



**Written Testimony Submitted by Howard G. Buffett, Chairman and CEO of the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, to the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee Hearing on “Securing the Southwest Border: Perspectives from Beyond the Beltway”**

March 17, 2015

Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Carper and Members of the Committee: thank you for the opportunity to testify today. Let me start by saying this: our border is not secure. This is based on my experiences as a rancher and a farmer with property on and near the Arizona border; my time serving on the Sheriff's Assist Team for Cochise County under Sheriff Dannels; my law enforcement perspective as an Undersheriff for Macon County, Illinois; and my experience as a philanthropist who has invested more than \$150 million since 2005 on border-related issues in the United States, Mexico, and Central America.

Our insecure border is contributing to a humanitarian crisis. While most of my philanthropic efforts in Mexico and Central America work to improve the lives of people in their home countries and reduce incentives to cross, I strongly believe that border security must come first and must be addressed separately from other important and worthy investments in immigration reform and efforts to create economic opportunities in countries of origin. I would like to share with you today some of the experiences that have shaped this perspective, as well as my recommendations for ways to secure our border.

## **Background**

### *Ranching Perspective*

The Howard G. Buffett Foundation owns 2,375 acres of ranch land located in Cochise County, Arizona. Our property is on the border, and includes a residence located 300 yards from the U.S.-Mexico border fence. Each month, thousands of undocumented migrants and drug smugglers cross the eighty-three miles of international border the county shares with Mexico. I have personally witnessed evidence of regular crossings through our property and fence line. Area ranchers are experiencing challenges of great magnitude – our fences are cut, our cattle put at risk, our water sources damaged and our properties littered. We must also take extra precautions to ensure our personal safety.

Regular fence-cutting is particularly worrisome to ranchers, given its impact on their livelihoods. Last month, I found our new fence cut in three places, approximately 100 feet apart. Two of the fence cuts were through all four fence wires, suggesting the individuals walking through were carrying heavy loads of drugs and could not step over the lower wires. A cut fence is a financial burden for ranchers given the cost of continuously mending fences, the hindrance to successful breeding due to mixing of cattle from different pastures, and the productivity lost during labor-intensive roundups. Cut fences also allow livestock to roam open roads or even cross the border into Mexico, creating liability concerns.

One of our neighbors is fellow rancher John Ladd, whose family has owned property in Cochise County for 118 years. The property shares a ten and a half mile border with Mexico that includes a metal fence erected by the Federal Government. Over the course of two and a half years, John has witnessed smugglers using chop saws to cut large holes in the fence, allowing them to drive forty-six trucks loaded with drugs across his property. Only one of these trucks was apprehended after it broke down and was abandoned by smugglers. John's challenges illustrate broader problems associated with a border that is not secure: regular traffic from criminal elements put residents at risk and diminish property values in border towns. The value of John's property is a case in point. In 2012, the Walter D. Armer & Associates appraiser noted in his report that "The proximity to the Mexico border and illegal immigration and drug smuggling problems that go with it is a major drawback for many investors." Our Foundation was able to purchase a legacy ranch at a quarter of the asking price because it had been on the market for years and there are few buyers looking for border property.

The border patrol also plays a role in undermining owners' property values through eminent domain – and in some cases, informal overreach. We have experienced on our own ranch, and heard similar stories from other ranchers, when agents create roads on clearly-marked ranch property. We recently lost a hill on our property to the federal government through eminent domain so that a communications tower can be moved from a neighboring hill a few hundred yards away. These are the kinds of challenges property owners face when they live on the border.

### *Farming Perspective*

In addition to our land on the border, our Foundation owns 1,575 acres of farm land in Willcox, Arizona (also in Cochise County), located fifty miles' north of the border. On our property we have regular visits from border patrol agents tracking drug smugglers. Last year, a smuggler was chased into our corn fields, carrying with him 600 pounds of marijuana. It took five hours for border patrol agents to apprehend him. Individuals making their way from the border to Interstate 10 also leave behind their trash on Arizona farmlands —including soiled diapers, plastic bottles, food, cans, burlap bags and abandoned vehicles. This places an extra burden on area farmers to clean up the trash left after these border breaches, to say nothing of the personal safety issues of having individuals who are breaking the law regularly traversing our property, at times coming within 100 feet of our home.

### *Public Safety Perspective*

I serve on the Sheriff's Assist Team in Cochise County, Arizona, as an Undersheriff for Macon County, Illinois, and as an Auxiliary Deputy Sheriff in Macon and Shelby counties in Illinois. These roles have provided me with a law enforcement perspective and front-line exposure to the transnational criminal activity and security threats associated with an insecure border. I have seen the results of drug smugglers who have breached fences and re-welded steel to disguise their crossing, and I have seen the effects of the increase in drugs brought into the U.S., especially heroin and meth. I have also witnessed the limited capacity of border agents to respond to these challenges. On a tactical mission with the Cochise County Sheriff's Office one night, using surveillance equipment covering approximately 20 miles along the border, we spent five hours monitoring the border fence using an infrared scope, but saw only one border patrol truck. We also saw a microlight aircraft returning to Mexico after what was likely a drug drop, a common way that drugs are being brought into the U.S. It is a way to circumvent patrol agents and drop drugs very close to the interstate; once they are in a vehicle and on the interstate, interdiction is much less likely.

The cartels have better surveillance and better access to manpower than ever before. Opposite our ranch on the Mexico side is a hill approximately 400 feet above ground elevation. At the top of the hill is a clearly visible post, manned by a spotter who can readily see the border fence and any border patrol agents or law enforcement for many miles. After Operation Gatekeeper was implemented in the mid-1990s, crossing routes were forced into more rural areas and difficult terrain like Cochise County, prompting the cartels to get into the lucrative human trafficking business. Today, based on interviews of apprehended individuals, we know that the cartels are also using people who are crossing into the U.S. in search of a better life as drug mules in lieu of payment for assistance with crossing routes. The consequences for these individuals who are caught are much higher than those who pay for their assistance with cash but the cartel does not always provide individuals with an option.

Local law enforcement agencies are on the front lines of the fight for improved border security and can be a valuable resource to address the gaps in border patrol capacity if there was better coordination from federal agencies and if there was a desire to do so.

### *Humanitarian Perspective*

Over the last decade I have made numerous trips accompanying border patrol agents on the border, visiting migration centers and DHS holding facilities, meeting farm workers, and observing migrants making their way north via the “Death Train.” The lack of a secure border is contributing to a humanitarian crisis both in the U.S. and abroad.

In recent years, we have seen several key trends in migration patterns, which highlight the root causes driving thousands of migrants to make the perilous journey to the U.S., including violence at home and lack of economic opportunities in their home countries, as well as incentives in our own system. These trends in particular are driving the increase in the number of unaccompanied minors coming from Central America, which has doubled each year since 2011.

Operation Gatekeeper increased border security at main crossing centers, which has funneled migrants to more extreme and dangerous crossing points.<sup>1</sup> Crossing treacherous desert areas exposes migrants to heat exhaustion and dehydration. More than 300 people died attempting to reach the U.S.-Mexico border in FY2014.<sup>2</sup> I have witnessed first-hand the consequences of these dangerous conditions. Our Foundation provided a grant to fund an International GIS Initiative in Pima County to create a geographic information system that links data from missing person reports to post-mortem reports to hopefully identify the individuals who die in the desert so that their families can access the information. We should not be satisfied knowing that our insecure border encourages these dangerous crossings.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.law.cuny.edu/legal-writing/forum/immigration-law-essays/wolf.html>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/documents/BP%20Southwest%20Border%20Sector%20Deaths%20FY1998%20-%20FY2014\\_0.pdf](http://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/documents/BP%20Southwest%20Border%20Sector%20Deaths%20FY1998%20-%20FY2014_0.pdf)

Difficult terrain also means that border crossers are increasingly looking to drug smugglers for navigation assistance. Migrants are vulnerable to kidnapping, murder and sexual assault at the hands of smugglers. This is especially concerning given the evolving demographics of migrants. Unaccompanied minors are arriving at the U.S. border in unprecedented numbers, and almost half of the children arriving are girls. An Amnesty International report indicates that as many as six in ten migrant women and girls are raped during the journey.<sup>3</sup> Recognizing the increased percentage of migrants that are unaccompanied children and the horrors children experience during their journey, our Foundation has invested millions of dollars in social services, legal assistance, centers and facilities, and reintegration services for deported children to reduce the likelihood of remigration.

