



Western Union Funds Twenty-One 4+1 Projects Across Zacatecas, Veracruz, Guanajuato, Michoacan, Guerrero

Company Will Allocate More Than \$430,000 USD for Various 4+1 Economic and Community Development Projects

MEXICO CITY, Oct 24, 2008 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- The Western Union Company (NYSE:WU), a worldwide leader in money-transfer services, today announced it will fund an additional twenty-one 4+1 projects, in the States of Zacatecas, Veracruz, Guanajuato, Michoacan, and Guerrero in Mexico.

Through its global signature program, Our World, Our Family, Western Union will allocate more than \$430,000 USD to support the various economic and community development projects throughout the five states.

"The 4+1 program is producing concrete results," said Christina Gold, President and Chief Executive Officer, Western Union. "In Zacatecas alone, the program has helped create more than 4,000 temporary jobs -- boosting economic development throughout the region."

The program is an extension of the 3X1 Program, established by the Mexican government in partnership with Mexican Hometown Associations in the United States.

Western Union first announced the 4+1 program in 2005 with Governor Amalia Garcia in the State of Zacatecas. Western Union is the first private-sector company to support the program.

The new 4+1 projects include:

Zacatecas: Green House, Municipality of Jerez; Prickly Pear Production Plant, Municipality of Nochistlan; Eco-Tourism Park, Municipality of Valparaiso; Commercial Market Place, Municipality Valparaiso; and Technical Assistance to Zacatecas 4+1 Projects across the state. Western Union's 4+1 project funding for Zacatecas totals \$100,000 USD.

Veracruz: Pork Farm, Municipality of Ayahualco; Dairy Farm Equipment, Municipality of Miahuatlan; Acquisition of Green House; Dairy Product Production, Municipality of Miahuatlan; Agricultural Tourism, Municipalities of Naolinco, Tonayan, Chiconquiaco, Miahuatlan and Landero y Coss; and a Poultry Business in the Municipality of Tepatlaxco. Western Union's 4+1 project funding for Veracruz totals \$142,000 USD.

Guanajuato: Dairy Farm Equipment, Municipality of Leon; Textile Production, Municipality of Yuriria; Cattle Feed Production, Municipalities of Leon and Nuevo Lindero; Linen and Sports Clothing Production, Municipality of Cortazar; and Linen Production in the Municipality of Parra. Western Union's 4+1 project funding for Guanajuato totals \$80,000 USD.

Michoacan: Lamb Farm, Municipality of Charo; Tortilla Products, Municipality of Charo; Tomato Greenhouse, in Municipalities of Villamar and Vista Hermosa. Western Union's 4+1 project funding for Michoacan totals \$85,000 USD.

Guerrero: Vegetable Greenhouse, Municipality of Pilcaya. Total Western Union project funding will be \$25,000 USD.

In the initial stages of the program, Western Union donated funds for eight projects in Zacatecas communities. These included an eco-tourism park, fruit and vegetable processing, nopal farming, agribusiness equipment, a pork farm and a computer assembly plant. In all, Western Union will contribute at least \$1.25 million to these and other projects in several Mexican states.

Western Union's Our World, Our Family is a five-year, \$50 million corporate signature program supported by The Western Union Foundation and The Western Union Company. The program is designed to provide communities with the skills, knowledge and resources essential to breaking the cycle of poverty. The program is framed around four areas: Our World Gives; Our World Learns; Our World Strives and Our World Speaks, with each pillar given equal attention.

About the Western Union Foundation

Through the donations of The Western Union Company, its employees and Agents, the Western Union Foundation helps to fund programs that create economic opportunity around the world. Embracing the truly global nature of its corporate sponsor, the Western Union Foundation has granted nearly \$48 million to more than 1,750 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in 70 countries. Its signature giving program, Western Union's Our World, Our Family, is a \$50 million, five-year commitment reaching people at every rung of the economic ladder.

About Western Union

The Western Union Company (NYSE:WU) is a leader in global money transfer services. Together with its affiliates, Orlandi Valuta and Vigo, Western Union provides consumers with fast, reliable and convenient ways to send and receive money around the world, as well as send payments and purchase money orders. It operates through a combined network of more than 365,000 Agent locations in over 200 countries and territories. Famous for its pioneering telegraph services, the original Western Union dates back to 1851. For more information, visit www.WesternUnion.com.

