

Final Report – September 17th 2019

Financial summary:

Project agreed: November 21st 2018: Grant of US\$ 15,400 from the Fondation Eagle to the Condor Trust for Education for the continuation of eye tests/glasses in and around Quito, Ecuador

Amount remaining from previous phase: US\$3,151.

Spent in period November 2018 to August 2019: US\$19,467;

Amount overspent in this phase (November 2018 to August 2019): US\$916

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 six rounds of funding (the project just completed is the sixth), and so far in total we have:

- Performed 4,924 eye tests;
- Provided 1,990 pairs of glasses.

The Current Project

Between the end of October 2018 and the end of August 2019, we organised a total of 11 campaigns:

- We visited **FUDELA** twice. This is a charity on the outskirts of Quito, which works with disadvantaged young people and their families, including refugees
- **La Carolina** is a school for children from low-income families, and is situated in a park in central Quito. We first visited the school a few years ago. This return visit enabled children who have recently enrolled to have eye tests
- **Fundación Colectiva para el Desarrollo** (FCPD, Collective Foundation for Development) is a foundation which works with vulnerable groups, including children and young people
- **Casa Hogar Maria Campi de Yoder**, on the southern outskirts of Quito, is a home for orphans up to the age of 12, owned by the Metropolitan District of Quito
- **Niños con Cancer** (Children with cancer): The Centro de Apoyo a Personas con Cancer, a hospital in Quito, has patients who come to their centre from different parts of Ecuador. Among these patients are children from low income homes who cannot afford the new glasses which their cancer treatment makes necessary
- **Instituto De Educacion Especial Ibarra**, a special needs school in Ibarra, north of Quito
- **Unidad Educativa de Sordos Imbabura**, a school for children with hearing difficulties, in Imbabura
- **Don Juan**, a fishing village on the Ecuadorian coast which was devastated in the April 2016 earthquake, where we visited the school and also provided glasses for elderly people in need
- Two campaigns revealed that 27 of our own **Condor Trust** students and their siblings needed glasses.

Project Ref: FF 0474-34 Eye Tests & Glasses – Condor Trust, Ecuador

Expenditure Details and Notes

Expenditure on Eye Tests and Glasses, November 2018 - August 2019					
Organisation	Eye Tests (US\$)	Glasses (US\$)	Total Costs (US\$)	Glasses provided	Average price per pair (US\$)
FUDELA 1	200.0	2,155.0	2,355.0	69	31.2
FUDELA 2	275.0	2,712.0	2,987.0	88	30.8
La Carolina	142.5	1,257.0	1,399.5	21	59.9
Fundacion Condor	53.0	531.0	584.0	17	31.2
Fundacion Colectiva para el Desarrollo	177.5	1,179.0	1,356.5	36	32.8
Casa Hogar Maria Campi de Yoder	65.0	477.0	542.0	13	36.7
Ninos con Cancer	200.0	1,056.0	1,256.0	34	31.1
Condor families	27.5	336.3	363.8	10	33.6
Instituto de Educacion Especial Ibarra	510.0	2,571.0	3,081.0	63	40.8
Unidada Educativa de Sordos Imbabura	190.0	643.0	833.0	16	40.2
Don Juan	423.0	4,286.0	4,709.0	103	41.6
TOTAL	2,264	17,203	19,466.8	470	36.6

- As indicated on the above table, in this funding phase we have provided 470 pairs of glasses over the period from November 2018 to the end of August 2019. The average cost of the glasses is almost US\$37 per pair, although there is some variation, depending on the complexity of the eye problems.
- Since the start of the project in 2012, Vista para Todos has provided eye tests at reduced rates. This means we pay US\$2.50 for most eye tests, although if an ophthalmologist, rather than the usual optometrist, is needed to do the tests US\$5 is charged. The latter was the case in the campaigns among children with cancer and children with special educational needs. Vista para Todos also provide all the glasses frames free of charge.
- 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.
- Our focus remains providing eye tests and glasses for children and young people from low income families. In some cases over the last year, we have also helped young people suffering from additional disadvantages. This includes a campaign at a school for young people with special educational needs, a campaign in a school for children with hearing difficulties, and a visit to a cancer centre in Quito (agreed with Fondation Eagle on April 1st 2019).

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Expenditure Details and Notes (cont)

- As described in our interim report, our second visit to the charity FUDELA went beyond our original remit of working with children, due to exceptional circumstances. FUDELA is in an area of the city where there are a lot of Venezuelan families who have arrived recently in Ecuador as refugees, all of them in a very poor state. Many of the adults, as well as the children, were desperate to have glasses, as they said they had not been able to obtain them in Venezuela for a very long time. We therefore tested the adults as well as the children, and in total provided 88 pairs of glasses. This all happened very quickly, and was agreed by the Foundation Eagle trustees on December 19th 2018.
- In addition, in August 2019 we visited Don Juan, a small fishing village on the Ecuadorian coast, which had been devastated by the earthquake in Manabi Province in April 2016. Although the main focus of the campaign was to test and provide glasses for children at the school, we were also asked by the community to help a number of elderly people who were having eye and sight problems. Some of these had been caused by the earthquake three years previously, but had not been treated. One lady, for example, had had her vision impaired when hot water was sprayed into her eyes when a pipe burst. We dealt with these problems as far as possible on the spot. *This additional support is responsible for the overspend of US\$916 over the past year.*
- 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, although these conditions generally appear to be improving. Increasingly, children spending time looking at screens (computers, telephones etc) is also a reason for poor eyesight.
- Interestingly, an appreciably lower proportion of the children tested in Don Juan were found to need glasses compared with children in Quito. According to Vista para Todos, this is likely to be due to a number of factors, but mainly because very little time is spent looking at screens, as computers and mobile phones are still extremely rare.

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Campaign at the Instituto de Educación Especial Ibarra, a special educational needs school, in May 2019



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Campaign at the Unidad Educativa de Sordos Imbabura, a school for children with hearing difficulties, in May 2019



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Campaign in Don Juan, a fishing village on the Ecuadorian coast which was devastated in the April 2016 earthquake in Manabi province

