

Working Upstream

Working upstream means addressing the causes of family vulnerability before they turn into crises or separations. It is choosing to act at the right moment, when prevention is still possible and families can still be strengthened. Instead of intervening only once children have already entered an orphanage or child protection system, this approach seeks to invest early: spiritually, relationally, and economically, to support families at their roots.

Experience shows that early prevention is more effective, less costly, and more transformative than addressing the consequences of family breakdown. For Christians, it is more than just a sound strategy: it is an act of faithfulness to God's design, who created the family as the first place of love, care, and discipleship.

By strengthening families at their roots, we not only reduce the need for temporary protection measures for thousands of children but also cultivate the conditions for families to flourish in Christ: safe, restored homes that reflect His grace within their communities.

Key Components of Working Upstream: ACROSS

Working upstream means reaching **ACROSS** to children, families, and communities with lasting impact.

1. **A – Accessible:** You have to be in the communities where you serve, not at a distance.
2. **C – Collaboration:** Families thrive when programs connect with churches, schools, and child protection.
3. **R – Relational / Local Ownership & Trust:** Empowering local leaders, staff, and parents to lead solutions.
4. **O – Ongoing (Longevity & Commitment):** Transformation requires a long-term vision and faithful presence.
5. **S – Spiritual (Gospel-Centeredness):** Distinctiveness comes from every effort pointing back to the Gospel.
6. **S – Supportive (Holistic Care):** Meeting the whole picture of needs — spiritual, educational, relational, economic.
7. **Other:** _____

Notes: _____

Cadaniño Model: Community Impact Centers

Cadaniño operates Community Impact Centers in Guatemala that serve vulnerable children and families through three pillars: Spiritual Formation, Academic Reinforcement, and Family Strengthening. A dedicated team of local staff provides Bible classes, tutoring, computer and STEM education, and nutritious meals for students, while also walking alongside parents through discipleship, home visits, and practical support that strengthen the entire family.

www.cadanino.net



Cadaniño Program
Report 2024

Buckner Model: Family Hope Centers

Buckner Family Hope Centers are child - centered, family focused places where families go to find hope, support, and empowerment in their community to reach their fullest God given potential. The key to the Family Hope Center's success is found in combining effective programs and passionate people to help families facing significant challenges such as poverty, family crisis and lack of services. Buckner International has Family Hope Centers in the USA, Kenya, Perú, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Guatemala and México.

<https://www.buckner.org/family-hope-centers/>



Buckner Hope
Center Info

Information Sharing

If you would like to participate by sharing tools, ideas, or experiences with others in this network, fill out the form to the right.



Information
Sharing Form

Looking Ahead

- If you could strengthen one upstream area in your ministry over the next year, what would it be?
- What is one thing in your ministry that you could share with others to help them work upstream serving families?

Notes: _____

CAFO Meetup Survey

Please take two minutes to complete this brief survey



CAFO
SURVEY