Lax immigration enforcement policies create incentives to cross. Policies that defer deportations or provide amnesty create new surges of illegal migrants to the U.S. border. Regardless of the legal reality, there is clearly a perception in Central American countries that children and illegal migrants will be able to stay in the U.S. because of impending policies. We need to eliminate these incentives if we are to secure the border and stop contributing to the humanitarian issues an insecure border creates.

### *Testing New Approaches*

Our Foundation has invested nearly \$124 million over the last ten years to address the “push” factors driving migrants from Central America and Mexico, including efforts to support legal migration for farmworkers, and reduce illegal migration by creating better economic opportunities in countries of origin. These include:

- Testing a new labor recruitment model in partnership with Costco and the United Farm Workers to prevent fraudulent recruiting practices and safe working environments for farmworkers in Mexico and the U.S.;
- Creating a model for community-based gang intervention to disrupt gang-related violence in El Salvador;
- Supporting additional capacity for the Florence Immigration and Refugee Rights Project to address the needs of children and adults who are awaiting immigration processing;
- Advising on the Mexican government’s migration plan, including improved government services for migrant workers and improved oversight mechanisms;
- Piloting a model for H-2A workers to be safely recruited in Mexico and connected with U.S. farmers;
- Providing legal services and support to unaccompanied minors being deported back to Guatemala to safely return and reduce the likelihood of remigration;
- Developing programs to help migrants and minors understand their rights and the dangers of illegal migration;
- Funding three migrant centers in Mexico and supporting a community center for migrant support in Mexico;
- Investing in numerous efforts to improve the productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers in Central America to reduce incentives to cross to the U.S.

---

<sup>3</sup> <http://blog.amnestyusa.org/americas/most-dangerous-journey-what-central-american-migrants-face-when-they-try-to-cross-the-border/>

We are also investing directly in improved border security in partnership with the Cochise County Sheriff's office. To date, our Foundation has committed \$22 million to upgrade communication networks; add surveillance equipment; improve officer protection equipment; increase canine support; enhance training facilities; augment search and recovery air support; and add human capacity to create a specialized investigative team focused on human trafficking and drug smuggling.

Our Foundation is also partnering with area ranchers and federal and state agencies to restore healthy grasslands one mile deep and 38 miles along the border. We expect to put more than \$6 million into this effort in the coming years with a goal to demonstrate not only the environmental benefits to removing invasive species of plants like mesquite but to also enhance enforcement visibility along the border, making it more difficult to cross.

We consider our philanthropic support to be essentially risk capital testing new ideas and potential solutions. For change to come at scale, it must be led by sound government policy and participation.

## **Proposed Solutions**

One thing I have learned from our Foundation's work in over 80 countries is that it does little to identify a problem if you are not able to also propose a solution. Here are a few ideas I present for the Committee's consideration to enhance the security of our border:

### **1) Increase Enforcement Capacity**

We need more human assets on our border but adding more border patrol agents to the current system is not the right answer. There is an opportunity to better utilize the agents we already have, increase technology support assets, strategically use appropriate military assets, and rethink some of the policies within Customs and Border Patrol.

Currently, agents are disproportionately positioned at checkpoints miles north of the border waiting to catch migrants and drug smugglers who are not apprehended at their initial crossing point – in part due to the Defense in Depth strategy. The Tucson Border Patrol station in fiscal year 2011 scheduled only 43 percent of agent workdays to border zones.<sup>4</sup> Even with the federal government's increased use of border cameras and other surveillance technology, many remote border areas are still insecure due to limited staffing and communications mechanisms; apprehensions are also limited by processing capacities. There are many areas without fencing and there are areas that can only be reached by horse patrol. The effectiveness of border patrol agents could be increased by moving away from this policy and more strategically placing agents at locations directly on the border, thus minimizing agent response times. More agents should be positioned at the smaller checkpoints that are too often closed because of a lack of manpower. With additional resource support and through cooperative agreements, local law enforcement could assist with the Defense in Depth strategy to relieve agents to be in closer proximity to the border.

---

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/650730.pdf>

We also have an opportunity to engage appropriate military assets without militarizing the border. I have traveled to 135 countries and seen every country on the African continent, including active conflict zones. Almost every country in the world protects their borders with their military. Border security is a national security issue and requires that we engage all of our assets to secure our border. Members of Congress have already recommended the deployment of National Guard troops. I urge Congress to also consider expanding the Coast Guard's mandate to operate on land. They are trained to enforce our borders, are readily available and can staff-up based on a command structure that is more appropriate for our border.

We can also do more with surplus technology and alternative resources. Aerostats provided to Border Patrol from the Department of Defense can spot vehicles attempting to circumvent check points during pick-ups and drop-offs. The strength of this approach was proven in McAllen, Texas, where aerostats acted as additional eyes for border agents and immediately increased the number of apprehensions. Helicopters and canines are extremely effective assets for detection and apprehension. Until the border is secure, agents should also be supported by additional immigration courts at border facilities for real-time judicial processing. There are currently seven Executive Office for Immigration Review Courts at the border in California and Texas, and none at Arizona's border.<sup>5</sup>

Customs and Border Patrol human resources policies also need to be reviewed. Currently, border patrol compensation and retirement opportunities are linked to the size (by agent headcount) of the station. Seasoned patrol-agents-in-charge (PAICs) who would prefer to remain at smaller but tactically-important stations must move to larger stations to qualify for higher compensation and better benefits. There should instead be incentives to keep the best PAICs at their station of choice, particularly when that station is strategically important to border security. PAICs should also be provided with greater decision-making authority to take advantage of their extensive on-the-ground experiences and relationships.

None of these measures are effective if the policy is "catch and release." There is an additional burden placed on the state to prosecute criminals who commit immigration violations when federal prosecutors will not prosecute.

## **2) Increased Pressure on Mexico to Secure Its Borders**

Addressing the challenges of safety and security from both sides of the border is the most efficient way to achieve operational control. We've seen this prove to be an effective policy with Colombia, and we should pursue a similar policy with Mexico. We need to put a plan in place that shuts down the in-flow of illegal drugs entering the country through sufficient manpower on both sides of the border. Mexico must also secure its southern border.

---

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.justice.gov/eoir/sibpages/ICadr.htm>

In 2008, President Bush established the Merida Initiative to facilitate cross-border cooperation on mutual interests of public safety and transnational crime. The U.S. should better engage Mexico under this initiative to coordinate law enforcement, judiciaries, and military manpower to target transnational criminal organizations, gangs, human traffickers, terrorists, and other threats to shared security, and promote a national plan for migrants, including the expansion of economic opportunity. This requires a new level of trust and investment between the two countries, and while that is not without risk, it is critical to the security of our border.

### **3) Effective Cooperation with Local Authorities**

Border states are uniquely positioned at the intersection of local, national and international interests. Integrating state and local governments into the planning and implementation of a border security strategy is important for several reasons:

- These entities are more familiar with on-the-ground realities at the border and provide invaluable knowledge about local culture, customs, geography, politics and threats to the community.
- Local governments enforce housing violations and police departments recover stolen cars, often cutting off smuggling and drug-trade routes.
- State and local governments incur significant costs related to undocumented migration and thus should have an opportunity to engage in decision-making.

In addition to engaging local entities from a policy perspective, providing funding for local and county law enforcement agencies is integral to success at the border. Local law enforcement personnel are frequently lifelong residents of the areas they patrol, while border agents are transitive. The continual movement of border patrol agents is not conducive to the development of local knowledge and relationships.

Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) provides funding to designated localities to enhance cooperation and coordination between federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies in a joint mission to secure the U.S. borders.<sup>6</sup> Programs like OPSG that improve local law enforcement's capability to prevent, protect against, and respond to border security issues, and encourage cooperation between local and federal levels, should be expanded.

---

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.homelandsecuritygrants.info/GrantDetails.aspx?gid=21875>

#### **4) Engaging Private Citizens and the Rancher Community**

Private citizens in border communities are disproportionately affected by lack of border security and resulting criminal activity, especially ranchers who experience property damage and lose cattle. These challenges are exacerbated by miscommunications between ranchers and border patrol agents. Proposed border reform policies should engage ranchers and land-owners as partners in decision-making, and should set consistent guidelines for the treatment of ranchers by border patrol agencies, with clear penalties for agents who violate policy.

