

# CARE

The letter below is from the President and CEO of CARE telling about her recent trip to Honduras and the work that MD 19 is participating in. The article highlights 2 women and tells of how converting pig manure into energy has changed their lives.

Bob Yeoman CARE Chair MD 19.

*I am just back from a trip to visit our CARE Honduras team, who continue to do amazing work in the face of 60% poverty rates. The challenges are particularly severe among women – they are less able than men to engage in paid work, less likely to have a bank account or own a home, and face one of the world’s highest rates of femicide. In some communities, migration has seemed like the only viable path to opportunity.*

*But the main takeaways of my trip were not the challenges, but the resilience and ingenuity of the micro-entrepreneurs and smallholder farmers I met. I sometimes worry that in bearing witness to suffering we can spread more despair than hope – so, in that spirit, here is one example of ingenuity:*

*Sometimes simple innovations can be revolutionary. An afternoon with María Barahona, Nelo Porras, and their daughters Alexa and Nohelia was a compelling window into what a biodigester can do to change the quality of life of a family and community. María and Nelo showed us the miraculous changes this simple technology has brought to their life – they combined their pig manure and water into the biodigester and then demonstrated how it produced gallons of rich fertilizer that is nourishing their garden, providing gas for household cooking, reducing dangerous smoke inhalation for the family, and saving María 8 HOURS of daily collection of firewood. The biodigester is estimated to last 20-plus years and pays back its value within the first year. And on top of all that, each installed biodigester sequesters more than 10,000 tons of methane a year, can fuel cooking and power lights for more than eight hours, and completely eliminates the odor of the pigs! The CARE Honduras team is looking to partner this powerful solution to thousands more farmers in Honduras and, with a little bit of philanthropic seed capital, families can afford to purchase the technology directly. As María and Nelo told us, the biodigester provided many gifts, one of them was the ability to dream about how much more they could accomplish for their family and community.*

— Michelle Nunn, President and CEO of CARE”