

### Week One Presentation:Rating

### Week Two Presentation:MDG

### Week Three Presentation:Budget

### **Week Four:Digital House**

Implementing the MDGs is no easy task. Each individual goal is unique and has its own requirements to be fulfilled. However the majority of the issues are intertwined with one another. For example poverty can be connected with maternal health. Due to living in poverty, women may not be able to receive the necessary medical attention. The fact that these issues are intertwined makes it all the more difficult to solve just one without effecting another in some way. This could be an advantage but it can also be a disadvantage. In order to solve an issue there has to be resources to assist progress. Most places that are struggling to implement these MDG lack the money to do so. Thus some issues are disregarded because there is not enough money to go around. This is why strategizing and prioritizing are extremely important in implementing the MDGs. Money has to be distributed in order to improve and maintain each goal. Each area needs help so it hard to decide how much money and resources should go to each goal.

Ecuador currently struggles with a corrupt government which hinders the progress of each MDGs. Since the core of Ecuador is corrupt it is expected that the community is struggling. The government is responsible for providing fund and resources in areas of need. In the case of Ecuador the governments concern is in the wrong place. As a result Ecuador as a whole suffers in some way with all of the issues addressed by the MDGs. The probability of Ecuador achieving any of the goals by 2015 are slim.

The most pressing issues or challenges that Ecuador is facing are child health and poverty. Essentially children are living as adults meaning they are doing things that are expected from adults. Children are legally allowed to get married at 12 (girls) and 15(boys). About 22% of girls are married before they reach legal adulthood, the age 18. Children have to work in order to provide for their families. If the work conditions for adults is less than favorable then no doubt the working conditions for children are bad. Children working in very dangerous environments risking their health. Some children in Ecuador are not even documented. Many in Ecuador live in poverty or are in danger of poverty. The cause of poverty is different for indigenous and non-indigenous people. The indigenous people suffer because of lack of education while the non-indigenous lack an efficient water system.

Ecuador has made the most progress with Maternal health and Gender equality. The Constitution of Ecuador guarantees sexual and reproductive health rights for all citizens. Women have the legal right to chose whether to have their children. Giving women this legal right is a safety against things like self abortions which increase the maternal mortality rate. Other recent laws implemented have complete transformed maternal health. The constitution also establishes the equality of all citizens. Women who are often viewed as inferior in other places have seats in Ecuador's congress. Girls and boy have the equal access to

education. These are some major things that would be frowned upon in other countries.

## **Week Three: Budget/Global Partnership**

**Budget:** \$152,236,800

- (1) *Poverty and Hunger: (25%)*
- (6) *Education: (9%)*
- (5) *AIDS/HIV: (8%)*
- (2) *Child Health: (25%)*
- (8) *Maternal Health: (3%)*
- (7) *Gender Equality: (3%)*
- (4) *Environmental Sustainability (17%)*
- (3) *Global Partnership: (10%)*

**Current Population:** 15,223,680

**Foundations/Global Partnerships:**

**UNDP** (United Nations Development Programme)-Focuses specifically on the MDG

**Partners In Health**- Bringing modern medical science to those in need.

**LOTS(Lands of the Sun)**-Public charitable foundation that works specifically to help indigenous communities.

**Children's Rights Portal**- In connection with Humanium

**Indigenous Children of the Americas (ICOTA)**-nonprofit organization with the purpose of providing needed relief for children and families who reside both on and off of reservations throughout the Americas.

## **Week Two: MDG Analysis**

### **1. End Poverty and Hunger**

**Other Sources:**

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/EXTPA/0..contentMDK:20207570~isCURL:Y~menuPK:435735~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:430367,00.html>

Approximately thirty-five percent of the Ecuadorian population live in poverty. Another seventeen percent are in danger of poverty. Poverty among the indigenous people who live in rural areas. Poverty in these areas is related to lack of education which another millennium development goal. Poverty in urban areas is associated with the lack of functioning water supply or sewage system. The indigenous population currently show alarming levels of malnutrition and child mortality. As a whole this country exhibits low educational achievement, informal sector employment, rented housing, and low rates of labor force participation.

