



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL RECONSTRUCTION

“Technical know-how of the experts must be transformed into practical do-how of the people”

Dr. Y.C. James Yen



Who we are

IIRR is an international development and training organization with over 80 years of grassroots experience working in people-centered, sustainable development in Africa, Asia and Latin America. IIRR is one of the few international development organizations with its headquarters in the Global South, strategically located to facilitate south-south learning and exchange. We have a committed team of nearly 70 staff and a global Board of Trustees.

What we do

At IIRR, we believe the best approach to poverty reduction is prevention not reaction. We have identified 4 major root causes of poverty: lack of education, conflict, environmental destruction and poor health. Our various programs aim to combat poverty through prevention by attacking these 4 root causes. We build the capacity of the poor to overcome poverty so that they can attain justice, equity and peace. Together with our strategic partners, we work to release the social, economic, intellectual and physical potential of individuals and communities. In so doing, we put into practice our credo of going to the people, learning from them, planning and working with them to develop systems, procedures and integrated models that can be replicated globally.

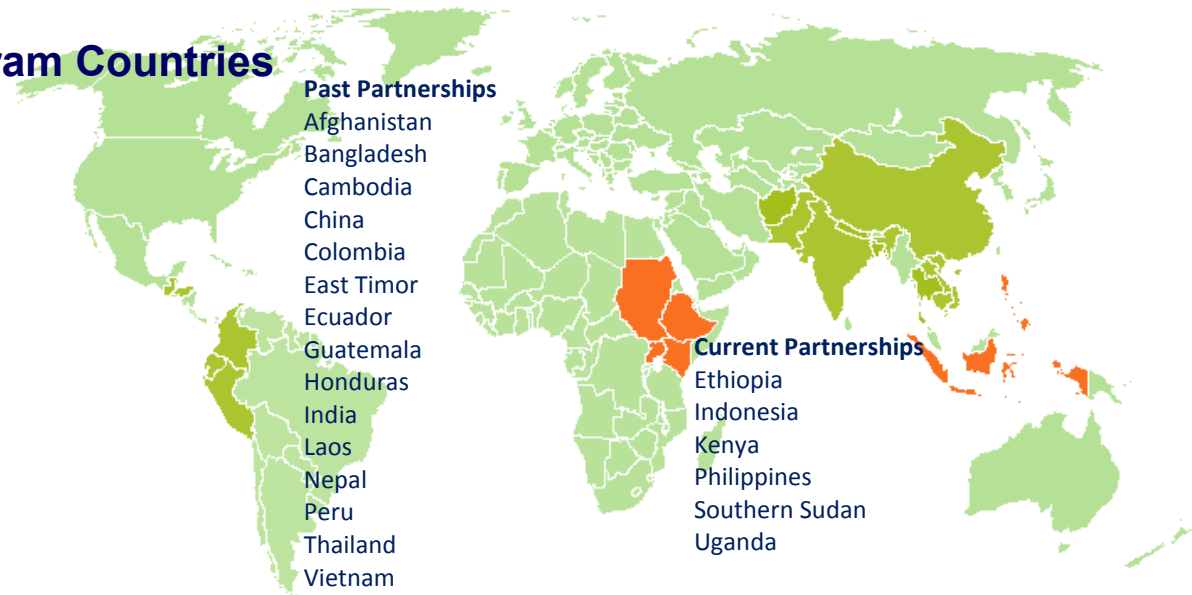
Our History

The Institute has enhanced the capacity and confidence of over 100,000 development managers, practitioners and community leaders and has a long history of documenting and disseminating field-based experience through its publications. Behind this tremendous body of work is a compelling and revolutionary individual—Dr. James Yen. As a pioneer in the rural reconstruction movement, Dr. Yen established the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction in 1960.

Building Capacity to Overcome Poverty

- IIRR is currently working in six countries in Eastern Africa and Southeast Asia
- Registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, IIRR's Headquarters and Regional Center for Asia are located in the Philippines, with the Africa Regional Center in Kenya, a liaison office in the United States, and offices in Ethiopia, Sudan and Uganda
- 99% of IIRR staff are members of the community in which they work
- Dr. Yen's Rural Reconstruction Movement in the Philippines propelled movements in Colombia, Guatemala, Ghana, India, and Thailand

Program Countries



Pastoralist Education

An estimated 25 to 40 million school age children live in nomadic or pastoralist households in Africa, of whom only 10 to 50 percent attend school. The overall rate of female enrollment in school is extremely low or nonexistent in most pastoralist regions.

For IIRR, education is not only one of the most important basic human rights but it is also the foundation for human development. In 2005, IIRR started education for pastoralists and other marginalized groups in Kenya and Ethiopia. The program contributes to increase the opportunity for out-of-school children in pastoralist areas to access quality basic education by designing appropriate delivery mechanisms that are compatible with the pastoralist lifestyle, with particular emphasis on girls' enrollment and retention. These include mobile schools and evening shepherd classes.



Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction

In the past decade the frequency and magnitude of hazards that trigger disasters have increased globally. CMDRR is a multi-hazard approach to disaster risk reduction, which brings communities to the center of hazard identification and analysis, risk assessment and disaster management. At a more practical level, CMDRR is about how communities can cope with a given hazard to reduce fatal damage to lives and livelihoods. In the event of drought, it supports innovative initiatives to bring water nearer to their villages and reduce the burden on women and girls. In health, it is about communities managing the impact of HIV/AIDS or malaria and reducing the suffering of women and children.



Bio-Intensive Gardening

The World Food Programme estimates that 13 million children in Indonesia currently suffer from malnutrition. For ethnic minorities living in Northern Sumatera, Indonesia, limited access to land and agricultural technologies contributes to high rates of malnutrition.

Since the 1980s, IIRR has utilized Bio-Intensive Gardening (BIG) technology, intensively cultivating small areas of land using nature's own ingredients to rebuild and maintain soil productivity. IIRR's BIG efforts have now reached Bangladesh, Cambodia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Nepal and Thailand. In 2005, IIRR began the *BIG Intensification Program* bringing BIG technology as well as health and nutrition education directly into the classrooms of over 100 poor, rural schools in the Philippines, reducing malnutrition while addressing human nutrition and food security and transferring life-long agricultural skills to communities.



Our Core Values

IIRR believes in people-centered development. We believe that relevant and lasting improvement in social and economic conditions can come about only through community participation and ownership. As communities develop and implement solutions, they learn to identify their own needs, set their own priorities and manage their own resources. By putting these solutions into action, communities evolve into agents of change, managing their own development and realizing increased economic and social well-being.



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