Clear communication is needed to help ranchers fully understand federal laws such as the “twenty-five mile” statute, which allows border agents to enforce immigration laws on private lands but not dwellings (agents must obtain a search warrant or occupant consent to search a home). In turn, ranchers are responsible for understanding the constraints of border patrol agents--economic, manpower or otherwise--and acting as forward-looking partners during stakeholder meetings. Finally, recognizing the effects of property damage to ranchers’ livelihoods, simple and quick reimbursement policies are needed for landowners who experience property damage as a result of federal enforcement efforts.

#### **5) Eliminating Incentives to Cross**

It is critical that the efforts above be complemented by addressing the “pull factors” of migration. In 2013, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) removed 198,000 individuals from the U.S. with no legal status and prior criminal convictions.<sup>7</sup> At the local level, it is clear that the more common practice is to issue a “Notice to Appear” and release apprehended individuals into the community. This “catch and release” practice and the resulting perception that some illegal migrants could be getting a free pass into the U.S. could lead to even more attempts to cross the border. Eliminating loopholes within our system and enforcing a zero-tolerance policy is critical for removing incentives for illegal crossings.

#### **Conclusion**

We can secure our border by addressing the key practical challenges, including increasing enforcement capacity, furthering cooperation with Mexico, improving coordination among local, state and federal agencies, including local communities. On the policy front, we must strive for zero tolerance. All of these efforts should not get sidetracked by the important but separate considerations of immigration reform and Central American economic development initiatives.

Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Carper and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I have included here for the Committee’s reference my full biography as well as additional information about our Foundation’s related investments in the U.S., Mexico and Central America. I look forward to answering any questions.

---

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/ois\\_enforcement\\_ar\\_2013.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/ois_enforcement_ar_2013.pdf)

## **HOWARD G. BUFFETT BIO**

Howard G. Buffett grew up in Omaha, Nebraska, and has been active in agriculture, business, conservation, philanthropy, photography, law enforcement and politics. He currently spends the majority of his time managing the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, a private charitable foundation, and serving as an Undersheriff for the Macon County Sheriff's Office in Illinois. Mr. Buffett oversees a 1,500-acre family farm in central Illinois and farms in Nebraska with his son. He oversees four foundation-operated research farms totaling 16,125 acres and a 2,376 acre cattle ranch in Arizona on the U.S.-Mexico border. The research farms include 1,525 acres in Arizona 50 miles from the U.S.-Mexico border; 4,400 acres in Illinois; 1,000 acres in Nebraska; and 9,200 acres in South Africa. Mr. Buffett has served in a number of public positions. In 1989, he was elected to the Douglas County Board of Commissioners in Nebraska, and later served on two Office of the United States Trade Representative committees, and as Chairman of the Nebraska Ethanol Authority and Development Board. Mr. Buffett served in senior executive positions at Archer Daniels Midland Company and The GSI Group.

Mr. Buffett currently serves on the Corporate Boards of Berkshire Hathaway, Inc., an investment holding company; The Coca Cola Company, the world's largest beverage company; Lindsay Corporation, a world-wide leader in the manufacturing of agricultural irrigation products; and Sloan Implement, a privately owned distributor of John Deere agricultural equipment. Mr. Buffett has served on the boards of Archer Daniels Midland, a leading global food processor; Coca-Cola Enterprises, Inc., the largest Coca-Cola bottler in the world; ConAgra Foods, one of North America's largest food service manufacturers and retail food suppliers; and Agro Tech Foods, a publicly traded food manufacturing company in India. He serves or has served on numerous non-profit boards.

Mr. Buffett is a member of the Sheriff's Assist Team in Cochise County, Arizona. He is a Civilian Undersheriff for Macon County, Illinois and serves as an Auxiliary Deputy Sheriff in Macon and Christian counties in Illinois.

Mr. Buffett was appointed to the Commission on Presidential Debates in 1997 and named a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador Against Hunger on behalf of the World Food Programme in 2007. He has been honored for his work in conservation, philanthropy and agriculture, including: the Aztec Eagle Award from the President of Mexico in 2000, the highest honor bestowed on a foreign citizen by the Government of Mexico; the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture in 2002 as one of the most distinguished individuals in the field of agriculture; the Will Owen Jones Distinguished Journalist of the Year Award in 2005; the World Ecology Award, and the George McGovern Leadership Award in 2011; the National Farmers Union Meritorious Service to Humanity Award, the Columbia University Global Leadership Award, an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Pennsylvania State University, the Leader in Agriculture Award from Agriculture Future of America, and the Special Service Award from the Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development in 2012; the Chairman's Award from National Geographic Society and the International Quality of Life Award from Auburn University in 2013. In 2014, Mr. Buffett was recognized by CIMMYT for his contributions to agriculture.

Mr. Buffett has traveled to 135 countries and authored eight books, including the *New York Times* bestseller *40 Chances: Finding Hope in a Hungry World*. His writing has been published in periodicals including *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post*. He is the executive producer of *Virunga*, an award-winning and Academy Award-nominated documentary about Africa's oldest national park.

*Attachment to the Written Testimony Submitted by Howard G. Buffett to the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee Hearing on “Securing the Southwest Border: Perspectives from Beyond the Beltway”*

**Summary of Investments by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to Reduce Illegal Migration, Improve Livelihoods and Enhance Food Security in the U.S. and Central America**

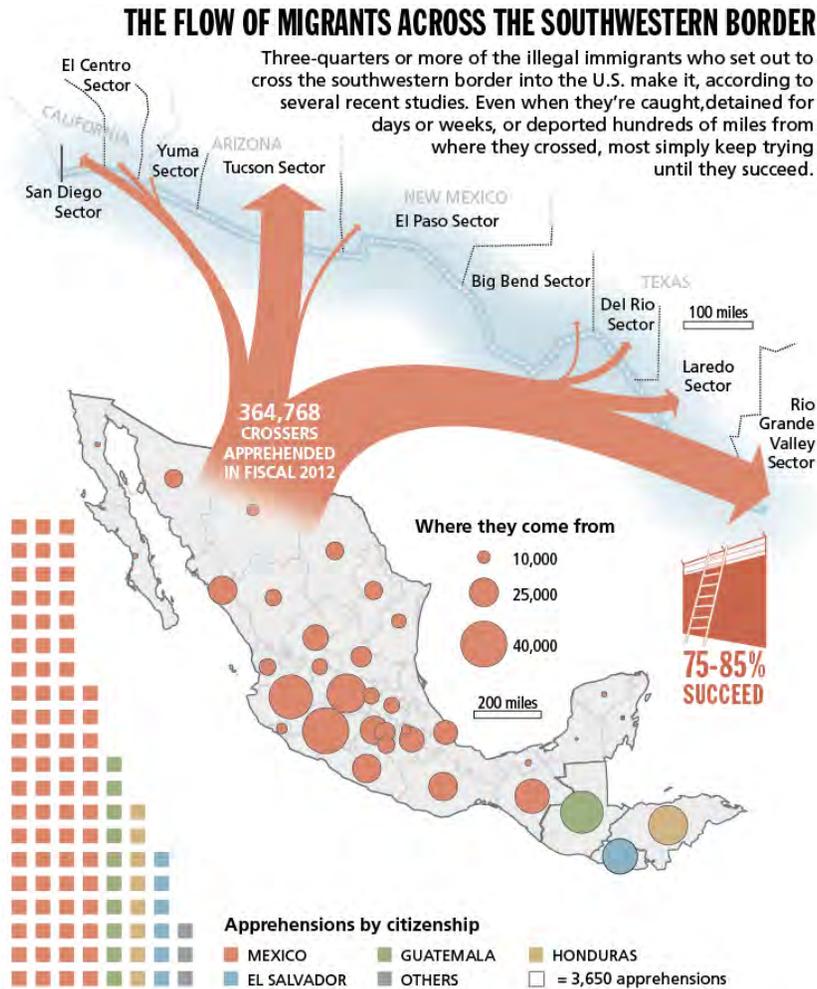


THE HOWARD G.  
**BUFFETT**  
FOUNDATION

March 17, 2015

# Country Origins of Illegal Migrants to the U.S.

An estimated 11.5 million people in the U.S. are undocumented – 58% from Mexico, 15% from Central America.<sup>1</sup> An estimated 1.5 to 2.5 million more cross the Mexican border each year, most successfully.<sup>2</sup>