**Target Goals:**

Creating basic nutrition and health programs for the poor (indigenous); programs that strengthen the assets of the poor (indigenous); and support for a strong and stable demand for labor. Resources to finance these programs need to be organized in order to reach these target goals.

**Probability of Success:** 45%

**News Source:**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2012/jun/01/ecuador-poverty-politics-social-welfare>

This news report starts with a quote from María Fabiola Chaluiza. A single mother in La Cocha, Ecuador. She speaks about receiving \$35 a month. This provision is known as *Bono de Desarrollo Humano* or human development voucher. This is one of the instruments that President Correa is using to control poverty. This voucher sounds like something that could work. This voucher makes it easier for families to buy food which in turn improves health and education because of the requirements needed to receive the voucher. However the problem lies in the rumor of the voucher being “highly politicised”. This meaning that this is privileged to ensure the votes for one party.

## 2. Child Health

**Other Sources:**

<http://childrensrightsportal.org/ecuador/>

The well-being and right of children in Ecuador is significantly affected by their family's economic situation. Poverty stands in the way of children being successful and prospering. 22% of girls are married before they reach adulthood, or 18 years of age. The law permits children to be married in their teens. At the age in permitted for marriage, children are not mature enough to make this major decision and shouldn't have to. Parts of the Ecuadorean healthcare system are failing. There are high infant mortality rate, chronic malnutrition and the prevalence of AIDS. Progress is being made because the government began providing free access to health care. The minimum working age is 15. Yet one in ten children are working to provide for their families. The conditions in which these children work are not safe whatsoever. The new Constitution of Ecuador prohibits all forms of violence against children. However abuse within the household run children out of their homes and alone on the streets. Child trafficking is becoming more widespread although it is illegal. In Ecuador, indigenous children face racism and discrimination, stripping them of their rights and identity. In fact 15% of births in Ecuador aren't even registered.

**Target Goals:**

Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

**Probability of Success:** 25%

**News Sources:**

<http://insiderlouisville.com/news/2013/02/20/louisville-medical-professionals-healing-the-children-in-ecuador/>

The article reports on a trip made by the Healing the Children organization to Ecuador to provide surgeries for underprivileged children. A group of 25 surgeon and nurses set out to Ecuador to perform surgeries for 4 days straight. Some of the surgeries that they completed would cost \$50,000 in the U.S and they were performing them for free. Without these volunteer services, the patients in Ecuador could not afford these procedures because of the unbalanced healthcare system.

## 3. Universal Education

**Other Sources:**

<http://www.classbase.com/countries/Ecuador/Education-System>  
<http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ec-ecuador/edu-education>

In Ecuador children begin their primary education at age six, free of charge. Primary education is mandatory. Secondary education is split into two three-year cycles. After grade nine, parents have to pay fees in order for their child to further their education. The primary university is Universidad San Francisco de Quito. This university is part of a non-profit organization to close a gap in the country. The illiteracy rate is 7.6% for the population above the age of 15. The pupil to teacher ratio is 23.13. On average, adults have had 6.4 years of schooling total. 1% of GDP is spent on education.

**Target Goals:**

**Probability of Success:**

**News Source:**

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110916210900699>

Ecuador was used as “testing ground” for using higher education to reverse social and racial inequality. Fees for higher education were being suspended to offer more children with the change to further education. Those who were taking advantage of this provision are those who would have pursued higher education with the fees. The biggest expense was not the fees required to pursue higher education rather it was the time, years, that families had to sacrifice. Those most likely to forego employment and finish secondary education are children who come from the most advantaged population. This article brings out that the government of Ecuador would need to improve the quality of primary and secondary education so more children from poor families with “persist to graduate”.

