

Report – September 30th, 2024

Financial summary:

Project agreed: December 6th, 2023: Grant of US\$ 16,500 from the Fondation Eagle to the Condor Trust for Education for the continuation of eye tests/glasses in Ecuador.

Amount spent on campaigns in the period from January 2024 to end of August 2024: US\$13,682. Amount of grant remaining to be spent: \$2,818.

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 Fondation Eagle, 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 eleven rounds of funding, and up to the end of August 2024 in total we have:

- Performed 8,366 eye tests;
- Provided 3,658 pairs of glasses.

The Current Project

Between January and the end of August 2024, we organised seven campaigns, as well as helping several Condor Trust students and their families. A total of 651 eye tests were conducted. In 369 cases glasses were found necessary. These were manufactured and then delivered by Vista para Todos.

Choice of Organisations: The seven campaigns have taken in a variety of locations: schools, foundations, a care home for the elderly and a community kitchen. Whatever the location, all of the people who received eye tests and/or glasses came from low-income backgrounds. A number were also disabled, mentally and/or physically. A fairly high proportion of people helped were from indigenous communities. Levels of poverty among these communities are above the average for Ecuador, particularly in rural areas, where several of the campaigns took place.

In line with our application to Fondation Eagle in December 2023, this year we have broadened our work beyond school children and adolescents to include other groups, particularly vulnerable elderly people. This is an area of great need, given the number of very poor elderly people who have no or virtually no income. As family structures become less close in Ecuador, as elsewhere, there is an increasing number of elderly people who are forced to try to live without regular support and frequently with failing eyesight.

Project Ref: FF 696 Eye Tests & Glasses – Condor Trust, Ecuador

All of the organisations visited formally contacted either the Condor Trust or Vista para Todos asking for support. Typically, an organisation calls Vista para Todos and speaks with the Director. He asks about the organisation if he does not know it and assesses the needs of the organisation. If the organisation seems to fit with our aims, he requests a formal application from the organisation, which outlines their activities and needs. He then discusses with the Condor Trust’s administrator to check she is happy that the campaign fits our criteria and should go ahead.

Expenditure Details and Notes

Summary of Expenditure by Campaign, January to August, 2024

Name of School/Organisation	Date of campaign	No. of Eye Tests	Cost of Eye Tests (\$)	No. of Glasses	Cost of Glasses (\$)	Total Costs (\$)
Fundación San Juan Bautista	January 26th	85	212.50	52	1,705.00	1,917.50
Gonzalo Días de Pineda	February 22nd	52	130.00	24	705.00	835.00
Gil Ramirez Davalos	February 23rd	37	92.50	15	465.00	557.50
Unidad Educativa Padre Rafael Ferrer	March 21st/22nd	157	392.50	85	3,012.00	3,404.50
Four Condor Students	March/April	4	7.50	4	252.50	260.00
San Jacinto	April 25th/26th	193	482.50	101	2,821.00	3,303.50
El Centro Gerontológico Cayambe	June 20th	46	115.00	37	1,322.00	1,437.00
Five Condor students/families	May	5	12.50	5	401.50	414.00
Comedor Comunitario de Conocoto	July 17th	72	180.00	46	1,373.00	1,553.00
TOTAL		651	1,625.00	369	12,057.00	13,682.00

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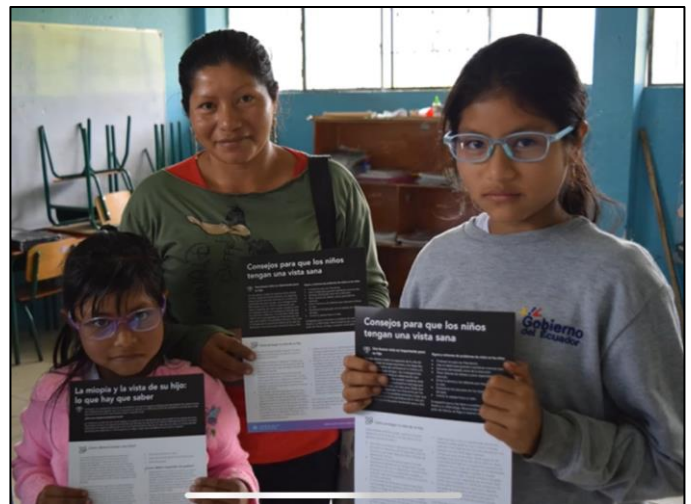
Area of operation: In line with our application, we have this year conducted more campaigns outside the capital, Quito. This is largely in response to requests for help from more distant places, where support for vulnerable people is generally lower than in the capital.



