

Below are the projects you will have the opportunity to work on in Ecuador:

SOCIAL INNOVATION MODEL DESIGN AND PROTOTYPING

Our leadership has been designing, implementing and scaling social innovations since 2001. This includes The Micro-Consignment Model, rural tourism businesses, a first-of-its-kind education center ([The Centro Explorativo](#)), financial literacy programs, self-financed community banks, social enterprises, community engineering programs and many more. We always see new needs and new opportunities and you help us make all of this happen. Following are the social innovation models you will help us to design and prototype in 2018.

➤ PROJECT A: "Mobile Empowerment Centers"

The Primary Sustainable Development Goal: 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities

The Community Challenge:

Many communities from around the world lack access to key information and knowledge. Imagine a knowledge and information "caravan" where for few hours a week people could come to participate in a capacity building presentations, borrow a book, learn a new DIY solution, and receive access to key information about health, farming, sanitation, water, energy, nutrition, and so on. This could be great and could scale.

Your Challenge(s):

- Can we design a model in which local "advisors" can travel around their regions 3-5 times a week to 2-3 communities daily to create access to key information and know how?
- Can we do this in a way that is sustainable, scalable and needs/wants responsive?

➤ PROJECT B: "Aligned In Kind"

The Primary Sustainable Development Goal: 1 - No Poverty

The Community Challenge:

Communities in the developing world are in critical need of products and solutions to help them advance. Groups from around the world have access to many surplus goods but often they do not know or understand the needs the where and the who. They don't know who needs what and where. Aligned In Kind aims to match the community needs with the providers of in-kind donations. By conducting community needs assessment and communicating those needs to missionary groups or other groups who want to help, we can ensuring that the help needed is received and products don't end up collecting dust in warehouses or unused by the intended individuals.

Your Challenge(s):

- Can we design a system to connect community/organizational needs with individual and organizations who want to offer in-kind products and solutions?

- Can we build an elegant system that can work in the future without need for our intervention?

➤ **PROJECT C: Youth Empowerment**

The Primary Sustainable Development Goal: 4 - Quality Education

The Community Challenge:

Traditional education is not able to equip the youth with key 21st-century skills necessary to succeed in the fast-moving world. Youth need to acquire a new set of skills and competencies such as empathy, leadership, critical thinking, leadership, innovation and others.

Your Challenge(s):

- Can we engage with youth to start thinking critically about their community challenges and build projects to address those and by doing so learn key skills and competencies?
- Can we co create a model that will be youth led?

SOCIAL IMPACT TECHNOLOGY DESIGN, PROTOTYPING AND DISTRIBUTION

For the past fifteen years we have been getting vital technologies to individuals and communities in need primarily through our award-winning Micro-Consignment Model. Social Entrepreneur Corps interns have always played a critical role in this process. You help us identify needs and wants, design prototypes, conduct pilot projects, design marketing programs, support entrepreneurs, scale and conduct evaluations. Following is what you and your team will have the opportunity to focus on. You'll choose based on your interests and community/organizational priority needs.

➤ **PROJECT A: Food and Nutrition**

Primary Sustainable Development Goal: 2- No Hunger

The Community Challenge:

Very, very few families have refrigerators or any way to way to store food in their homes or communities. The consequence is that food spoils quickly. This means more trips to the market, lost time and wasted limited financial resources.

Your Challenge(s):

- Can we design a “cooler” to help families keep vegetables, fruit and prepared food preserved for a minimum of 2 to 3 more days?
- Can we design a solar food dryer to help families preserve foods and/or empower local fruit producers with a new offering?
- Can we design a "heater" so that families can reheat food without the need to light the fires in their stoves again.

➤ **PROJECT B: Water**

Primary Sustainable Development Goal: 6 - Clean water and Sanitation

The Community Challenge:

In the countries where we work there is a dry season and a rainy season. During the dry season there can be very limited access to water. This leads to health and hygiene issues, poor harvests, and financial difficulties. There is little to no rainwater harvesting and storage at people's homes and in communities at large.

Your Challenge(s):

- Can we design a simple to construct, home system to help families harvest and store rainwater from their roofs?
- Can we design a distribution mechanism to help families use the harvested rainwater for irrigation for small vegetable gardens?
- Can we design a system to help families access clean drinking water and sanitation throughout the year and avoid water borne disease (WASH)?

➤ **PROJECT C: Energy**

Primary Sustainable Development Goal: 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy

The Community Challenge:

In places where there is no access or unreliable electricity, families rely on kerosene or candles for light. This is expensive, dangerous and unhealthy. If families could use alternative clean energies their well-being would improve. Although solar solutions are on the market and our team offers a variety, there is a continuous need for new solutions that are lower cost and easier to access.

Your Challenge(s):

1. Can we design a "modular" solar energy system which provides families with access to electricity that can become more robust over time?
2. Can we effectively distribute [MPowerd Luci Lights](#) and [Gravity Light](#) using a social enterprise methodology?

CONSULTING FOR ORGANIZATIONS

You will learn the skill sets and have access to/build tools to consult for local, socially-focused non profits and social enterprises. Over the years Social Entrepreneur Corps interns have consulted for over 100 local organizations. You design marketing outreach programs, help with social media strategies, conduct surveys of beneficiaries, design scaling strategies, give talks on best practices for business, health and the like. Overall the goal is to leave these organizations with frameworks for success so that they can achieve their missions once we leave.