



Final Report – December 22nd 2016

Financial summary: Project agreed: 25th March 2015: US\$ 15,000 for eye tests and glasses +
US\$ 1,500 for ophthalmic equipment
Money received in Quito: US\$ 9,464 on 6th May 2015) US\$ 14,928
US\$ 5,464 on 11th June 2015)
US\$ 1,500 on 31st July 2015 – all spent – see previous report
Amount spent: eye tests/glasses: US\$ 15,028 (December 22nd 2016)

Background to the Project

The Condor Trust provides funding for secondary and further education for young people from low-income families in Ecuador. Several years ago, we became aware that many children are not making the most of their education because of sight problems. Encouraged by the Eagle Foundation, we looked into how we could help improve this situation, and linked up with a local Ecuadorian charity, Vista para Todos (Sight for All), which provides eye-tests and glasses.

Since mid-2012 the Eagle Foundation has been supporting this project. We have received four rounds of funding, and in total have:

- Performed 3,331 eye tests;
- Provided 1,179 pairs of glasses.

The eye tests are conducted by Vista para Todos at a low cost (currently \$2.50 per student). Vista para Todos also provide free glasses frames. The money from the Eagle Foundation goes to pay for the eye tests and the lenses. Over the four year period of the project, the average cost of glasses has worked out at US\$33.75. The majority of students need weak lenses, which typically cost around US\$25, but in every batch of students a number have more complex needs and require more expensive glasses.

Over the course of the project, 35% of the students tested have needed glasses, although the proportion has varied between about 25% and 41%. These proportions are high by developed countries' standards, and seem to be due primarily to poor diet in low-income families.

Most young people are more than happy to wear glasses (especially as they can choose attractive coloured frames!), but we also work with the teachers and with parents to make sure they encourage their children to wear the glasses when appropriate and to look after them well. All the students are provided with a glasses case and a cleaning cloth, and are taught how to take care of their glasses.

Mostly we have visited schools in and around Quito and organised days for glasses tests with the heads of the schools. At the beginning of last year, the Ecuadorian government said there was no need for us to visit state schools, as they were dealing with the issue. This does not seem to be the case. We have, however, switched to working with schools outside the state system (charities, local foundations etc), of which there are many, and, in 2016, to several schools in Manabí province, where a serious earthquake occurred in spring.





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The 2015/16 Project

(1) Eye tests and glasses

Between October 2015 and December 2016, we undertook ten eye campaigns. Eight were conducted in Quito and two in Manabí province, the area which was struck by an earthquake in April 2016.

As reported earlier, we have concentrated our efforts in Quito on schools not run by the state, eg charities and various foundations, of which there are many, mostly very much in need of help of all sorts, including with eye tests and glasses.

In total within this campaign, we have:

- Conducted 912 eye tests;
- Provided 355 pairs of glasses, at an average cost of US\$ 35.54.

The total costs of the campaigns have been: US\$ 15,028. This is broken down as follows:

- 912 eye tests (146 x \$2 + 766 at the new 2016 rate of \$2.50 per test): \$2,207
- 355 pairs of glasses (ranging from \$23 to \$70 per pair): \$12,821*

TOTAL expenditure: \$15,028

* The figure also includes US\$201 for an operation for strabismus for one of the children at the Honrar la Vida school, which Vista para Todos considered necessary and urgent.

We have therefore used all the funds provided by the Eagle Foundation.

(2) Equipment

As reported earlier, one of our Condor Trust students decided to study ophthalmology, largely as a result of seeing the work done by Vista para Todos. To do this, he needed to purchase some expensive equipment. We used the \$1,500 provided by the Eagle Foundation to purchase an ophthalmoscope at a cost of US\$ 1,232 and then a trial lens set and a retinoscope for the total price of US\$ 296.

As you can see from the photo on the next page, Erick was completely delighted to have the ophthalmoscope. Earlier this year, he was accepted by Vista para Todos for work experience (something he needs to do as part of his training), and has been using the ophthalmoscope daily. He expects to graduate next year.





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Erick with his ophthalmoscope



Children and teachers at Yachay Wasi Fundación after the handover of glasses

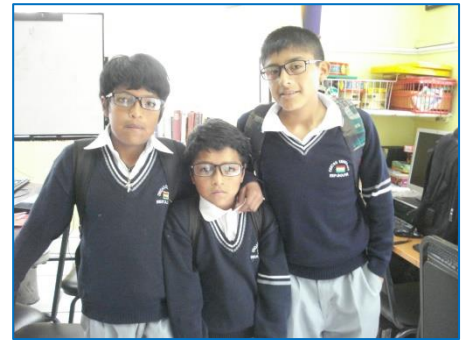
Eye tests at Honrar la Vida, phase 2,
December 2016





Left: Eye test and handover of glasses, SOS Aldeas Infantiles

Below: New glasses and eye tests, COVI



Left and above: The campaign in Manabí on the western coast of Ecuador, where the earthquake occurred in April this year. Although many families left the area following the quake, the poorer families have tended to stay, and were very appreciative of our help with glasses.