Map of Ecuador, showing places where campaigns have been undertaken: ♦

Further Comments

- Since the start of the project in 2012, Vista para Todos has provided eye tests at reduced rates. Vista para Todos also provide all the glasses frames free of charge. The cost of a pair of lenses varies between \$20 and over \$150 in rare and complex cases.
- During and after each campaign, the team from Vista para Todos makes a number of recommendations, directly to the young people and their parents/carers and also, in person and in writing, to the school or organisation attended by the young people. These cover practical ways in which the glasses wearers can keep their eyesight healthy.



Advice on how to keep eyesight healthy

Campaign 1: Fundación de Ayuda Social San Juan Bautista

Organisation visited: Fundación de Ayuda Social San Juan Bautista, Mocha Canton, Tungurahua Province

This foundation was set up in 2010 by a group of local people, with support from the Catholic church, in order to provide support services to those people most in need of help (children, adolescents, people with disabilities and elderly people) living in and around the town of Mocha. Mocha is a town with under 7,000 inhabitants, situated high in the Andes around 180 kilometers south of Quito. It is a very traditional society, where average incomes are low. The population lives from agriculture, either from rearing cattle or from growing crops such as potatoes, onions and maize.



Aerial view of Mocha



The San Juan Bautista building and team

In January 2024, the head of the foundation contacted Vista para Todos and asked if they could provide eye tests and glasses for local children, aged 5 to 15, all of whom come from low-income families.

Eye tests were conducted on January 26th, and the glasses handed over a week or so later on February 3rd. Out of the 85 children who had eye tests, 61% needed glasses.



GRAN CAMPAÑA VISUAL
¡¡ GRATUITA !!
¡Ojo a sus ojitos!

4 de cada 5 problemas de aprendizaje en edad escolar están relacionados con problemas visuales
¡Los niños aprenden por los ojos!

La Fundación de Ayuda Social "San Juan Bautista" del cantón Mocha en conjunto con la Fundación "Vista para todos"

Realizará un examen visual y la donación de lentes para niños, niñas, adolescentes y personas con discapacidad, desde los 5 hasta los 15 años de edad.

¡Cupos Limitados!
El día viernes 26 de enero del 2024
Desde 8 a.m. hasta las 16:00 horas

Se receptorá los documentos (Copia de cédula del niño) hasta el día Lunes 22 de enero de 8:00 a 13:00 en la fundación "San Juan Bautista"

The campaign was advertised to the groups supported by the foundation (see left), stressing the importance of having good vision in order for children to learn: "Keep an eye on your precious eyes".



Campaign 2: Gonzalo Días de Pineda

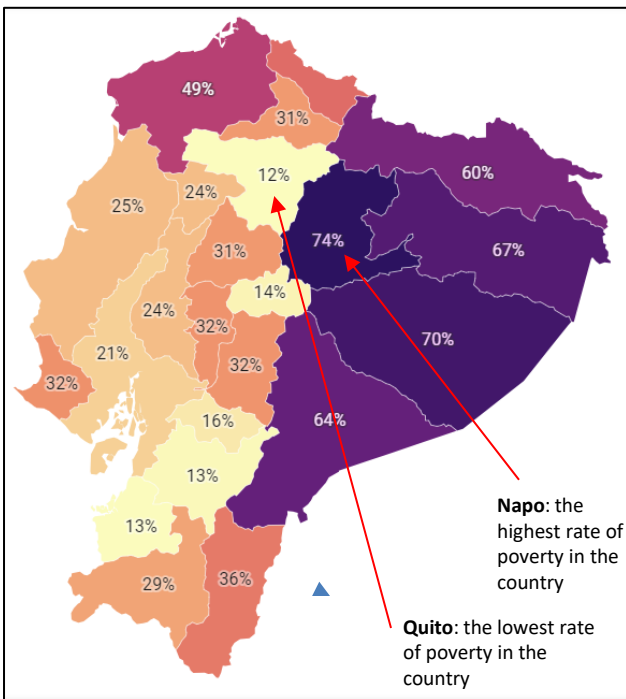
Organisations visited: Three small primary schools in the rural parish of Gonzalo Díaz de Pineda, in El Chaco Canton, Napo Province.

