

Care Management Plan

Ecuador



OVERVIEW

Company Mission

Our company mission is to make it the norm for young men and women from developed countries to live and work as volunteers in a developing country; they should work on projects which have a clearly favourable impact on host-communities. In this way, we will continue to create a multi-national community with a passion to serve and to inspire.

Care Programme Mission

Our Care programme mission is to provide sustainable educational support, care and protection to disadvantaged children and vulnerable groups to enhance their physical, social, emotional and cognitive development.

Background Information

The Galapagos Islands attract hundreds of thousands of tourists from all over the world every year. Over the past 15 years, gross income generated by tourism has increased by an average of 14% per annum.¹ The economic impacts of tourism on this insular economy have increased the population size dramatically as immigrants flock to the islands to find jobs and secure a better standard of living. Between 1982 and 1990, the number of inhabitants grew by 6.4% per year. In contrast, the population on mainland Ecuador increased by just 2.1% over the same time period.²

Fishing restrictions were imposed in 1998 to preserve the marine life surrounding the islands. Tourism became a key area for jobs and employment. Given the lack of education and diverse skill sets, many households were affected and had no sustainable income. In order for the islanders to get jobs in the tourism industry education, and especially English, has become paramount. However the growth in tourism comes at a price. The dramatic increase in migrant workers and urbanisation has also increased the number of young children. Municipalities are unable to keep up with the increased demand for basic services.

The quality of education is recognised as one of the most pressing problems in the archipelago. Public schools are overcrowded and under-funded; graduates are frustrated and ill-equipped to compete with better educated and more experienced foreigners and mainlanders who secure employment as guides, crew members and administrators. There is a severe shortage of skilled laborers in Galapagos who can supply the quality of services that tourists expect, so many vessel and hotel owners have no option other than to bring in employees from outside. It is vital that the local residents and future generation get the quality of education they need to secure the jobs in the lucrative tourism industry. The kindergartens and day care centres that Projects Abroad works with provide that foundation for the future generation.

¹ <http://www.galapagos.org/conservation/tourism-growth/>

² <http://www.galapagos.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/socio4-tourism-in-galapagos.pdf>

Partners

Projects Abroad Galapagos is registered as a non-profit organisation. The director of Projects Abroad Ecuador is the town councilor of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. He has been in this position for many years and is not only extremely well respected by the local people but also in a position that allows him a unique understanding of the needs of the community and placements. Projects Abroad works closely with the principals of the local schools and kindergartens in addition to having regular discussions and meetings with the Ministry of Education.

GOALS

1.) Improve English

The tourism industry is a lifeline for many families in the Galapagos Islands, especially in light of fishing restrictions imposed by the Galapagos National Park. The local residents need a good knowledge of English to secure jobs in the tourism industry and with the Galapagos National Park. Learning English at a young age is a necessity if the next generation is going to find employment opportunities. Projects Abroad aims to increase the children's exposure to English through English summer camps, extra activities, visual aids and one-on-one sessions.

2.) Promote early childhood development

Early childhood is the period from birth to eight years of age. It is critical to a child's cognitive, social, emotional and physical development.³ Early education and preschool programmes enhance children's language and maths test scores, behavioural skills and long-term educational attainments.⁴

Class sizes are generally quite large, so teachers and carers benefit greatly from having volunteers help in the classrooms, kindergartens and special needs schools. By increasing the support children get in the classrooms we can focus on identifying and helping slow learners, children who are facing difficulties or who have behavioral problems. Volunteers bring in new ideas that help educate the adults working in our local institutions and diversify the way the children are educated.

3.) Raise awareness of healthy living, the environment and family planning

The number of teenage pregnancies and single mothers is increasing on the Galapagos Islands. Young parents often do not have the experience to educate their children in basic life skills such as regularly washing hands or cleaning their teeth. Knowledge about healthy and balanced meals is limited and the children are often fed unhealthy food and snacks. We want to create awareness for parents, young adults and children in order to break this cycle of teenage pregnancies and a lack of understanding about what is needed for a healthy lifestyle. We aim to do this through regular workshops, campaigns and promoting best practices.

4.) Improve the level of stimulation to each child

Overcrowding in kindergartens, day care centres and schools prevents the children from getting the individual attention and care they need. Projects Abroad aims to increase the amount of support in the classrooms to ensure that each child has enough stimulation. We can increase the amount of activities carried out outside the classroom by providing vital diversity in their learning experience. We aim to captivate and motivate each child so that they can thrive and identify which learning styles work best for them.

