# Fall 2014 Newsletter

## Issue 4

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Some stats about Foreign Aid, World Hunger and the Global Water Crisis

- Americans guessed that on avg, 25% of the US budget goes to foreign aid. The real number?
   Less than 1%
- The largest recipients are strategic allies such as Egypt, Israel, Russia, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq
- World Hunger affects around
  1 in 7 people in the world
- Poverty is the principal cause of hunger. Many people do not have sufficient land to grow, or income to purchase enough food
- Nearly 1 billion people worldwide lack access to safe drinking water
- More than 3.5 million people die each year from waterrelated diseases – 84% are children and 98% occur in the developing world
- Women and girls spend hours each day collecting water greatly affecting their ability to work, care for family members, or attend school

# globalpoverty initiative



## GET TO KNOW US

#### EDUCATION

The Education team is in charge of planning events such as Poverty Action Week (PAW) designed to engage MIT students to utilize their technological and other skills to fight poverty! This year featured a talk by the senior director of USAID, an interactive panel of four MGH doctors working in global health, a lowcost technology showcase and a social entrepreneurship panel. The final event— ID Hack brought together nearly 200 people to work on projects and technology that can help to deliver the services of 18 non-governmental organizations!

### **Recent and Upcoming Events**

Poverty Action Week + IDHack 2/10-2/14 Find us at Activities Midway Booth 8/29 GPI Fro-yo Info Session at 8pm in 4-231 9/9 Applications due at midnight on 9/17 \*Interviews for Board members held on 9/18, 9/19 GPI Member Bonding + Brainstorming 9/20 \* Meetings are held Mondays 10-11PM in Maseeh

#### ACTION

Jan 2010: Four teams traveled to La Vaguita, Mexico to help design and build 15 family greenhouses and improve nutrition and agricultural practices. А PeaceCorps volunteer is continuing this project. August 2013: Four members travelled to San Ignacio de Velasco (SIV), Bolivia to create an income-generating recycling program in two primary schools. During IAP '14, three GPIers expanded the collection program to a previously under-served neighborhood. The fall 100K competition is their next goal with IAP travel as well! Summer 2014: du'Anyam won \$5000 in IDEAS Global Challenge. In Indonesia, two members organized basket weaving cooperatives to increase expectant mother's incomes and will be writing grants this fall as well.

#### OUTREACH

Outreach works with local high school students to educate them about international development engineering and get them excited about low-cost technologies! The team ran a week-long solar oven camp for high school students where ~12 high-schoolers designed, built and tested solar ovens in teams. The team also participates in the spring HSSP program—holding an hour-long class each Saturday for seven weeks. Classes include field trips to D-Lab and s'more tasting once the solar ovens have been constructed!

## Questions? Contact gpi-exec@mit.edu For more info: gpi.mit.edu facebook.com/mitgpi