

2° Break the Barriers Workshop, Boston 6 Dicembre, 2013 **Empowering Social Programs: the strength of insights and scientific evidence**

Under the program, Break the Barriers, the Andrea Bocelli Foundation together with J-PAL (Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab) at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) has organised a day of work and discussion with researchers and operators involved in aid and development programs in some of the poorest countries of the world. The subject areas will be the issues of water and education, two themes that the ABF deals with in the projects it is supporting in Haiti.

In this workshop the Foundation and J-PAL will share experiences and research regarding health, water and education, taking into account the elements that work together to enhance the effectiveness of the programs and policies:

Insight – with the aim of uncovering profound needs – guides us when devising possible solutions

Perseverance of Action is an essential premise to improving conditions of the poor

Scientific Evidence, the measurement of progress and impact, with the aim of improving insight, and through a virtuous circle, redefining the strategy of action to increase effectiveness.

The 3 elements described above pave the way for a process that can help public and private institutions provide tools and services that are useful to the community.

The process begins with a thorough understanding of the needs. This helps set clear objectives which are then developed into action and a precise approach towards the aims of the project. This deliberate process is a necessary precondition to being able to measure the results achieved and to continuously refine the intervention. It also helps us provide tools and services to all those who can benefit, whether they be students in Italy or whether we are talking about fighting malaria in Africa.

In the fight against poverty, in developing countries as well as in Italy, hope and listening are essential and knowledge is crucial.

On Friday, 6 December, at MIT, Cambridge, the J-PAL researchers and the partner operators for the project from the Andrea Bocelli Foundation will exchange views on these issues and will present their work regarding water and education which are considered the two most important levers to save lives by both groups, giving people and the community the opportunity to grow.

After the opening of MIT President L. Rafael Reif, Italian Ambassador to the United States Claudio Bisogniero and Andrea Bocelli, the discussion will be guided by M. Platero, Italian journalist of *Il Sole 24 Ore*, who will introduce the discussion with R. Glennerster, M. Mubarak and S. Powers from J-PAL, L. Biancalani, president of Andrea Bocelli Foundation and finally J. Gille L. from St. Luc Foundation Haiti.

The workshop will be closed with the Q&A session, moderate by M. Shotland from J-PAL

For details and register please visit www.abfmit2013.com