³ [http://www.unicef.org/lac/Inequities_in_Early_Childhood_Development_LoRes_PDF_EN_02082012\(1\).pdf](http://www.unicef.org/lac/Inequities_in_Early_Childhood_Development_LoRes_PDF_EN_02082012(1).pdf)

⁴ http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EDUCATION/Resources/278200-1099079877269/547664-1099079922573/ECD_LAC.pdf

5.) Improve the quality of life for those living with disabilities

On San Cristobal Island there are many children who have autism and Down's syndrome. The government has stated that these children need to be enrolled in mainstream school. This is often extremely challenging for both the child and the teacher. There is limited knowledge and teaching methods for children with these conditions and they are often left on their own in the classroom to manage as best they can. This can lead to frustrations that result in bad behaviour and aggressiveness. Projects Abroad aims to give these children one-on-one attention to ensure they have the support they need to perform to the best of their abilities.

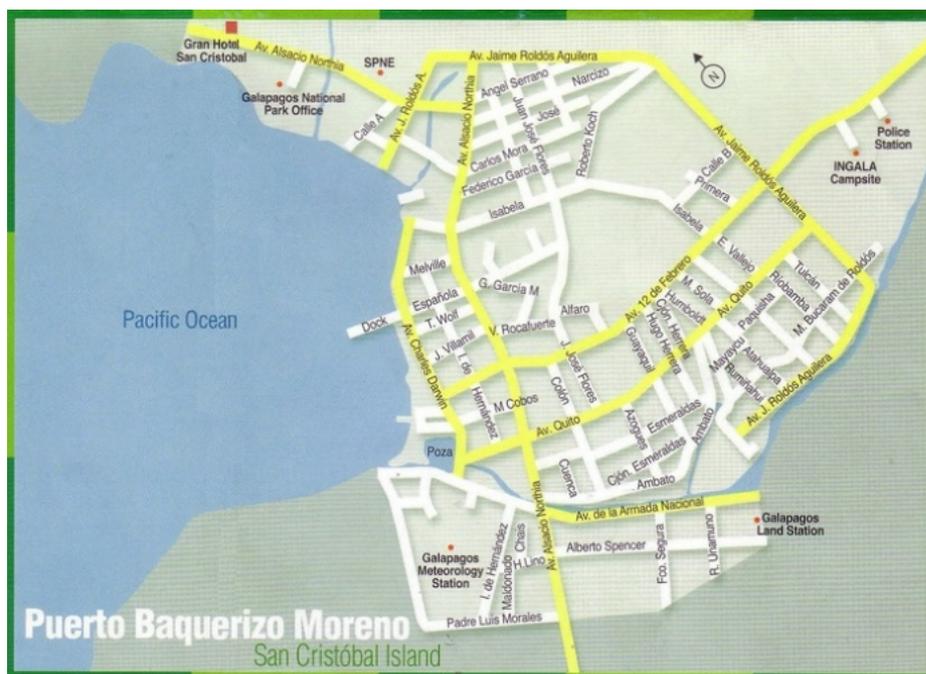
RESOURCES

- a.) 60 (average) Care volunteers per year
- b.) One x Projects Abroad Care Supervisor
- c.) Projects Abroad resources
- d.) Monthly workshops/ discussion sessions conducted by the staff
- e.) Books, stationery, games, PC and Internet access in the Projects Abroad office
- f.) Financial capacity for community work, volunteer support, etc.

LOCATION OF PLACEMENTS



Projects Abroad work on the Island of San Cristobal



All our Care placements are based in the town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno

MONITORING & EVALUATION

- a. Regular feedback from our partner placements
- b. Onsite visits by staff
- c. Feedback from Projects Abroad staff
- d. Volunteer workshops and discussion session – attendance, feedback and significant outcomes to be tracked by staff
- e. Volunteer Debriefing forms and End of Placement Feedback forms
- f. Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD): Overall development status of children recorded after six months. Analysed by placement, area (motor, social and cognitive) and age. Results are compared with international standards. Based on this data, more resources are focused on problem areas.
- g. Children’s feedback: Through observation and informal discussion groups on a regular basis
- h. Biannual Placement Evaluation feedback
- i. Test results
- j. Health check-up results

