the Dominican Republic to access health services. An innovative model uses unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs, or drones) to improve the response capacity of health centers in rural areas. Approximately 23,000 poor and low-income people will benefit from the use of drones to transport test results and medications. Executed by Emprende—an incubator for technology-based businesses—this project is the first of its kind in LAC, and will also set up a drone innovation center.

■ CLIMATE-RESILIENT SUPERFOOD

In Chile's Araucania region, soil erosion associated with climate change has caused a loss of land productivity. To counter this, the MIF is developing a project that will work with Mapuche cooperatives to produce a climate-resilient plant called AluProt—a biogenetically engineered

version of the traditional lupino plant, patented locally by the NG SEEDS S.A. cooperative. AluProt is successfully being used in the salmon value chain, and through this project will reach new markets where it can be used for human consumption. The project offers a climate-resilient "superfood" ingredient that can boost both productivity and incomes. 1,000 Mapuche producers are expected to participate.

■ ECOLOGICAL SANITATION SERVICES

Haiti has the world's highest incidence of diarrheal disease among children under 5, and is battling an ongoing cholera epidemic. The MIF is developing project with Soil, an NGO that is reducing the spread of disease with ecologically sustainable sanitation services. Its low-cost ecological toilets and innovative waste collection systems will both address a public health hazard and produce organic compost that will generate income. This circular economy project provides services, employment, and solutions at each point of the sanitation cycle. The project aims to install over 5,000 toilets and sell more than 300 tons of compost annually.

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