- 75% to 85% of illegal crossers succeed<sup>3</sup>
- People who are caught often try to cross again<sup>3</sup>
- This trend continues despite: a 100% increase in border agents since 2002<sup>4</sup>; a 145% increase in the Border Patrol budget since 2002<sup>4</sup>; and a 2.7x increase in deportations over the same time period<sup>5</sup>

Sources:  
Department of Homeland Security, Congressional Research Service, Council of Foreign Relations, National Research Council

KEDI XIA/THE REPUBLIC

1 Department of Homeland Security, "Estimates of Unauthorized Immigrant Population Residing in the United States," [http://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/ois\\_ill\\_pe\\_2012\\_2.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/ois_ill_pe_2012_2.pdf)

2 <http://ccis.ucsd.edu/?s=illegal+immigration+2013+statistics>

3 <http://ccis.ucsd.edu/?s=illegal+immigration+2013+statistics>

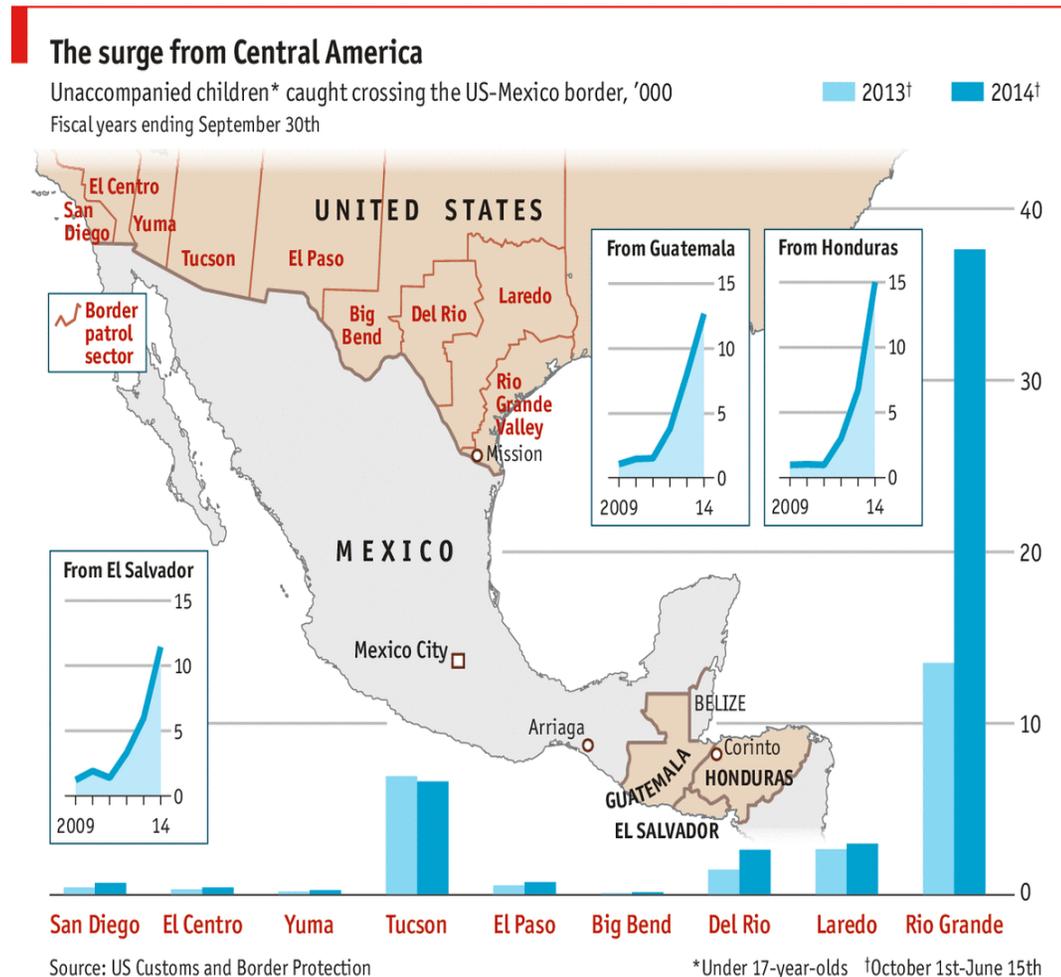
4 U.S. Customs & Border Patrol website

5 Department of Homeland Security Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2013

# Changing Demographics of Apprehensions

More unaccompanied children, more migrants from Central America, and fewer Mexicans are being apprehended at the border since 2004.<sup>2</sup>

- The number of unaccompanied minors coming from Central America has doubled each year since 2011.<sup>1</sup>
- The number of Mexicans apprehended at the border has dropped 63% between 2004 and 2013.<sup>2</sup>
- Overall, individuals from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras apprehended at the border has increased 214% between 2004 and 2013.<sup>2</sup>



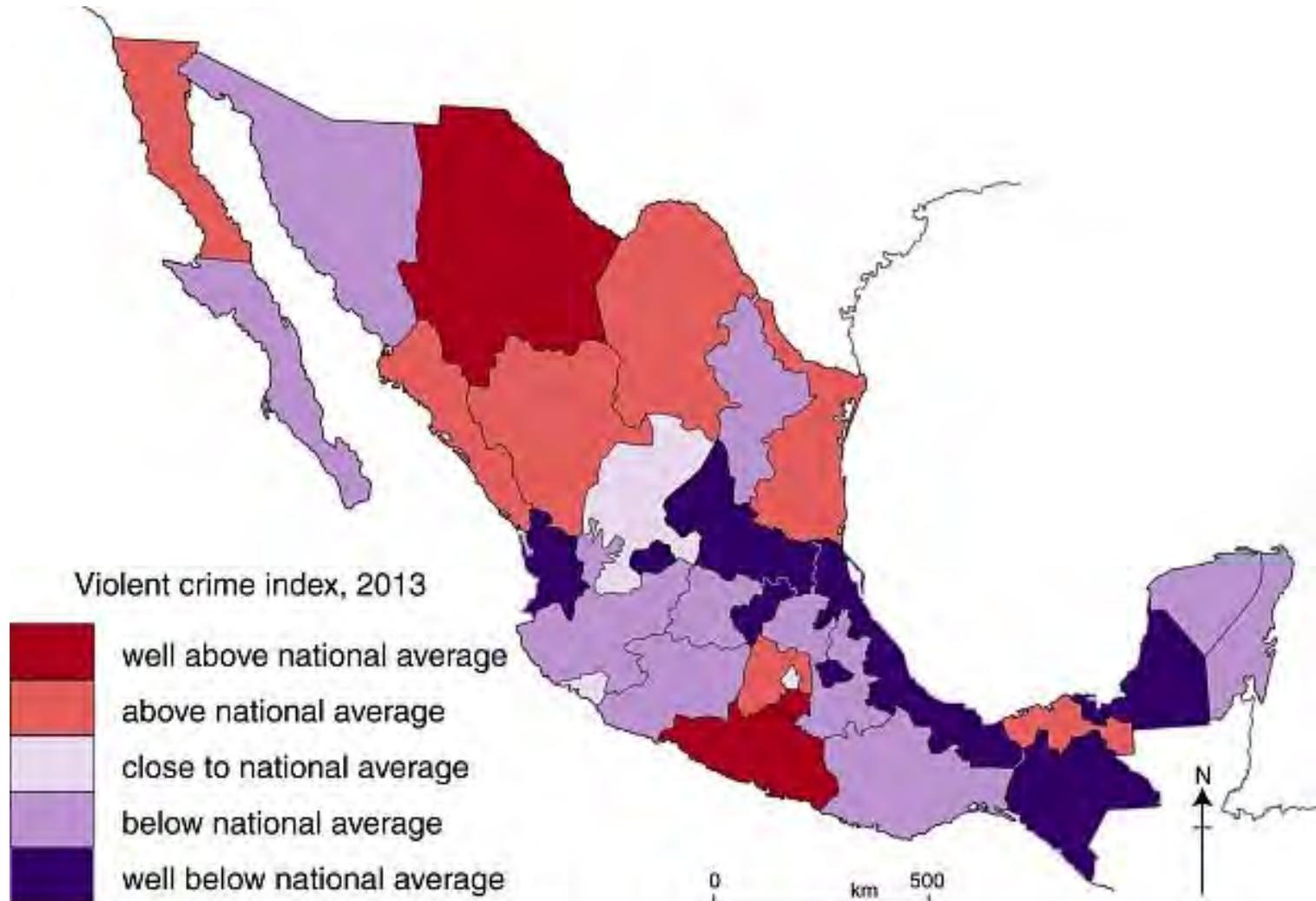
1 Pew Hispanic Research Trends Project <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2012/04/23/net-migration-from-mexico-falls-to-zero-and-perhaps-less/>