#### **4. Combat HIV/AIDs**

**Other Sources:**

<http://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/ecuador/>  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ec.html>  
<http://www.lifemanagementonline.com/health-info/statistics/hiv-aids-life-expectancy-ecuador.php>

As of 2009 there were 37,000 people, about .4% of the population who suffered with HIV/AIDS. In 2009, approximately 2,200 people died of HIV/AIDS. The percent of adult population with HIV has decreased since 2003. Something noteworthy is that HIV is a problem among the children of Ecuador. On estimate, 57 children under the age of 5 died because AIDS in 2009. The president implemented a new policy where the caregivers of children with HIV/AIDS under the age of 14 are given approximately \$240 monthly. This money is given in hope that the caregivers will use it to improve the living condition of these children.

**Target Goals:**

Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it.

Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

**Probability of Success:** 25

**News Source:**

<http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2012/october/20121003aecuador/>

Public policy by the Ecuadorean government to protect children with HIV.

## **5. Gender Equality**

### **Other Sources:**

<http://genderindex.org/country/ecuador>

Gender equality isn't an extreme problem in Ecuador. For the most part things are pretty fair between the sexes. This no doubt is a result of the latest constitution establishes the equality of all citizens, including the basis of sex and gender. The Constitution of Ecuador also provides equal family responsibility for men and women. Women have the same rights to divorce as men. Women have the right to pass Ecuadorian citizenship onto their children and the same inheritance rights as men. As of 2009 there were 40 of 124 seats in Ecuador's National Congress that were occupied by women. In 2012, the male to female ratio was 0.99. Sexual harassment causes some issues with gender equality. Sexual harassment usually occurs in the workplace and in schools although it is against the law. Women who are agricultural producers also face some restrictions when it come to bank loans. Women represent 25% of all agricultural producers but only 16% receive credit.

### **Target Goals:**

Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education in all levels of education no later than 2015.

**Probability of Success:** 25

### **News source:**

<http://www.ecuadortimes.net/2012/06/15/michelle-bachelet-recognized-ecuador%C2%B4s-progress-in-gender-equality/>

An article on Ecuador's progress.

## **6. Maternal Health**

### **Other Sources:**

<http://www.familycareintl.org/en/places/13>

<http://www.womendeliver.org/updates/entry/celebrate-solutions-ecuadors-health-system-model-reduces-maternal-mortality>

The Constitution of Ecuador guarantees sexual and reproductive health rights for all citizens. Women have the legal right to decide whether to have children. They also have access to contraceptives. Abortion is only legal in cases where the mother's physical health is in danger. In the case of rape the President has the ability to use a veto to allow the abortion legally. The maternal mortality rate is 130 deaths per 100,000 births. However this estimate may be low because many maternal deaths are unregistered. 76.5 % of nonindigenous women receive skilled maternal care and only 15% of indigenous women do. Ecuador has been making progress towards bettering their health care system. In 2003, the Active Management of the Third State of Labor (AMTSL) was implemented to transform maternal health.

### **Stopped Here**

*Target Goals: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio.*

*Achieve universal access to reproductive health.*

**Probability of Success:** 65

**News Source:** *An article on the fail of maternal mortality rates.*

<http://rhrealitycheck.org/article/2010/05/04/ecuador-reduces-maternal-deaths/>  
<http://www.unfpa.org/public/news/pid/338>

## 7. Environmental Sustainability

### **Other Sources:**

<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Americas/Ecuador-ENVIRONMENT.html>  
<http://www.vivatravelguides.com/south-america/ecuador/ecuador-overview/social-and-environmental-issues-in-ecuador/>

Some major environmental problems that Ecuador faces are erosion, deforestation, and water pollution. Oil companies are a threat to the rainforest and a danger to the lives of indigenous people. Flooding and desertification have damaged valuable soil. Water pollution is a result of influx in contaminants. Not everyone has water. 90% of urban dwellers and 75% of rural dwellers have pure or clean drinking water. Tourism is the newest form of sustainable revenue with less damage to the environment.

