

Interim Report – June 17th 2021

Financial summary:

Project agreed: December 10th 2020: Grant of US\$ 15,625 from the Fondation Eagle to the Condor Trust for Education for the continuation of eye tests/glasses in and around Quito, Ecuador

Amount spent on new campaigns in period from December 2020 to May 2021: US\$9,221

Amount remaining: US\$6,404 (end May 2021)

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 eight rounds of funding, and up to May 2021 in total we have:

- Performed 6,006 eye tests;
- Provided 2,532 pairs of glasses.

The Current Project

Between the end of 2020 and the end of May 2021, we organised a total of 4 campaigns, as well as helping students from the Condor Trust:

- In January 2021, we visited San Isidro. This is a poor area in Manabi, where families live mainly from agriculture or local micro-businesses. School attendance is poor in normal times, and the area has suffered particularly badly from Covid-19.
 - In the last six months, four of the students who the Condor Trust supports needed glasses, and one student needed a eye operation. The operation was paid for partly by the remaining US\$691 from the last round of funding and partly by \$185 from the current round of funding.
 - In February 2021, we attended the CETI centre (Centro de Erradicación del Trabajo Infantil, Centre for the Eradication of Child Labour), in the San Roque district of Quito.
 - In April 2021 we were asked by the nuns who run the San Vicente de Paul Children's Home in Quito to conduct eye tests among the children they look after, and provide glasses where necessary.
 - In May 2021, we carried out a campaign in Parroquia Rural Pacto, a rural area close to Quito, where the Fundación Ecuatoriana de Cooperación para el Desarrollo (Ecuadorian Foundation for Development) runs a project for disadvantaged young people.
- We have so far spent US\$9,221 of the total donated by Fondation Eagle in December 2020.
 - In total, we have performed 464 eye tests and provided 212 pairs of glasses, with an average cost of US\$37 per pair.

Project Ref: FF 0566-51 Eye Tests & Glasses – Condor Trust, Ecuador

Expenditure Details and Notes

Summary of Expenditure by Campaign, up to May 2021						
Name of School/Organisation	Date of campaign	No. of Eye Tests	Cost of Eye Tests (\$)	No. of Glasses	Cost of Glasses (\$)	Total Costs (\$)
Pablo (Fundacion Condor)	17 Dec 2020	1	2.5	1	127.5	130.0
William (Fundacion Condor) - eye operation (second part)	17 Dec 2020	1				184.7
Two new Fundacion members	25 Jan 2021	2	5.0	2	83.0	88.0
San Isidro	29 Jan 2021	139	347.5	41	1,258.0	1,605.5
CETI, San Roque	12 Feb 2021	137	342.5	60	1,988.0	2,330.5
San Vicente de Paul	16 April 2021	46	115.0	24	706.0	821.0
Jhonatan (Fundacion Condor)	21 April 2021	1	2.5	1	38.5	41.0
Parroquia Rural Pacto	7 May 2021	137	342.5	83	3,678.0	4,020.5
TOTAL		464	1,157.5	212	7,879.0	9,221.2

- Covid-19 has meant that children and young people in Ecuador, as in most of the world, are spending much more time looking at screens, as teaching has transferred from face-to-face to online lessons. All the schools in Ecuador have been closed since March 2020 and at present all teaching remains online. According to Vista para Todos, this has led to a clear decline in the visual health of young people. According to Dr Nieto, the director of Vista para Todos: “Before the pandemic, the use of computers and other technical equipment was for entertainment, very rarely for education, and it was used only for short periods. Now though, usage is much longer, the children adopt unhealthy positions, over-use their vision, and don’t take adequate breaks to relax their eyes. They are often obliged to study in places badly suited to education. All this is beginning to result in problems in visual health”.
- 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. 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.

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Campaign at San Isidro, January 2021



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CETI (Centro de Erradicación del Trabajo Infantil, Centre for the Eradication of Child Labour),
San Roque district of Quito, February 2021