In February 2024, the head of a group of three small primary schools wrote to Vista para Todos, asking for help with glasses for the very needy children in his schools. The three schools are: Fray Vacas Galindo, which has 26 pupils, 12 de febrero, which has 24 pupils and Daniel Gonzales, which has 8 pupils.

Napo Province, to the east of Quito, is one of the areas of the country with the highest rates of poverty (see below). The Gonzalo Díaz de Pineda parish is in a remote part of the province and suffered very badly when the nearby Reventador volcano erupted in 1987, wiping out two whole neighbourhoods of the parish. Its population remains very small and dispersed. The families live mainly from agriculture, including tomatoes, cassava, mushrooms, various fruits etc., while some have more recently tried to build up a tourist business by offering kayaking and rafting.



The eye tests took place on February 22nd in two of the three schools: first, in the 12 de febrero school, where pupils from Daniel Gonzalez also attended, and then in the Fray Vacas Galindo school. In total, 52 of the 58 pupils who normally go to these schools were tested. Some 48% were found to need glasses.



Ecuador: % of population living on under \$3 per day (ie in poverty) in 2023, by province

Source: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC).



Campaign 3: Gil Ramirez Davalos

Organisations visited: Gil Ramirez Davalos school.

After the Gonzalo Días de Pineda visit, the following day the Vista para Todos team conducted a second campaign in a school in the nearby rural parish of Cosanga, in the Quijos canton, also in Napo Province. This was as a result of a request from the president of the commission for social welfare in Cosanga, who was keen to support the children of the low-income families with whom she is working.

Gil Ramirez Davalos is a state school, which currently has 63 pupils and four teachers. It caters for children from the age of 5 to 15 (the ten years of basic education in Ecuador). Like most of the rest of Napo, Cosanga, a small town with just over 500 inhabitants, suffers from high rates of poverty. Its main source of income is tourism, as it is surrounded by the Amazonian landscape of forest and rivers.



The eye tests took place on February 23rd in the school. 37 pupils attended and 15 were found to need glasses. The glasses were delivered a week later, on March 1st.



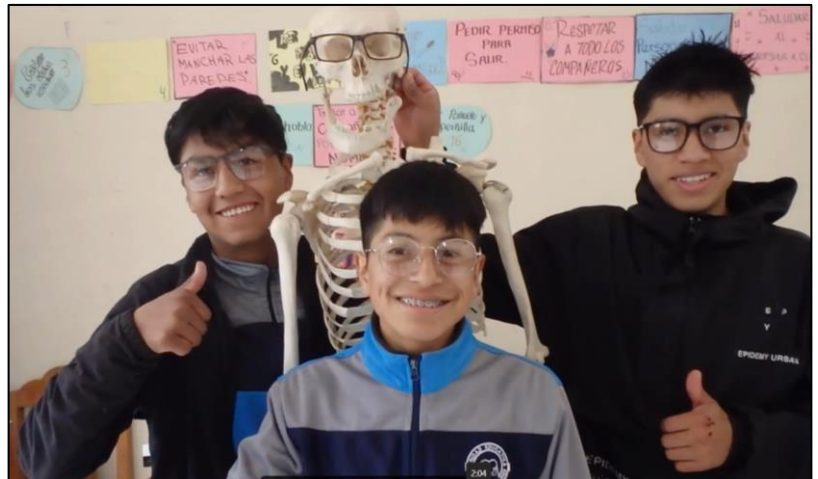
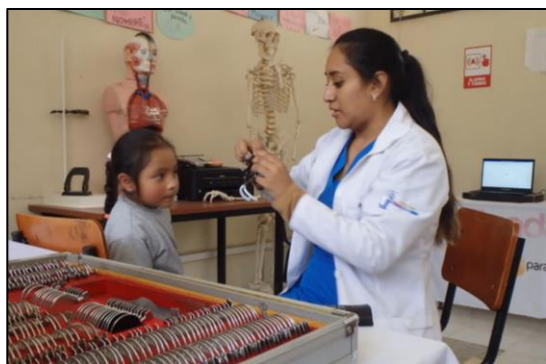
Campaign 4: Padre Rafael Ferrer

Organisation visited: Unidad Educativa Padre Rafael Ferrer (PRF School) in Oyacachi, El Chaco province, Napo Province.