2 Department of Homeland Security Yearbook of Immigration Statistics 2013.

<http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21605886-wave-unaccompanied-children-swamps-debate-over-immigration-under-age-and-move>

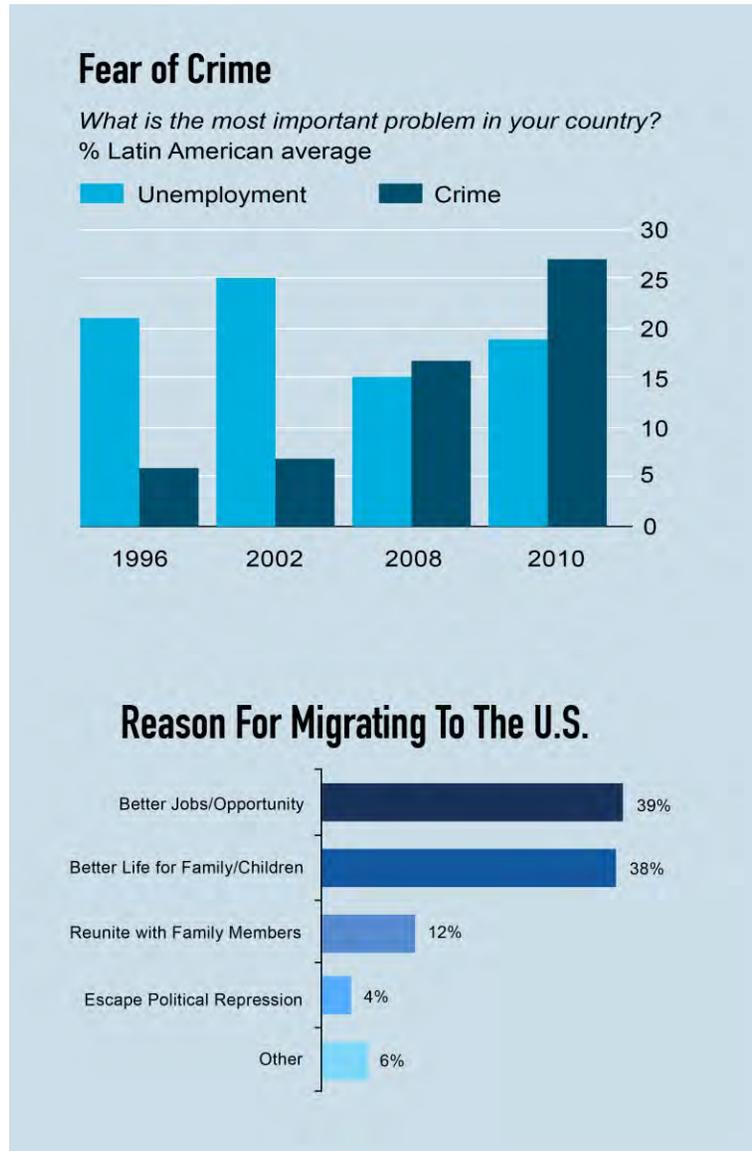
# Violent Crime Across the Border

Four of the five Mexican states sharing the border with the U.S. have violent crime rates above or well above the national average.



# Why Immigrants Come

Lack of economic opportunities and violent crime are causing record numbers of children and families to come to the U.S.<sup>1</sup>



## GUATEMALA



### 437 CHILDREN MURDERED

In 2011 alone, there were 437 children murdered in the country. The number of homicides committed against children is a good indicator for the level of violence in a community.

It is estimated that 834,000 children work in Guatemala, largely in inadequate or unsafe conditions.

## EL SALVADOR



### 31% OF FEMALES HAVE BEEN PHYSICALLY ABUSED

Of the total female population 15 to 49 years old in El Salvador,



31% expressed that they had personally been abused physically by another person before turning 18.



24% reported that they had witnessed a man physically abusing a woman in their home environment when they were a child

According to National Civil Police records, a total of 1,190 cases of sexual crimes against women and girls were reported in the first half of 2012.

## HONDURAS



### 6,025 CHILDREN & YOUTH HAVE BEEN MURDERED

Honduras has the highest murder rate in the world. According to Casa Alianza, between January 1998 and December 2010, 6,025 children and youth under 23 years old have been murdered, many the victims of systematic executions carried out through organized criminal activity.

The number of children murdered by security forces is increasing. Of the known murders up until 2000,



61% were children under 18, and the rest were between 18 and 22 years old.

<sup>1</sup> Latinobarometro (top left); Latino Decisions/NALEO/AVEF poll of undocumented Latinos March 2013 (bottom left); <http://blog.worldvisionyouth.org/2014/06/18/infographic-fleeing-violence/> ( graphic on the right)

# Financial Incentives

Many immigrants send money back to family members in their home countries. These remittances play an important role in the livelihoods of the individuals who receive them and the economies of the receiving countries.<sup>1,2</sup>

	Remittances as a Percent of GDP (2013) <sup>1</sup>	Remittances Received (2013) <sup>1</sup>	US Official Development Assistance <sup>2</sup> (2012)
Honduras	16.9%	\$3.1 B	\$55 MM
El Salvador	16.4%	\$4.0 B	\$161 MM
Guatemala	10.0%	\$5.1 B	\$91 MM
Nicaragua	9.6%	\$1.2 B	\$45 MM
Mexico	1.8%	\$21.6 B	\$212 MM

<sup>1</sup> The World Bank Remittances  
<sup>2</sup> USAID website for ODA data

# HGBF's Unique Perspective

Our mission, grant-making and field experience combine to bring a unique understanding of the drivers of illegal migration and the challenges of developing realistic solutions.



# Investment Priorities

HGBF has identified six categories to invest in to reduce illegal migration, improve livelihoods and increase food security on both sides of the U.S. border.