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MEXICO 4+1 PROGRAM

Western Union supports community development and social benefit projects in Mexico through the 4+1 Program. Through this pioneering program, Western Union will work in partnership with selected Mexican Hometown Associations (HTAs) to fund an array of economic development projects in states that experience high levels of migration and poverty. The 4+1 Program will empower local Mexican communities with productive projects that will generate jobs; ultimately, making migration a choice, and not a necessity.

The program builds on the highly successful 3x1 Program that has been in existence since the early 1990s under the oversight of Mexico's Secretariat of Social Development. The new 4+1 Program expands the current 3x1 Program by allowing Western Union and other private-sector companies to match remittances made by HTAs for selected projects in Mexico.

Leveraging Funding for Mexican Communities

In all, Western Union will make a contribution of \$1.25 million to the 4+1 Program. Combined with resources from qualified hometown associations and matching funds from the federal, state and local governments in Mexico, the 4+1 program has the potential to receive an estimated \$5 million in funding.

Participating States

Initially, the 4+1 Program focused on Zacatecas, a central Mexican state that operates a highly successful 3x1 program with very active and organized HTAs. Following the program's success in Zacatecas, Western Union expanded the 4+1 Program to other states that have strong relationships with hometown associations and a record of managing successful projects with the HTAs. Currently, the 4+1 program has been expanded to include the states of Michoacán, Guerrero, Veracruz and Guanajuato.

Project Types

Priority projects for investments will address economic areas identified by the community, including:

- **Education (training and scholarships):**
Preference will be given to programs that promote skills development (such as tutoring) or skills enhancement, job training or similar targeted education programs that will advance the economic development of an existing or planned project.
- **Agricultural infrastructure:**
Programs should promote sustainable agricultural development, specifically, farming and distribution practices that provide dependable income; make efficient use of renewable resources, and do not harm the environment or local ecology.
- **Conservation of natural resources:**

Programs must help states and communities maintain and improve their natural resources and environment while helping sustain agricultural productivity and environmental quality.

- Community-based economic development projects:
Funds will be used to support initiatives that work at the community level to build citizens' capacity to take control of their own economic futures.

Initial Projects

The 4+1 Program is already seeing concrete results. In Zacatecas, the first state to participate, eight projects have been funded which have the potential to create 4,000 jobs in Mexico. Specifically, these projects include:

Completion of an Eco-Tourism Park; Guadalupe, Mexico – Job Impact 3,027

Objective: To protect and preserve the natural environment, flora and fauna resources and endangered species, as well as equipping and providing greater infrastructure to better serve the community.

Town: Guadalupe

Equipment for Mezcal Agro-Industry; Trinidad Garcia de la Cadena, Mexico – Job Impact 236

Objective: To take advantage of the mezcal appellation of origin, to foster the blue agave production and promote the formation of economic organizations.

Town: La Ceja

Assembly of Computers; Nochistlan, Mexico – Job Impact 22

Objective: Through a variety of activities, to undertake and offer technical support in computer services and to assemble computers for sale in the region.

Town: Nochistlan

Cultivation and Sale of Prickly Pear Vegetables; Nochistlan, Mexico – Job Impact 20

Objective: To cultivate prickly pear vegetables and distribute them in regional and national markets in order to meet the need for a high-nutrition food.

Town: Nochistlan

Construction of Pitaya Nursery; Moyahua, Mexico – Job Impact 35

Objective: Construction of a pitaya nursery for 3,000 plants which would generate two harvests annually.

Town: Atexca

Equipment for Mezcal Agro-Industry; Moyahua, Mexico – Job Impact 905

Objective: To take advantage of the mezcal appellation of origin, to foster the blue agave production and promote the formation of economic organizations.

Town: Llano de Herrera

Construction of Pig Farm; Panuco, Mexico – Job Impact 8

Objective: To promote reproduction in hogs, using customary methods, alternating sales with personal consumption.

Town: Panuco

Processing of Fruit and Vegetables; Valparaiso, Mexico – Job Impact 14

Objective: To provide added value to seasonal farming products produced in the region for their sale year round and introduce them for sale in chain stores, restaurants and hospitals.

Town: San Mateo

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