This state school has 183 pupils and 16 teachers. It includes both primary and, since 2014, secondary classes. Like the rest of Napo, Oyacachi's incidence of poverty is high, although, particularly before the Covid pandemic, it was making progress in earning income from ecotourism, as well as its more traditional sources such as agriculture and fish. It is known as the "tierra del agua" (the land of water), because of its many rivers, lakes, waterfalls etc. The town is small, with a population, mostly indigenous, of just under 1,000.



The campaign took place over two days in late March. 157 children received eye tests and just over half (54%) were found to need glasses (excluding the skeleton below).



Campaign 5: San Jacinto

Organisation visited: Centro Educativo Comunitario Intercultural Bilingüe (Bilingual intercultural community school) San Jacinto, in the El Cercado community, which is part of El Sagrario parish, in the canton of Cotacachi in Imbabura Province.

Cotacachi is an area of the Andes north of Quito, where a large proportion of the population is indigenous. The El Cercado community is a Kichwa village, which until relatively recently was isolated and oppressed. Until the 1970s, even basic necessities including drinking water, electricity and education were not provided by the authorities. Although the situation has improved since then, it remains a very poor community. The whole population speaks Kichwa as their first language, although Spanish is now also used. Both languages are used in the bilingual school.



Vista para Todos was approached for help by the directors of the San Jacinto school, and a team was sent to the community on April 25th and 26th. The school has a total of 216 pupils, aged from 5 to 17/18 and 13 class teachers. During the campaign 193 pupils had their vision tested and 101 (52% of the total) were found to need glasses. The glasses were delivered on May 7th.



Gracias
Añay

"Thank you" in Spanish and Kichwa

Campaign 6: El Centro Gerontológico Cayambe

Organisation visited: El Centro Gerontológico Cayambe (Care Home for the Elderly in Cayambe)

Cayambe is a town of around 45,000 people situated just to the north of Quito and close to the Cayambe volcano. It is a largely indigenous area and has high levels of poverty.

IN 1975, a group of local women volunteers set up an old people's home in Cayambe to look after poor and abandoned elderly residents of the area. By 2006, it was clear that the accommodation being used was crumbling and unfit for habitation, and funds were raised to build a new home. This home was taken over in 2009 by the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion. It now provides a home and a range of services for impoverished elderly people.

In early June 2024, the Coordinator of the Care Home wrote to Vista para Todos asking for a visit. The residents of this home are all elderly people who have no family support and who have no or little income. Many of them knew that they needed glasses but were unable to afford them.



The campaign took place on June 20th. 46 residents had their eyes tested and 80% needed glasses. These were delivered on July 2nd and received with great joy.



Campaign 7: Patronato San José

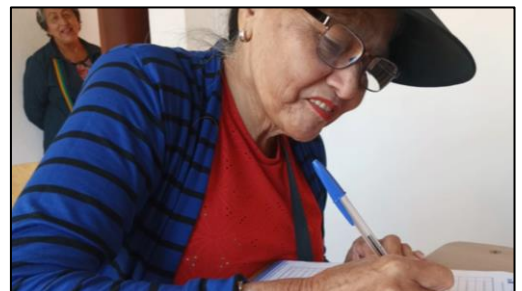
Organisation visited: Comedor Comunitario de Conocoto (Conocoto Community Kitchen)

The Unidad Patronato Municipal San José works with Quito City Council to support vulnerable people in the Conocoto area in the south-east of Quito. Amongst its various services, it operates a Community Kitchen, which provides healthy and nutritious food to around 100 homeless or otherwise vulnerable local people. It operates every day between 11am and 2.30pm. In addition to food, the organization offers various types of healthcare, community education and other services. In this context, the coordinator of social services for the project approached Vista para Todos in July, requesting free eye tests and, where necessary, glasses for the adults and elderly people it supports.



In total, 72 people had their eyes tested and 46 of them needed glasses (64% of the total).

The tests were conducted at the Community Kitchen facilities on July 17th and the glasses delivered a week later.



Condor Trust Young People & Families

In the period March to May 2024, a number of Condor Trust students and their families needed glasses for the first time or had to renew them due to changes in their eyesight. The March/April expenditure includes \$131 which had to be spent on cleaning and adjustment to lenses provided after an eye operation which one of our students underwent in 2020.



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