

Interim Report – May 31st 2022

Financial summary:

Project agreed: December 14th 2021: Grant of US\$ 15,995 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 2021 to April 2022: US\$7,021

Amount remaining: US\$8,974 (April 2022)

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 nine rounds of funding, and up to April 2022 in total we have:

- Performed 6,447 eye tests;
- Provided 2,738 pairs of glasses.

The Current Project

Between the end of 2021 and the end of April 2022, we organised a total of four campaigns, as well as helping students connected with the Condor Trust:

- In January 2022, we visited Aldeas SOS Infantiles, a school in Ibarra, north of Quito. This is run by the Ecuadorian arm of the international charity SOS Children's Villages. In July 2021, we ran a campaign at another Aldeas SOS Infantiles school in Quito and at that time the organisation was very keen that we should follow this up with a campaign at their school in Ibarra. Ibarra is a medium-sized city (140,000 population in 2010) and has a higher proportion of Afro-Ecuadorians than the country average.
 - Between February and April 2022, we undertook campaigns in three different schools run by the charity Fe y Alegria, a federation of organisations which runs schools for impoverished children in Latin America. The first was at the Escuela AFRASER, a school in the south of Quito, the second in the Escuela "Rotary Club", a school in Sangolqui (a suburb to the south-east of Quito), and the third in the Colegio Fraternidad y Servicio, a school in the Barrio Rabija, close to Sangolqui.
 - At the end of 2021/start of 2022, we also tested and supplied glasses to three children in families supported by the Condor Trust.
- We have so far spent US\$7,021 of the total donated by Fondation Eagle in December 2021.
 - In total, we have performed 441 eye tests and provided 206 pairs of glasses, with an average cost of US\$28.8 per pair.

Expenditure Details and Notes

Summary of Expenditure by Campaign, up to April 2022						
Name of School/Organisation	Date of campaign	No. of Eye Tests	Cost of Eye Tests (\$)	No. of Glasses	Cost of Glasses (\$)	Total Costs (\$)
Aldeas SOS Infantiles, school	27/28 January 2022	114	285.00	84	2,355.00	2,640.00
Fundacion Condor	Dec 21/Jan 22	3	7.50	3	256.30	263.80
"AFRASER" school, Fe y Alegria	17/18 Feb 2022	155	377.50	42	1,114.00	1,491.50
"Rotary Club" school, Fe y Alegria	31 March 2022	96	240.00	38	1,204.00	1,444.00
"Fraternidad y Servicio" school, Fe y Alegria	1st April 2022	73	182.50	39	999.00	1,181.50
TOTAL		441	1,093	206	5,928	7,021

- Covid-19 has meant that children and young people in Ecuador, as in most of the world, have been spending much more time looking at screens, as teaching transferred from face-to-face to online lessons. All the schools in Ecuador were closed between March 2020 and September 2021 and again in December 2021/January 2022. Full opening of all schools did not occur until February 2022, meaning that most children were out of school for two years. According to Vista para Todos, this has led to a clear decline in the visual health of young people. In summer 2021, Dr Nieto, the director of Vista para Todos, warned: "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.

Project Ref: FF 0609 - Eye Tests & Glasses – Condor Trust, Ecuador

Campaign at Aldeas SOS Infantiles, Ibarra, January 2022



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Campaign at AFRASER, Fe y Alegria school, February 2022