Projects Abroad			
Care Programme - Ecuador			
	INDICATORS	MONITORING (MEANS OF VERIFICATION)	ASSUMPTIONS
Company Mission: (the change we want to see in greater society)			
Our company mission is to make it the norm for young men and women from developed countries to live and work as volunteers in a developing country; they should work on projects which have a clearly favourable impact on host-communities. In this way, we will continue to create a multi-national community with a passion to serve and to inspire.			
Care Programme Mission: (the change we want to see for the target group)			
Our Care programme mission is to provide sustainable educational support, care and protection to disadvantaged children and vulnerable groups to enhance their physical, social, emotional and cognitive development	2014 is the implementation and mind-set changing year. Head Office-led status reviews will take place every 3 months. We expect to have the foundations of the new Care programme in place by the end of 2014	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Onsite visits 2. Placement staff feedback 3. Projects Abroad staff feedback 4. Volunteer feedback (DQs & EOPF) 5. Children feedback 6. Test results 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of volunteers does not drop considerably 2. Number of volunteers with a good grasp of English does not drop considerably 3. Political and civil stability in the countries we work 4. No natural disasters that could affect our work
Goal 1:			
IMPROVE ENGLISH			
	Actions:		
1.1	Introduce a record keeping system for each placement and maintain it for each child on a monthly basis		
1.2	Set small goals and targets for each child		
1.3	Record on a weekly basis activities and resources that are successful with the child		
1.4	One-on-one lessons		
1.5	Work with teachers to improve classroom rules and methods of discipline		
1.6	Create visual learning aids on the placement walls and make sure these are updated every month		

1.7	Help raise the standard of English teaching			
1.8	Help run a summer camp with at least 100 children in the summer holidays			
1.9	Create a lead volunteer system where the experienced volunteer advises and mentors the new volunteers			

Goal 2:

PROMOTE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

	Actions:			
2.1	Carry out 4 remedial classes for slow learners every month			
2.2	Introduce a record keeping system for each placement and maintain it for each child on a monthly basis, including profile of child, learning ability, test results, etc.			
2.3	Create weekly activity timetables to focus on 4 key areas of ECD			
	i. Physical - morning exercise, sport and dancing			
	ii. Social - introduce team games and group activities			
	iii. Emotional - meditation and counselling			
	iv. Learning - classroom activities			
2.4	Volunteers to have weekly meetings with the caregiver to assess what the placement needs for the following week			
2.5	Introduce creative activities to help develop motor skills			
2.6	Ensure no child is left by themselves for a substantial length of time			
2.7	Create team games where all the children are included			
2.8	Create visual learning aids on the placement walls and make sure these are updated every month			
2.9	Engage children in regular games and activities to improve their attention span			
2.10	Create a behavioural chart and update daily for all children in order to identify and monitor the times when the children are most challenging			
2.11	Introduce placement open days where parents, volunteers and caregivers can come and see what the children have created and discuss best practices. We will aim to have 1 every term			
2.12	Create a lead volunteer system where the experienced volunteer advises and mentors the new volunteers			

Goal 3:

RAISE AWARENESS OF HEALTHY LIVING, THE ENVIRONMENT AND FAMILY PLANNING

	Actions:			
3.1	Establish a health education programme to include sex education, diet, nutrition and fitness			
3.2	Create monthly workshops that focus on single and teenage mothers and educate young men and women on how to avoid unwanted pregnancies			

Goal 4:

IMPROVE THE LEVEL OF STIMULATION TO EACH CHILD

Actions:				
4.1	Introduce a record keeping system for each placement and maintain it for each child on a monthly basis, including profile of child, learning ability, test results, etc.			
4.2	Engage children in regular games and activities to improve their attention span			
4.3	Create a behavioural chart and update daily, for all children in order to identify and monitor the times when the children are most challenging			
4.4	Introduce creative activities each day to help develop motor skills			
4.5	Create a rota for one-on-one remedial classes			
4.6	Engage children in games and activities to improve their attention span			

Goal 5:**IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THOSE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

Actions:				
5.1	Help teach the children and young adults to be more independent			
5.2	Create a behavioural chart for all children in order to identify and monitor the times when they are most challenging			
5.3	Introduce creative activities to help develop motor skills			
5.4	Introduce a record keeping system for each placement and maintain it for each child on a monthly basis, including profile of child, learning ability, preferences, dislikes, etc.			