

## Juntos Program and Corda Technologies Improve the Lives of Peruvian Children and Their Families

According to the United Nations, the rural poor account for over 800 million people globally. In Peru, just over half of the population is classified as poor, and about 20% are extremely poor. Recently progress has been made to help the extremely poor in Peru to free themselves from the cycle of poverty.

In 2005 former president of Peru, Alejandro Toledo, instituted *Juntos*—a program that helps poor families provide education and basic care for their children and increases Peru’s hope for a better future. *Juntos* means “together” in Spanish. This title expresses the goal of the program: citizens and government working together to help the poor provide better lives for themselves and their children. Today, with the help of Corda Technologies, Peru is able to better keep up with the enormous demand for this program.

### Background

In addition to the Office of the President, other government bodies also lend their support to Juntos including: the Ministries of Health and Education and the Ministerio de la Mujer (Ministry of Women). The program provides a monthly dividend of 100 soles (about 30 U.S. dollars) to mothers (married or single) living in extreme poverty. Mothers can only qualify for the program if they send their children to school and take them for regular medical checkups. While 30 dollars may sound like very little to most Americans, extreme poverty in Peru is defined as living on less than 30 dollars per month. The additional 30 dollars often doubles the income of those who qualify for this program. Before enrolling in Juntos, most of the participants had never before held 30 dollars in their hands at once.

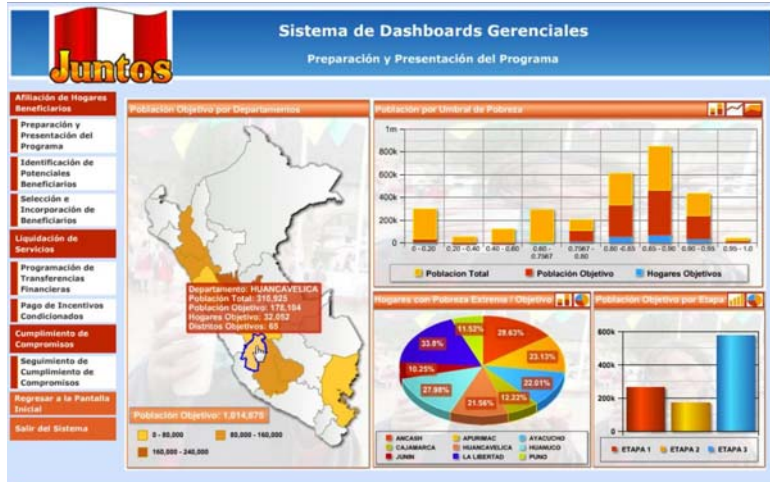
The Juntos program has benefited the people of Peru tremendously. It has provided Peru’s poor with greater access to health and education services. In addition, the men in beneficiary households have increased their involvement in childcare. In a country with a little over 28 million people, the Juntos program has affected the lives of more than one million families—a large statistical percentage of the entire population.

### Challenge

One of the largest difficulties facing the Juntos program has been the enormous demand on its staff and resources. Using nothing more than spreadsheets, the officials administering the program were trying to track benefits and program compliance of the more than one million beneficiaries. This task was nearly impossible with the tools at hand, and the quality of service the officials were able to offer declined as a result.

### Solution

To solve the difficulties associated with tracking and administering the Juntos program,



Peruvian officials turned to Fernando Arce, founder and CEO of information technology firm, EFT in Lima. Arce implemented an Oracle database to better store beneficiary information. Next he wanted to provide a visual tool that would simplify tracking, sorting, and viewing information in the database. After evaluating several products, he chose PopChart and OptiMap from Corda Technologies, Inc. According to Arce, these tools were a perfect match, “both from a technical point of view and because of the speed to develop applications.”

Today, thanks to tools from Corda Technologies, officials who administer the Juntos program can quickly and easily find the information they need. A web based dashboard allows them to track up-to-the-minute key performance indicators (KPIs) to monitor the ongoing health and efficacy of the program. These KPIs include the following by region:

- Number of children living in extreme poverty
- Number of children enrolled in the program
- Whether the children enrolled in the program are compliant (in school and receiving regular medical checkups)
- Ages of the children



Because information is now easy to access and track, the program administrators can now more effectively accomplish one of the key goals of the Juntos program: to help children receive better healthcare, nutrition, and education from the earliest age possible, and thus free themselves from the poverty that has plagued their families for generations.

“It’s rare that one can experience the satisfaction of seeing one’s products make such a significant and visible contribution to one of the world’s nagging problems: dire poverty in the Third World,” commented Thomas O’Dea, executive vice president of Worldwide Sales at Corda. “Through our partnership with EFT we’ve been privileged to contribute to alleviating poverty in Peru.”

### What’s Next?

PopChart and OptiMap have been so successful in the Juntos program that the government of Peru is considering using these tools in other areas. So far, the government has identified human resources, accounting, and logistics as areas that could benefit from using Corda Technologies.

### Conclusion

Before discovering Corda, the government of Peru was faced with enormous, complicated spreadsheets with no ability to present key data graphically and intuitively for decisions makers. Since installing Corda, EFT has been able to rapidly build numerous dashboards for the government of Peru that display valuable information in a clear and user-friendly format. Any user of the Peruvian Government’s Intranet can easily access and share these dashboards. The dashboards also update as soon as the information is entered into the Oracle database, so users can be sure that they have access to the most recent information.

Fernando Arce says, “Our customers have been very impressed with high quality of the graphs. The drill-down functionality of Corda has been crucial. Overall, we find Corda tools very powerful, flexible and user-friendly and hope to grow and expand our partnership in the Andean region.”