

Final Report – November 1st 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 November 2022: US\$15,987

Amount remaining: US\$8 (November 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 November 2022 in total we have:

- Performed 7,087 eye tests;
- Provided 2,965 pairs of glasses.

The Current Project – Campaigns during 2022

Between the end of 2021 and the end of October 2022, we organised a total of nine 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 May 2022, we undertook campaigns in four 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), the third in the Colegio Fraternidad y Servicio, a school in the Barrio Rabija, close to Sangolqui, and the fourth in Glend Side school, also in Sangolqui.

Campaigns during 2022 (cont)

- In June 2022, we visited 3 de diciembre, a special school for deaf children in Ibarra, north of Quito. For this visit, we had to use an interpreter in sign language so that the children could fully understand how eye tests work and the importance of wearing glasses if they were found to have a visual impairment. Two-thirds of the children tested turned out to need glasses.
- In July, just before the schools closed for the summer holidays, we undertook a campaign in Esmeraldas, west of Quito, which 223 children from a primary school, Heleodoro Saenz Rivadeneira, attended. This is one of the most ethnically diverse and also one of the poorest areas of Ecuador.
- In October, we organised two small campaigns in Quito. One was at the Nuestros Jovenes home for young immigrants and one at the Laura Vicuña home for girls and young women. The number of immigrants coming to Quito in recent years, mainly from Venezuela and Colombia, has increased greatly. Most arrive with very few possessions or money, and all the young people were extremely grateful for the opportunity to receive free visual support.
- Throughout the year, we have offered free eye tests and, where necessary, glasses to the students of the Condor Trust and their families. These are students whose overall education we support, so we see them regularly and can gauge what a positive difference being able to see well makes to their educational achievements and general well-being.

Below is a summary of all the campaigns we have undertaken this year:

Summary of Expenditure by Campaign, December 2021-November 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 Infantiles, school	27/28 Jan 2022	114	285.00	84	2,355.00	2,640.00
Fundación Cóndor	Dec 21/Jan 22	3	7.50	3	256.30	263.80
AFRASER school, Fe y Alegria	17/18 Feb 2022	151	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
Glend Side school, Fe y Alegria	11-13 May 2022	301	752.50	86	2,464.00	3,216.50
3 de diciembre school	03 June 2022	49	122.50	33	1,030.00	1,152.50
Heleodoro Saenz school	07 July 2022	223	557.50	62	1,685.50	2,243.00
Fundación Cóndor	April-Sept 2022	15	37.50	15	996.50	1,034.00
Nuestros Jovenes home for young immigrants	26 October 2022	27	67.50	11	466.00	533.50
Laura Vicuña home for girls	26 October 2022	29	72.50	20	714.00	786.50
TOTAL SPENT		1,081	2,703	433	13,284	15,987

Notes

- **Screen Time:** Covid-19 meant that children and young people in Ecuador, as in most of the world, spent 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 spring 2022, meaning that most children were out of school for two years. According to Vista para Todos, this 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”.
- As a result, during all our campaigns we stress even more strongly: *parents and teachers should make sure that their children and students understand the importance of sticking to recommended times for using screens. The excess use of laptops, mobile phones, tablets, computers and televisions, without correct protection, can lead to damage to vision, which may sometimes be irreversible.*

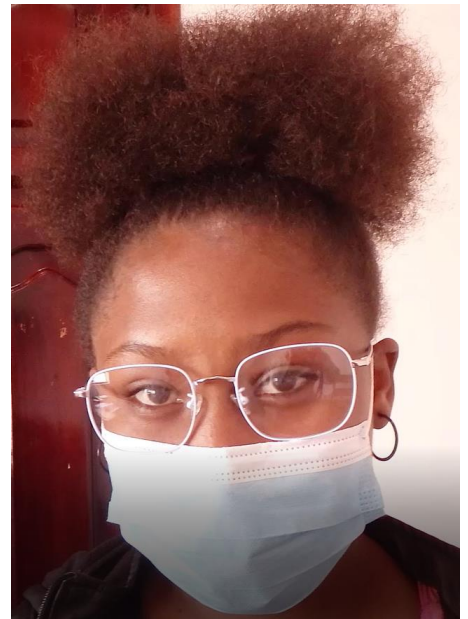
How we work

The Condor Trust works in partnership with local charity Vista para Todos. This charity was set up over three decades ago and now has 58 care centres throughout Ecuador.

In our project, Vista para Todos provides eye tests at the reduced rate of US\$2.50. It also provides all the glasses frames free of charge.

Before starting a campaign, Vista para Todos contacts the school or organisation where it will take place and receives a list of all the children who need to be tested. On the day of the campaign, the Vista para Todos team sets up its equipment and explains the process to all the children.

Based on the results of the tests, the lenses are prepared and a second visit to the school scheduled. The children can choose the frames they would like. They receive them in a case with instructions on how to use them. Teachers and parents also learn how to ensure the children take care of their glasses and use them correctly,



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



Campaign at Aldeas SOS Infantiles, Ibarra, January 2022



Campaign at AFRASER,
Fe y Alegria school,
February 2022





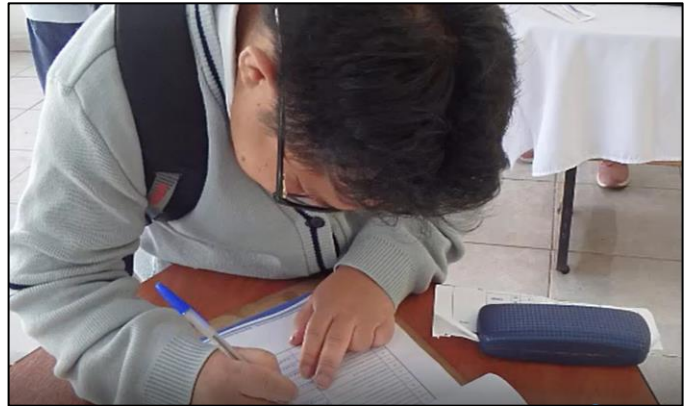
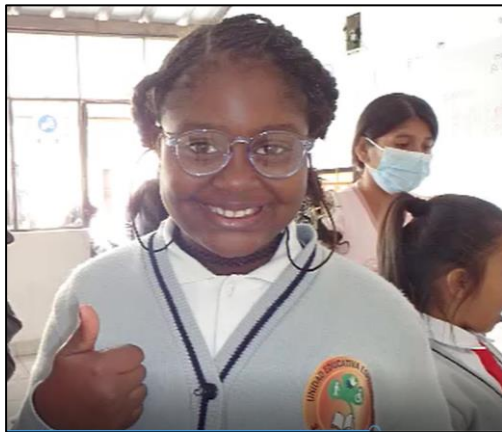
Above: Campaign at Glend Side school, May 2022

Below: Campaign at Fraternidad y Servicio, April 2022





Campaign at 3 de diciembre school, June 2022



Campaign at Heleodoro Saenz school, July 2022

