

Project Ref: FF 413 - Eye Tests & Glasses– Condor Trust, Quito, Ecuador

Report – November 7th 2018

Financial summary: Project agreed: April 9th 2017: US\$ 15,625 for eye tests and glasses

Money received in London: April 13th 2017

Amount spent: US\$ 12,474; Amount remaining: US\$3,151 (October 30th 2018)

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 now received five rounds of funding (the current project is the fifth), and so far in total we have:

- Performed 4,200 eye tests;
- Provided 1,520 pairs of glasses.

The Current Project

Between April and mid- October 2018, we organised a total of six campaigns. We visited Aldeas SOS, a charity-run school on the outskirts of Quito, twice, covering different age groups each time; Niños de María, another charity-run school in La Comuna district of Quito, also twice, to cover different age groups; a school for physically disabled children in the Riobamba area; and Reino de Quito, a school in a poor district of central Quito.

In addition, 22 of our own Condor Trust students and their siblings needed glasses in the course of the year.

Finally, we spent US\$400 on an eye operation for one of the children who was found to have a major eye problem. This expenditure was agreed with Fondation Eagle in January 2018. Normally, this complicated operation would have cost US\$1,700, but Vista para Todos bore US\$865 of the costs and the school the girl attends a further US\$435, leaving the Condor Trust to pay the remaining US\$400. Without the operation, the girl would most likely have lost her eyesight within a matter of weeks, but luckily the eye tests identified the problem, and the operation was able to be organised very quickly. The girl has to wear glasses, but otherwise has completely recovered and can see very well.

A final campaign took place in October 2018 at a school in Quito run by the charity FUDELA. This has used up the outstanding funds. Full financial details of this campaign are not yet available, and figures are not included in this report.

Expenditure Details and Notes

Expenditure on Eye Tests and Glasses, 2017/18					
Organisation	Eye tests (US\$)	Glasses (US\$)	Total Costs (US\$)	Glasses provided	Average price per pair (US\$)
Aldeas SOS	165.00	2,073.93	2,238.93	60	34.57
Condor Trust	7.50	130.00	137.50	3	43.33
Niños de María	12.50	240.74	253.24	5	48.15
Condor Trust	20.00	845.00	865.00	19	44.47
Niños de María	620.00	1,826.20	2,446.20	58	31.49
Aldeas SOS	232.50	1,647.50	1,880.00	51	32.30
Riobamba	577.00	1,491.00	2,060.00	18	82.83
Reino de Quito	162.50	2,031.00	2,193.50	60	33.85
Operation			400.00	1	
TOTAL			12,474.37	275	

- As indicated on the above table, we have provided 275 pairs of glasses for children from low-income families over the period from May 2017 to early October 2018. The average cost of the glasses is just under US\$40 per pair, although there is a fairly wide variation, depending on the complexity of the eye problems. The average cost of glasses for children at the school for disabled children (Riobamba) was over US\$80, due to the higher incidence of complex visual problems among these children.
- The proportion of children needing glasses after having their eyes tested also varies from school to school. In some cases, teachers have done a preliminary screening and only put forward for eye tests those children who are identified as having a visual problem. In other cases, Vista para Todos considered it better for all children within an age group to be tested, as they are able to pick up problems which are not always obvious to non-trained personnel.
- As in previous years, we and Vista para Todos have not only provided the glasses, but also given advice and guidance on how to use them and look after them. The glasses are delivered to the children in a case with a cleaning cloth, and are also equipped with a string, so they can be hung around the children's necks. Parents and teachers, as well as the children themselves, are involved in these discussions.
- As we have observed in previous years, the proportion of children needing glasses tends to be high in comparison with developed countries' standards. This appears to be due primarily to poor diet in low-income families. In some cases in the past, poor lighting in schools and homes has been an additional factor. All the schools visited this year had made efforts to provide adequate lighting, but poor housing conditions no doubt continue to contribute to poor sight in some cases.

Project Ref: 170010 - Eye Tests & Glasses– Condor Trust, Quito, Ecuador



Eye tests and glasses delivery at Niños de María, Aldeas SOS, Reino de Quito and FUDELA



After the successful eye operation