Creating  
Better  
Economic  
Opportu-  
nities in  
Countries  
of Origin

\$109.8MM

Reducing  
Violence in  
Countries  
of Origin

\$2.0MM

Improving  
Migrant  
Labor  
Hiring  
Practices

\$4.0MM

Supporting  
Humani-  
tarian  
Assistance

\$2.8MM

Enhancing  
Border  
Security

\$28.0MM

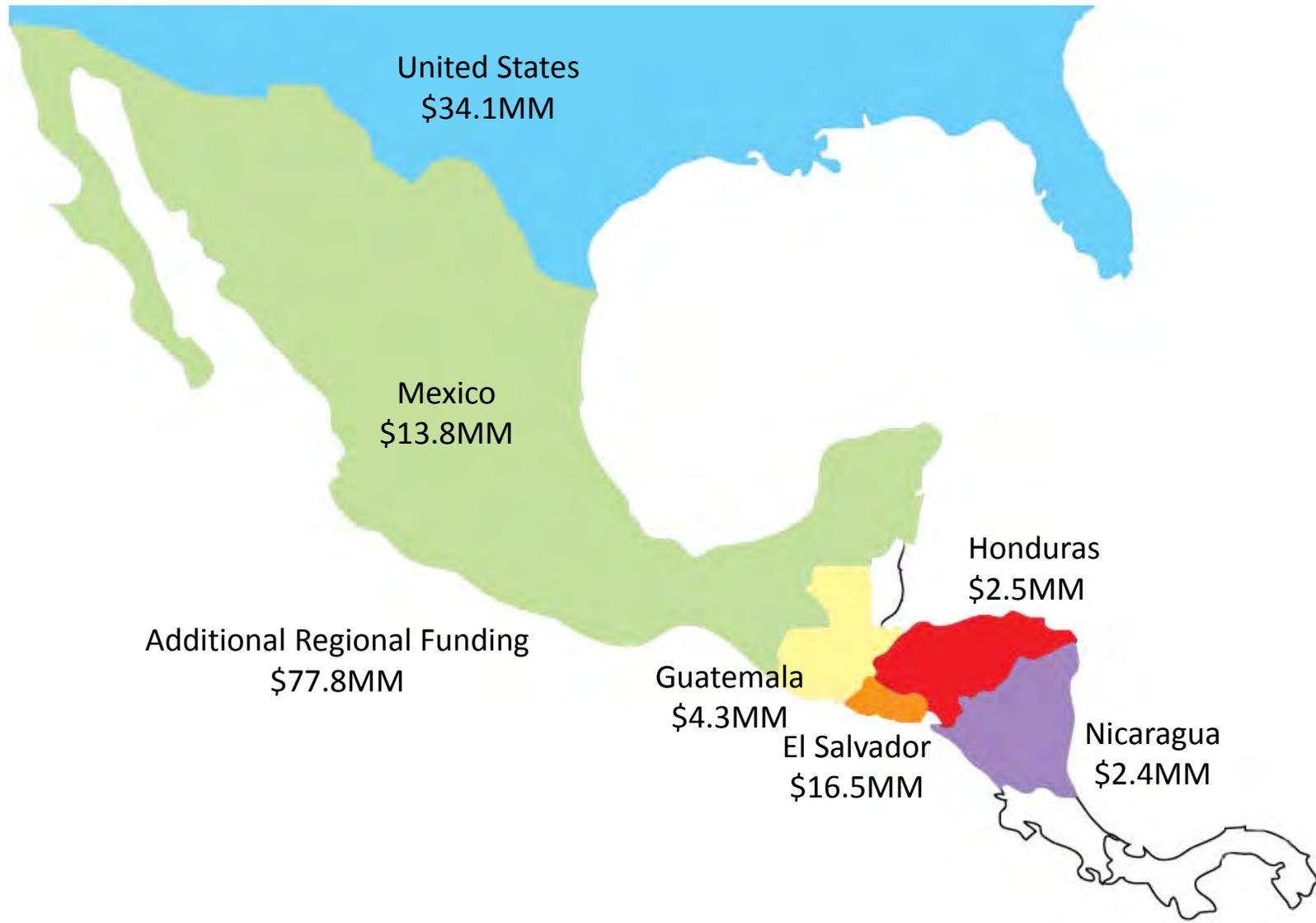
Developing  
Improved  
Policies in  
the U.S.  
and Latin  
America

\$4.8MM

***\$151.4MM invested to date***

# Geographic Priorities

HGBF has invested \$151.4 million in the U.S., Mexico, and Central America since 2004.



# Economic Opportunities in Countries of Origin

Reducing migration incentives by investing to improve economic opportunities at home

## Improving On-Farm Production

Supporting farmers to increase productivity

Promoting water-smart agriculture and soil health

Training farmers in conservation agriculture

## Connecting Farmers to Markets

Purchase for Progress pilot with the World Food Programme

Revolving loan funds and savings programs with cooperatives

## Revitalizing High-Value Agriculture

Coffee productivity and rust mitigation

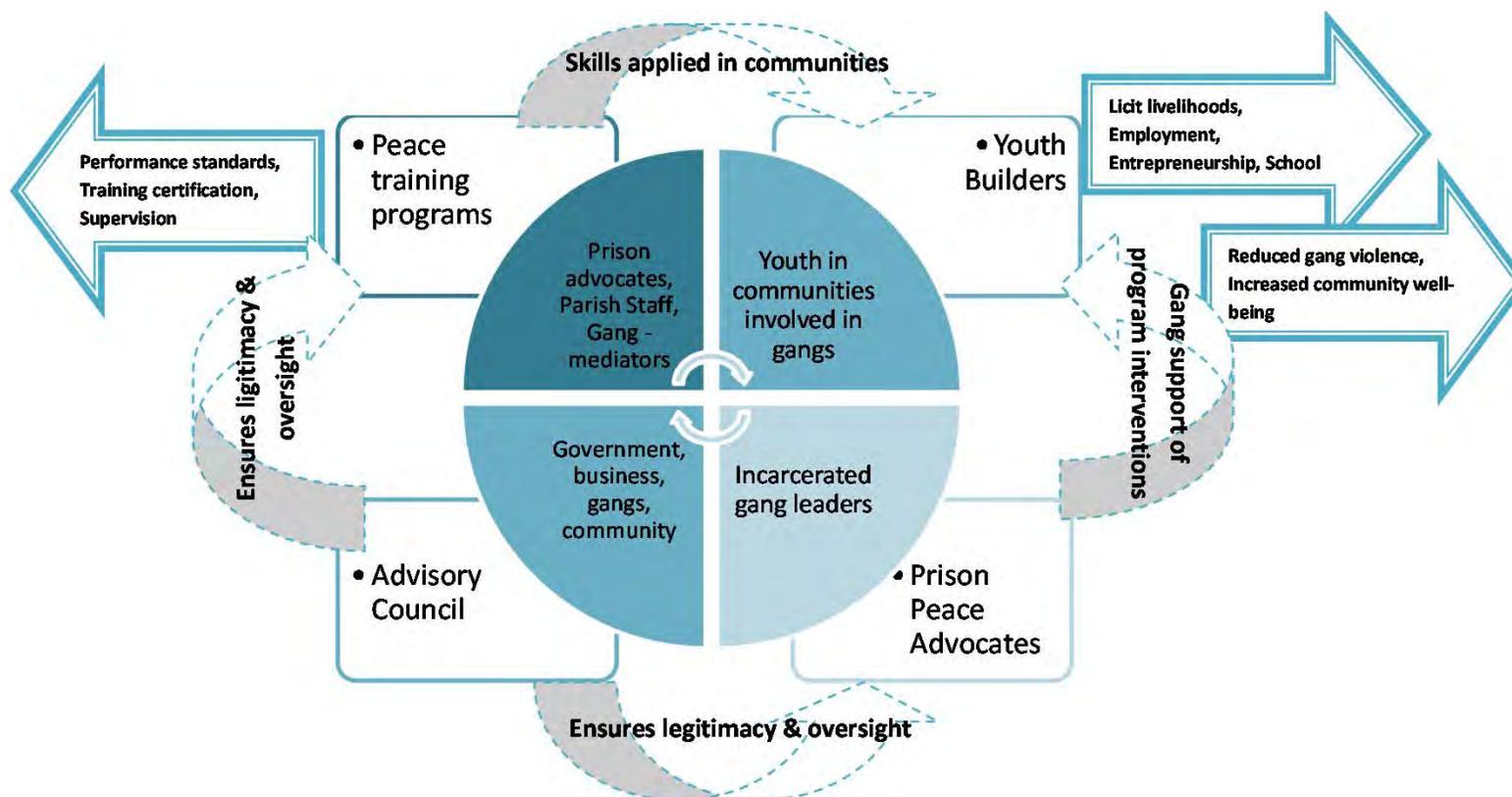
Job opportunities for unemployed youth

Re-establishing cacao at scale in El Salvador

# Reducing Violence in Countries of Origin

Investing to mitigate violence in home countries to reduce incentives for local populations to migrate to the U.S.