**Goals:** Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving a significant reduction in the rate of loss.

Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

**Probability of Success:** 15

**News Source:** Oil contamination ruins rainforest, Ecuador's lawsuit.

<http://ens-newswire.com/2012/10/09/top-u-s-court-rejects-chevrons-appeal-in-ecuador-pollution-case/>

## 8. Global Partnership

### **Other Sources:**

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2010/08/03/PNUdyEcuadorsuscribenacuerdoparalainiciativaYasuni.html>

Ecuador currently has a partnership with UNDP and Italy on the Yasuni trust fund. The purpose of this fund is to provide a response to climate change issues. This thus contributes to the Environmental Sustainability MDG. The Government of Ecuador have signed other agreements with UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). An example of that was a deal made to protect the Ecuadorian Amazon from being drilled for oil. This again is another trust fund which is interesting. Trust funds are primarily used for people who can not manage their own funds. This fact adds to the evidence of issues with Ecuadorian government.

**Target Goals:** Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system.

Address the special needs of least developed countries.

Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries.

In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries

In cooperation with the private sector, make available benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.

**Probability of Success:** 0

**News Source:** Ecuador signed a debt-swap agreement with Italy.

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2012/09/25/italy-ecuador-sign-35-million-debt-swap-for-yasuni.html>

## Week One: Freedom House

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#### Status:

**Country Rating:** Partly Free

#### **Five Reasons For Rating:**

- Freedom of Expression and Belief is limited
  - problem with free media
  - “assassin's with ink”
  - Bill to give control to a Communication and Information Board. “government controlled media”
- Poverty
  - In 2000 Ecuador faced a banking crisis which increased poverty.
  - Most children have one parent that is abroad.
- emmigration
  - as unemployment rates grow people are moving to places that offer better opportunities.
  - those who emmigrate face crime before they reach the border.
- unemployment
  - Unemployment was a problem in the past because of the banking crisis. Its easier for things to revert back than make progress.
- Electoral Democracy
  - Rafael Correa (served for more than a decade)
  - New constitution in 2008
  - repressive political environment
  - no stability

#### **News Stories:**

<http://www.freemedia.at/home/singleview/article/ecuador-steps-up-campaign-against-media.html>

[http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-02-20/opinions/37198641\\_1\\_media-freedom-radio-stations-rafael-correa](http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-02-20/opinions/37198641_1_media-freedom-radio-stations-rafael-correa)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-11166741>

#### Trending Arrow: Down

PR:3 CL:3

“Ecuador received a downward trend arrow due to the government’s intensified campaign against opposition leaders and intimidation of journalists, its excessive use of public resources to influence a national referendum, and the unconstitutional restructuring of the judiciary.”

The country’s economic freedom score is on a decline. The score dropped 1.4 points within the

past year. Ecuador is in their third year as a “repressed economy”. Controlling government spending is an issue that is overthrowing the improvements in other areas. The unemployment rate is almost 6% which doesn’t seem too terrible at the moment. When considering the charts there is an obvious decline but no real consistency. I think that they may continue on this path unless there are some changes in government.

### **Greatest Strengths**

- help for refugees

### **Greatest Weakness**

- government
- economy/employment

### **Probability of Success**

It seems to me that Ecuador followed a similar pattern as the U.S just on a smaller scale at one point. They, just like us, faced an economic crisis that caused unemployment rates to spike. I thought it was interesting how they also had an incident of rebellion in September that reeked havoc. The difference between the two is that Ecuador continues to slip drastically. It was obvious that in 2008 their new government was trying to turn things around because a new constitution was created. From what I was reading, a big and unresolved issue had to do with media and political interference. The government continues to be unstable I think priorities have to be set and plans have to be made.

### **Citations:**

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/FIW%202013%20Charts%20and%20Graphs%20for%20Web.pdf>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ec.html>

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/country/ecuador>

## **Global 3Q Bmark: Ecuador**

**-How** will you work? Solo

**-Who** will you work with? Me, Myself and I

**-What** will you make? My final product will be a website.

**-Why** did you select this particular country?

I feel like South America is so close to home for me not to know much about it. I’ve heard of Ecuador in past spanish classes. However I’m not extremely familiar so I think it would be nice to explore somewhere new. I find hispanic culture in general very interesting but I’ve never studied it outside of the tidbits in Spanish class.