

Final Report – August 11th 2021

Financial summary:

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

Amount spent on new campaigns in the period from December 2020 to August 2021: US\$15,492.20

Amount remaining: US\$132.80 (August 11th 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 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 August 2021 in total we have:

- Performed 6,256 eye tests;
- Provided 2,689 pairs of glasses.

The Current Project

- Between the end of 2020 and August 2021, we organised a total of 6 campaigns, as well as helping students from the Condor Trust. Over this period, we have performed 714 eye tests and provided 369 pairs of glasses, with an average cost of US\$36.7 per pair.
- 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 nine months, 11 of the students who the Condor Trust supports, or their family members, needed glasses, and one student needed an 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.
- 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.
- In June, we undertook a campaign at the Unidad Educativa Intercultural "Chimborazo", a bilingual (Kichwa/Spanish) school in a deprived area outside Quito, and at the end of July visited Aldeas SOS (SOS Children's Villages), an international charity which has operated in Quito since 1963.

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

Expenditure Details

Summary of Expenditure by Campaign, December 2020 – August 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
Unidad Ed. Intercultural Chimborazo	17/18 June 2021	124	310.0	74	2,492.0	2,802.0
Condor families	June 2021	6	15.0	6	278.0	293.0
Aldeas SOS	26 July 2021	120	300.0	77	2,876.0	3,176.0
TOTAL		714	1,782.5	369	13,525.0	15,492.2

Differences between Proposal and Work Carried Out

More eye tests were conducted than estimated in the original proposal, while marginally fewer glasses were provided. It is always difficult to estimate exactly what proportion of children tested will need glasses, and the differences between the proposal and the work carried out were within the normal margins.

At the end of the campaigns in 2020-2021 US\$133 remained unspent, which we should like to put towards a later campaign.

	Estimate in proposal	Actual carried out	Difference
Number of eye tests	620	714	+94
Number of glasses	380	369	- 11
Expenditure (US\$)	15,625	15,492	-133

Notes

(1) Covid-19 and Screen Use

- 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, although schools are expected to re-open, at least partially, in September 2021.
- According to Vista para Todos, the additional time spent looking at screens 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”.
- When conducting the initial eye tests and also when fitting glasses, the staff of Vista para Todos take time to explain to students and parents the proper use of glasses and to make recommendations about how to keep eyes as healthy as possible. These include:
 - Recommendation that those children who need glasses wear them all the time, and also arrange an annual or bi-annual eye test, according to the severity of the condition;
 - Advice to parents that they should ensure their children do not work or play on screens (laptops, mobile phones, tablets, computers, televisions) for longer than the recommended daily times;
 - Guidance that children/young adults should not wear glasses or follow home-made remedies which are not recommended and provided by health specialists.

(2) General Considerations

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



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Campaign at Unidad Educativa Intercultural Chimborazo, June 2021



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Campaign at Aldeas SOS in Quito, July 2021

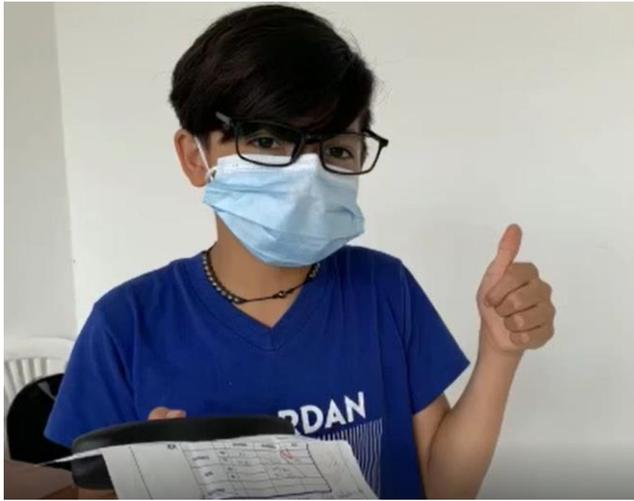


Campaign at St Vincent de Paul Children's Home, April 2021



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Campaign at Parroquia Rural Pacto, May 2021



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William, a student supported by the Condor Trust for the past six years, graduated from secondary school in July 2021. Thanks to Eagle Foundation, which paid towards an eye operation with Vista para Todos in late 2020, William can now see perfectly. He is applying to study mechanical engineering at a university in Quito.

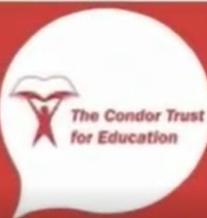


All campaigns were funded by Eagle Foundation, organised by the Condor Trust for Education and conducted by Vista para Todos.



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