- 70% of child migrants from El Salvador are personally affected by violence from gangs
- To reduce the number of children needing to flee violence, HGBF is funding the modeling of a successful U.S. gang intervention program for the first time in El Salvador



# Economic Opportunity & Reducing Violence Grants

Title	Partner	Start Date	End Date	Funding Year	Total Funding Commitment
Action Against Hunger	Catholic Relief Services			2007	\$361,000
Agriculture for Basic Needs	Catholic Relief Services	01-Jan-09	30-Nov-12	2008	\$15,190,854
Agriculture for Basic Needs - Mexico	Catholic Relief Services	01-Apr-11	31-Dec-15	2010	\$2,554,619
Breaking the Cycle Of Malnutrition	Catholic Relief Services	01-Jan-07	31-Mar-11	2006	\$1,805,703
Buffett Fellowship (Education & Empowerment)	Florence Immigrant Rights Project	01-Sep-06	31-Aug-08	2006	\$76,800
Campeños for Progress	Catholic Relief Services	01-Nov-09	31-Oct-12	2009	\$749,995
Coffee Assistance For Enhanced Livelihoods	Catholic Relief Services	01-Oct-08	30-Sep-11	2008	\$8,493,623
Diagnostics for a National Cacao Initiative in El Salvador	Catholic Relief Services	01-Nov-12	30-Jul-13	2012	\$150,771
Economic Success for Rural Women in Nicaragua	Catholic Relief Services	01-Jan-08	30-Jun-10	2007	\$233,710
El Salvador National Cacao Initiative	Catholic Relief Services	01-Oct-14	30-Sep-19	2014	\$10,000,000
From Coffee to Chocolate	Catholic Relief Services	01-Nov-13	31-Oct-17	2013	\$1,652,541
Getting to Great	Catholic Relief Services	01-Jun-12	31-May-15	2012	\$1,079,670
Global Water Initiative - Central America	Catholic Relief Services	31-Dec-07	31-Dec-17	2007	\$24,172,948
Guatemala - Nutritional Early Warning System	World Vision	05-Jan-05	08-Feb-05	2005	\$50,000
Guatemala: Equipment Donation	United Nations World Food Programme	25-Jan-11	31-Jul-11	2011	\$198,246
Honduras - Nutritional Early Warning System	World Vision	05-Jan-05	08-Feb-05	2005	\$50,000
Local Production of Maize for Vitacereal in Guatemala	United Nations World Food Programme	01-Mar-08	30-Jun-09	2007	\$469,688
Mexico Pivot Program	Catholic Relief Services/Lindsay Corporation	31-Oct-15	01-Nov-17	2015	\$2,000,000 (committed)
Nicaragua - Mother & Child Health Program	United Nations World Food Programme	11-Jan-08	31-Dec-08	2007	\$2,000,000
Pre-Feasibility Study in Nicaragua & Guatemala	Food First/Institute for Food and Development	4/10/2009	6/30/2009	2009	\$15,000

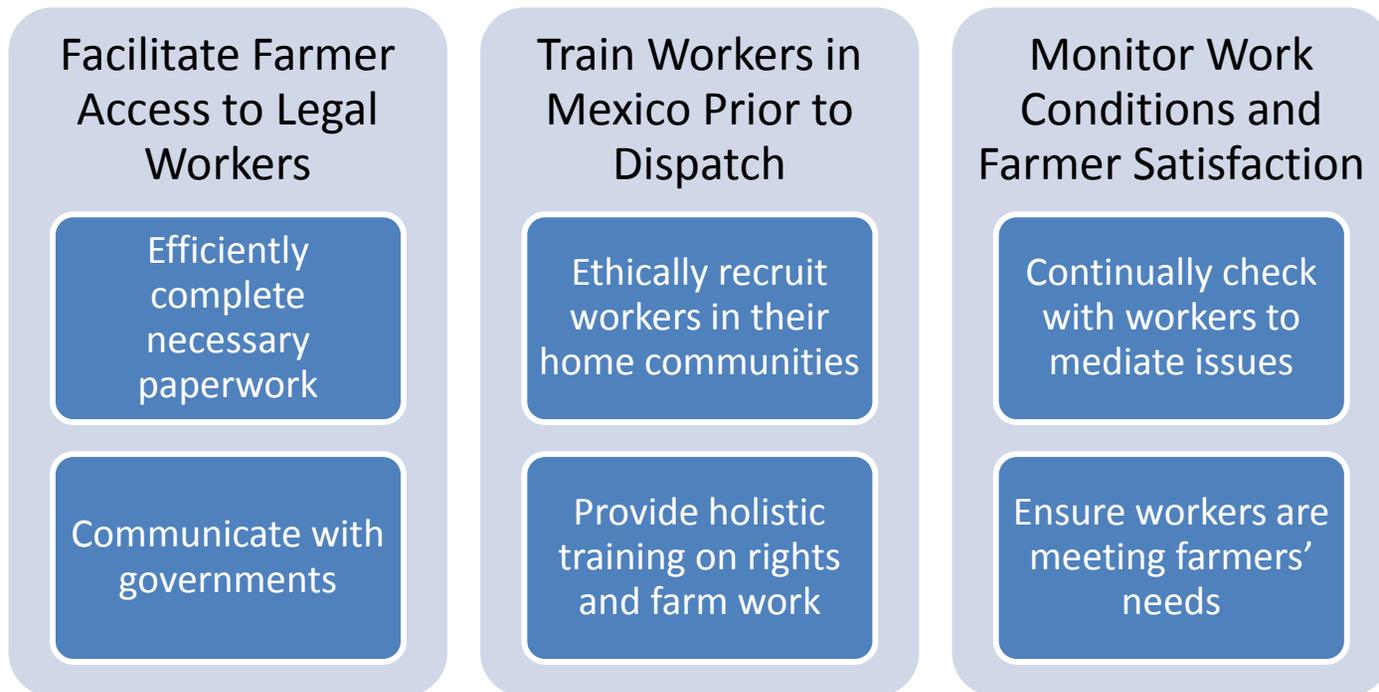
# Economic Opportunity & Reducing Violence Grants

Title	Partner	Start Date	End Date	Funding Year	Total Funding Commitment
Promesa-Café Mexico	Heifer International	12-Sep-13	31-Aug-18	2013	\$2,183,511
Prosoils	Catholic Relief Services	01-Jan-14	31-Dec-16	2013	\$4,999,488
ProFarmer El Salvador	United Nations World Food Programme	01-Mar-15	28-Feb-18	2014	\$2,682,222
Purchase for Progress Central America	United Nations World Food Programme	01-Apr-08	31-Jul-14	2010	\$22,070,129
Purchase for Progress Honduras (P4P HN)	United Nations World Food Programme	01-Jan-12	30-Jun-14	2011	\$2,489,553
Zamorano University Support	Zamorano	14-Sep-06	03-Nov-06	2006	\$214,000
School Feeding Program Guatemala	United Nations World Food Programme	21-Dec-07	31-Dec-09	2007	\$999,153
School in Mexico	Happy Hearts Fund	20-Dec-12	31-Dec-13	2012	\$125,000
School Meals Campaign: Nicaragua	United Nations World Food Programme	01-Jun-14	01-Jun-15	2014	\$150,000
Mentorship & Backpacks Program	Eva Longoria Foundation	27-Dec-13	31-Dec-16	2013	\$866,500
Rural Hispanic Business Development Program - Providing a Pathway out of Poverty	Center for Rural Affairs	01-Dec-07	30-Sep-17	2014	\$750,000
Buffett-Longoria Fund	Eva Longoria Foundation	01-Dec-12	30-Nov-14	2012	\$1,000,000
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$109,834,724</b>
Interrupting Violence in El Salvador	Catholic Relief Services	15-Dec-14	30-Dec-17	2014	\$1,966,021

# Improving Migrant Labor Hiring Practices

## Testing new models for safe, legal and fair employment of migrant labor

- **2.5 million** seasonal and migrant farmworkers are employed on U.S. farms
- Experts estimate 75% of those farmworkers, **1.8 million**, are not authorized to work in the U.S.
- Only **68,000** were hired through the government H2A system in 2013 showing the clear need for a more effective system
- HGBF is partnering with the United Farm Workers and Costco to support a farm-worker recruitment model to address the key issues faced by industry, farmers, and workers:



# Migrant Labor Grants

Title	Partner	Start Date	End Date	Funding Year	Total Funding Commitment
CIERTO Farmworker Recruitment	United Farm Workers/ Catholic Relief Services	01-Oct-14	30-Sept-19	2014	\$2,836,795
Mas Manos Unidas	C.I.T.A./Catholic Relief Services	01-Nov-11	30-Aug-13	2011	\$960,684
United Hands (Manos Unidas)	C.I.T.A/ Catholic Relief Services	01-Aug-07	31-Jul-09	2007	\$225,000
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,022,479</b>



*Howard G. Buffett and Eva Longoria meet with migrant farm workers in San Luis, Mexico.*

# Humanitarian Assistance

## Supporting humanitarian efforts for the most vulnerable individuals

HGBF support includes funding to safely house individuals awaiting processing and to identify border crossing victims, including:

- Supporting social worker services for unaccompanied minors;
- Facilities to safely house minors deported minors;
- GIS mapping to locate and identify the remains of deceased migrants;
- Migrant centers in Mexico.



