

Life Transformation Platform: **A Story of Impact in Colombia**

In Magangué, Colombia, the sound of happy laughter and children at play is a new and welcome change for our church partner, Iglesia Evangelica Interamericana Principe de Paz.

Until just a few short months ago, the church faced an unpaved street filled with trash and often flowing with drainage water and raw sewage. The street not only smelled terrible but also created serious health risks for children who attended the child development center at the church and were forced to travel the street each time they came to the center.

But thanks to the implementation and impact of the Life Transformation Platform, there is now a beautiful, paved street in front of the church that is both safe for the children and also used as a space for games and activities, as well as outdoor services for the whole community.

Implementation of the Life Transformation Platform in Colombia

Iglesia Evangelica Interamericana Principe de Paz was one of the first church partners to begin implementing the Life Transformation Platform in Colombia. In the first phase of implementation, the church focused on identifying and mapping the needs of the children of the community.

They spoke to the children themselves, and they also conducted focus group sessions with community leaders (including the mayor's office).

Through the focus group's conversations, unsafe streets and the risks they pose to children quickly surfaced as a top need and one that could potentially be addressed with local resources. And thankfully, after hearing the vision and mission of the church for the children of the community, the mayor's office committed to provide funds to pave the street in front of the church. After the initial funds were provided by the mayor's office, church members, parents of the children in the program and members of the community helped with labor to complete the project.

Long-term Community Impact

Without the framework of the Life Transformation Platform, the church would not have engaged with the city leaders, and this incredible solution would not have been implemented. But now, thanks to this project, the children in the program have a lovely, safe street to travel that is used often by the whole community. The new street not only protects the children's health, but the church says it has brought unity in their city and helped them to fulfill their call to be a light to the community.

A Deeper Look:

What is the Life Transformation Platform?

The Life Transformation Platform helps our Frontline Church Partners to identify priority needs for each child and build the best possible strategies to achieve life outcomes in every facet of their development. **To learn more about the Life Transformation Platform, scan the QR code.**



About the Community

In Magangué, Colombia, the population of the area has grown rapidly in recent years with a large number of people displaced due to conflict in other parts of the country. This influx of people has strained existing systems, leading to high rates of multidimensional poverty, with inadequate housing conditions and limited access to safe water and sewage networks. Children in this area often struggle with food insecurity, leading to malnutrition and stunting. And children without adequate nutrition are more susceptible to the wide range of illnesses and diseases that exist, especially in areas with poor sanitation.

WaSH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Challenges

In the Bolivar region, where this church is located, the prevalence of health issues caused by vectors, stagnant water, untreated water, viruses, and bacteria in children, adolescents, young people and the community at large has been reported to affect almost half of the population.

