2018 FXB FIELD EDUCATION INTERNSHIPS: PANAMA

This internship will support FXB International’s FXBVillages program, a sustainable, community-based solution to extreme poverty and AIDS. Each FXBVillage delivers long-term improvements in health and education, and provides economic opportunities to children and families in need.

The FXB Field Education Internship program consists of qualitative and participatory action research. FXB provides mentoring support to familiarize students with such research processes and to allow them to contribute to the field. The FXB FEI program aims to improve practice and advance knowledge at the local and global level. At the end of their research internship students will share their findings and recommendations with practitioners through community meetings/seminars and a written report, as well as potential publications. Students with the different disciplines such as Health, Public Policy, Design and Education have been successful in similar research programs.

In Santa Ana, a historical community adjacent to the current booming San Felipe district, years of deeply rooted exclusion are apparent. According to the 2010 Panama census, approximately 18,210 people live in Santa Ana, with an equal distribution between men and women of which 18.5% live under the poverty line. In a more recent survey only 24% of the population completed high school and 46% reported not working or not being economically active. More than 79% of the population earns less than $600 per month and 40% earns less than $100 per month. Moreover, 20% of all living births in the community are from teen mothers. Currently active gangs in Santa Ana control different sections of the neighborhood creating invisible barriers that prevent the community access to jobs and social services.

The research will be focused on the project that FXB Panama is implementing with other partners to transform the Santa Ana community by attacking deep-rooted forms of exclusion through targeted interventions.

HOSTING SITE
FXB Center’s Field Education Internship program in partnership with FXB Panama

DURATION
- Summer: June 1 to July 30, 2018

FXBVILLAGE AREAS OF INTERVENTION
- After school and vocational programs to support children and adolescents
- Income-generating activities for beneficiaries
- Women’s empowerment groups
- Health access and family counselling programs (Nutrition, HIV/AIDS, Early Childhood Development)
- Child protection assistance
- Violence prevention programs
- Sanitation and hygiene programs

1 Contraloría General de la República de Panamá. Censo de Población. 2010.
2 Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas. Dieguez, Julio Mapas de pobreza y desigualdad a nivel de Distrito y Corregimiento. 2015
INTERNSHIP TASKS

- Monitoring, and evaluation to assess interventions related to health, education, economic development, housing and other activities aimed at reducing or eliminating poverty
- Design interview guides
- Conduct interviews and facilitate focus groups
- Conduct ethnographic observations
- Data entry and analysis
- Develop tools that can be used by the host organization
- Presentation of findings with the host organization
- Production of a report

FUNDING

- Partial funding is available

QUALIFICATIONS

- Master and Doctoral candidates only
- Proficiency in Spanish
- Knowledge of, and preferably practical experience with, program monitoring and evaluation and research study design
- Research interest and experience in multidimensional poverty reduction analysis
- Experience working and interacting with marginalized and vulnerable communities

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Gain an international understanding and appreciation of the work in community development and human rights
- Generate data that can be used to develop Doctoral or Master’s thesis
- Develop interpersonal skills necessary to be an effective team member within a research group/professional group
- Exposure to the roles and responsibilities of professionals in community development
- Observe and participate in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of FXBVillage activities
- Exposure to leadership opportunities
- Gain understanding of management and policy frameworks
- Establish professional contacts and references useful when seeking post-university employment

APPLICATION

Please send your resume and cover letter with two references to:
Myriam Zuber, Senior Program Manager, FXB Center at: mzuber@hsph.harvard.edu

(You are welcome to apply simultaneously to all the current FXB internship opportunities-Language proficiency required for Colombia, France and Panama).

DEADLINE: March 30, 2018

BACKGROUND
The Francois Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University works to advance the rights and wellbeing of children, adolescents, youth, and their families living in the most extreme circumstances around the world (http://fxb.harvard.edu/).

FXB International Association is a non-governmental organization that was created in 1989 to develop sustainable, community-based solutions to eradicate extreme poverty and AIDS, with a special focus on children and women. (www.fxb.org).