HGBF also piloted a program with Kids In Need of Defense and the Global Fund for Children to test ways to more humanely process and return unaccompanied minors to Guatemala while supporting youth employment to discourage re-migration.

# Humanitarian Assistance Grants

Title	Partner	Start Date	End Date	Funding Year	Total Funding Commitment
All Our Kids Bilingual Coordinator & Program	All Our Kids	01-Sep-06	31-May-09	2006	\$601,000
Camino a Casa (Unaccompanied Minors Facility)	Patronato Blanco y Negro de Sonora, IAP	01-Jan-07	31-Dec-07	2007	\$399,726.00
Coming Together for Children Alone	Kids in Need of Defense	24-Oct-11	17-Nov-11	2011	\$4,000.00
Guatemala Child Return and Reintegration Program	Global Fund for Children	25-Mar-10	31-Mar-14	2010	\$477,590.00
Guatemala Child Return and Reintegration Program	Kids in Need of Defense	15-Mar-10	15-Jun-13	2010	\$524,631.00
International Open GIS Initiative for Missing & Deceased Migrants	Pima County Coroner's Office	01-Jan-08	31-Dec-10	2007	\$175,594.15
Migrant Centers	Catholic Relief Services	22-Mar-05	21-Mar-06	2005	\$97,500.00
Social Services Support	Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project	15-Dec-14	30-Dec-17	2014	\$616,900
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,896,941</b>

# Enhancing Border Security

Increasing support to efforts to improve border security and tracking of illegal crossings

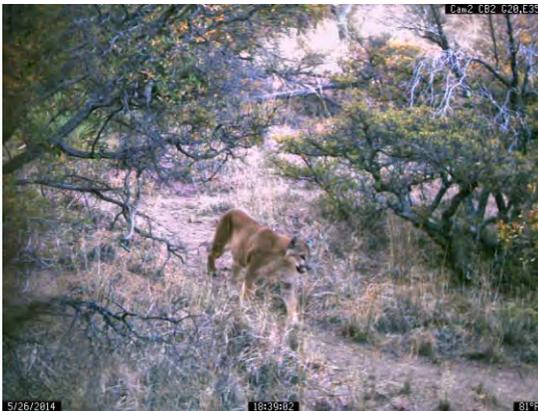
Border Patrol's Tucson sector has the highest number of deaths and pounds of drugs seized on the border.

HGBF supports the Cochise County Sheriff's Department with:

- Upgraded communication networks
- Surveillance and officer protection equipment
- Financial investigation capacity
- Increased canine presence
- Improved training facilities
- Search and recovery air support



In addition, HGBF is supporting grassland restoration to improve land management and increase visibility on the border in partnership with local ranchers, state government, and federal agencies.



*HGBF funded trail cameras for the Cochise County Sheriff's Office drug interdiction team. This camera is set up on a common drug smuggling route. The same camera captured images of a mountain lion, bear and drug smuggler.*

# Border Security Grants

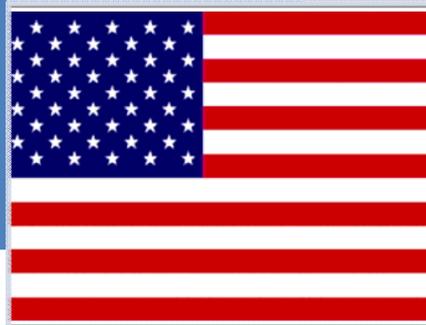
Title	Partner	Start Date	End Date	Funding Year	Total Funding Commitment
Canines	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2013	\$123,038
Canine Support	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2014	\$96,412
Computer Upgrades	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2014	\$330,536
Equipment	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2013	\$61,681
Explorer Program	Cochise County Sheriff's Office	22-Jan-13	21-Jan-14	2013	\$50,000
General Operating Support 2010	Dept of Human Services	11-Jun-10	31-Dec-10	2010	\$100,000
Helicopter	Cochise County Sheriff's Office	01-Sep-14	31-Dec-16	2014	\$3,680,376
Radio K2 System 2013	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2013	\$1,846,864
Lenco Bearcat	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2014	\$300,655
Migrant Centers	Catholic Relief Services	22-Mar-05	21-Mar-06	2005	\$97,500
Radio Upgrades 2013	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2013	\$4,195,677
Radios 2014	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2014	\$3,964,179
Radios, Schools, and Ranchers	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2014	\$148,000
Range Building	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2014	\$200,000
Search & Rescue Equipment	Cochise County Sheriff's Office	05-Mar-13	04-Mar-14	2013	\$153,511
Shooting Range	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2012	\$912,793
Surveillance	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2014	\$35,000
Vehicles/Equipment	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2014	\$126,817
Vehicles/Fuel	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2014	\$119,630
Grasslands Restoration/Border Security	Iroquois Foundation			2014	\$172,043
Tower for Communications	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2014	\$224,000
General Operating Support	Cochise County Sheriff's Office	01-Sep-12	30-Dec-14	2014	\$42,000
Tasers	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2014	\$66,785
Radar	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2014	\$107,825
Vests	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2013-2014	\$66,814
Vehicles/Equipment	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2015	\$90,341
Assist Team Supplies and Body Armor	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2015	\$46,940
QuadRotor Drone System	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2015	\$61,360
Temporary Lodging	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2015	\$10,000
Grassland Restoration/Border Security	Iroquois Foundation			2015	\$6,000,000 (committed)
Helicopter	Cochise County Sheriff's Office			2015	\$3,500,000 (committed)
Financial Investigations Unit	Cochise County Sherriff's Office	01-Jun-15	3-May-18	2015	\$1,043,748 (committed)
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$27,974,525</b>

# Improving Policy in the U.S. and Latin America

Advocating for better policies to reduce illegal migration, encourage legal migration and promote fair treatment of migrant farm workers

- Documenting the role of migrant labor in U.S. food security
- Providing strategies to improve the H-2A program
- Researching the economic value of migrant agricultural labor

U.S.



- Supporting the development of a national plan for migrants
- Educating workers about their legal rights
- Investigating recruitment fraud
- Convening key actors to build consensus

Mexico



# Policy Grants

Title	Grantee Name	Start Date	End Date	Funding Year	Total Funding Commitment
Advancing Advocacy	Catholic Relief Services	01-Oct-13	30-Sep-14	2013	\$374,971
Advertorial on H2A	Farm Progress	25-Apr-12	25-Apr-12	2012	\$5,220
Advertorial on H2A	Farm Progress	04-May-12	04-May-12	2012	\$4,118
ASU H-2A Paper	ImmigrationWorks USA	26-Apr-13	01-Jun-13	2013	\$17,000
California Jobs Multiplier Report	U.C. Davis	01-Aug-12	31-Dec-12	2012	\$89,925
Economic Comparison of Income of Migrant Workers Under Visa H2A & Welfare Recipients	Arizona State University Foundation	01-Sep-11	31-Aug-12	2011	\$104,072
Evaluate Strategies to Improve H-2A Program	Bipartisan Policy Center	21-Mar-13	15-Jun-13	2013	\$125,000
Jornaleros Secure and Fair Employment Project	Catholic Relief Services Mexico	01-May-10	30-Apr-13	2010	\$1,152,394
Mexico Program (CEDICAM & Mercado Justo)	Catholic Relief Services	01-May-06	30-Apr-07	2006	\$114,000
Midwest Immigrant Enumeration	Informa Economics	01-Aug-12	30-Oct-12	2012	\$18,038
Program Support (Children of the Borderlands)	Arizona State University Foundation	02-Feb-05	30-Aug-05	2005	\$60,000
Small Footprint SFAN	Catholic Relief Services Mexico	01-Sep-07	28-Feb-12	2007	\$935,000
EnComun de la Frontera (micro finance pilot)	Catholic Relief Services	01-Oct-06	31-Mar-09	2006	\$1,499,393
Tortillas on the Roaster	Catholic Relief Services	01-Jan-11	31-Mar-12	2010	\$293,000
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,792,131</b>

