The Johnson & Johnson Latin America & Caribbean Contributions Committee (LACC) partners with 34 organizations in 16 countries to support at-risk adolescents in the region living in diverse settings from urban to rural, many at or below poverty levels, and help them develop into healthy, thriving adults.

**UNEMPLOYMENT & LACK OF EDUCATION:**
- 22 million young people (approximately 25% of young people in Latin America and the Caribbean) are unemployed and out of school.

**POVERTY:**
- An estimated 39% of adolescents in the region live in poverty.

**HEALTH THREATS, INCLUDING HIV/AIDS:**
- 50% of new HIV cases in the region occur among 15-24 year olds.

**ARMED VIOLENCE:**
- In some countries, up to 12% of victims of homicides are under the age of 18.

**EARLY SEXUAL DEBUT, MARRIAGE AND CHILDBIRTH:**
- Approximately 50% of adolescents under age 17 in the region are sexually active.

LACC works with its NGO partners on a range of issues relevant to adolescents including sexual and reproductive health, HIV stigma and reintegration, drug use prevention, nutrition, and the promotion of self-esteem and psychosocial development.

**SPOTLIGHT ON:**
*Juan Felipe Gomez Foundation*
Colombia

The Juan Felipe Gomez Foundation (JuanFe) in Colombia addresses one of the most critical issues faced by adolescents in the region: teen pregnancy. JuanFe strives to improve the quality of life for adolescent mothers living in extreme poverty, lacking proper nutrition, and facing a range of other health and social problems including rampant prostitution and crime. The foundation provides comprehensive support, including health care, psychological and emotional support, and training in income-generation activities aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty. Adolescent mothers receive sponsorships to complete their college studies. JuanFe’s Medical Center also provides basic nutrition, vaccination and primary health services.

**EMPOWERING ADOLESCENT MOTHERS TO CREATE MORE PROMISING FUTURES FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**Johnson & Johnson Employees Take the Lead**

Janssen Mexico held its first Forum of Innovation in 2014 aimed at preventing unwanted pregnancy and addressing bullying among high school students, while also motivating students to pursue careers in health care.

In March and August 2014, 75 employees from Johnson & Johnson companies partnered with the Centro Educacional Dom Orione and Inmed to work with adolescents from the Talent Acceleration Process. Another 36 employees spent two days in July 2014 interacting with teenagers from Associação Saúde Criança’s Child Health Association.

Each year, Johnson & Johnson presents the LACC Ambassador Award to outstanding groups or individual employees who have donated and volunteered their time, passion and skills—living Our Credo in the communities where they live and work.