



Gabriela Valencia

Gabriela recently joined the Think Impact team as Country Director for Panama. Gabriela has ten years of experience in the nonprofit management and international development sector and holds a certificate degree in Nonprofit Management. As Executive Director for the international nonprofit organization Global Brigades (known as the world's largest student led development organization), Gabriela was able to organize, manage and execute development programs in 30+ under resourced communities of Panama with the support of over 8,000 student volunteers from the United States, Canada and Europe. Gabriela also serves as a logistics consultant for different nonprofits and social enterprises that seek programming opportunities in Panama.

Gabriela received her B.A. in Architecture from the University of Panama and a Master's degree from Ball State University, Indiana, studies she was able to conduct by earning a Fulbright Scholar in 2007. While studying her Masters, Gabriela became primarily interested in the implementation of socially responsible architecture projects within the poorest dwellers. In her thesis, *From Rural to Urban: Studying Informal Settlements in Panama*, Gabriela aims to investigate how the large percentage of the population that can't afford the services of architects and building professionals manage to formally/informally build their living spaces, and in consequence shape their cities. Prior to joining the nonprofit sector, Gabriela worked for numerous architecture firms, including renowned architect Frank Gehry's firm for the construction of Panama's Biodiversity Museum. She is currently pursuing a Master in Business Administration at ENEB, one of Barcelona's most recognized business schools.