

Care Management Plan

Mexico



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

52 million people live in poverty in Mexico and 12 million live in extreme poverty. There are many children working on the streets or have been abandoned since their families cannot care for them. Government efforts to address poverty are insufficient as the number of people living in poverty has surpassed its reach. Day care centres and orphanages struggle to cover all the costs so they are often understaffed and lack resources. Access to both education and healthcare are free in Mexico, however with the government's limited resources many educational centres benefit from additional support to try and give children the best chance possible to reach their potential.

Partners

Projects Abroad is registered as a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Mexico. We collaborate with six different NGOs in Guadalajara and Ciudad Guzman. Some of our most important partners are the following organisations:

- Niños en Ambiente Familiar (NIA-FAM): an orphanage in Guadalajara that aims to reintroduce the concept of family living to those from broken or abusive homes
- Centro de Desarrollo Infantil (INFAL): a day care nursery in Ciudad Guzman
- Centro de Integración Juvenil (U.T.R.): a centre caring for youngsters who have had problems with drugs or been living on the streets

GOALS

In order to work towards our Care programme mission, we have set the following goals to achieve in the placements where we send volunteers:

1. Improve English

Mexico's first commercial partner and neighbouring country is the United States. This, coupled with the booming tourism market, has meant that English is becoming increasingly important when finding a job. English is not taught in public primary schools and only in secondary school does it become mandatory. Our programme familiarises young children with the language by teaching English on a basic level so that by the time they reach secondary school they already have some exposure and will find it easier to learn.

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.¹ Early education and preschool programmes enhance children's language and maths test scores, behavioural skills and long-term educational attainments.²

Systematic measurement of early childhood development has multiple benefits. We aim to assess each child in fields of physical, social, emotional and cognitive development. Slow development can hinder a child's chance in primary school and lead to problems in later years. We are also looking for early signs of child abuse or neglect, learning difficulty or disability. Volunteers are able to recognise these needs and provide essential resources to support these children and their families.

3. Improve hygiene levels of the children

Many children who come to the institutions come from the streets or low standard housing and have poor levels of sanitation at home. This can lead to a host of diseases and infections. We educate and run activities to promote proper hygiene with the aim of improving overall health.

4. Improve the level of stimulation to each child

Children attending the day care centres are usually there because both their parents work full-time. Children have to spend longer hours at the centres and therefore require a lot of attention. Volunteers' activities encourage mental, physical and social stimulation. Early exposure to stimulating games and activities strengthens a child's memory capacity, learning ability, physical health, social skills and emotional coping skills.

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

In Mexico, access to specialised disability care remains sparse. Those with disabilities can encounter many difficulties and have severely restricted opportunities in terms of employment and achieving a high quality of life. Volunteer's activities involve physical therapy, stimulating games and vocational training.

¹ [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)

² http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EDUCATION/Resources/278200-1099079877269/547664-1099079922573/ECD_LAC.pdf

RESOURCES

1. 35 (average) Care volunteers per year
2. One x Projects Abroad Care Supervisor
3. Myprojectsabroad resources (www.projects-abroad.co.uk/resources)
4. Bi-monthly workshops/ discussion sessions conducted by staff
5. Volunteer-led workshops
6. Books, stationery, games, PCs and Internet access in the Projects Abroad office
7. Financial capacity for community work, volunteer support, etc.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

1. Monthly reports from volunteers with their attendance list and their daily activities
2. Annual meeting with the project supervisors and care coordinators to evaluate and set the objectives for the following year
3. Onsite visits by staff
4. Annual report by the Care Supervisor
5. Monthly feedback from Projects Abroad staff
6. Volunteer workshops/ discussion sessions – attendance, feedback and significant outcomes to be tracked each week by staff
7. Volunteer Debriefing forms and End of Placement Feedback forms
8. Biannual Placement Evaluation Feedback
9. Test results

Projects Abroad			
Care Programme - Mexico			
	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	Each volunteer to hold 1 Reading Club session (after school reading classes) per week at their placement		
1.2	For a minimum of 1 hour per week research and document new learning and teaching aids with the aim of producing 2 new resources each month		
1.3	Introduce a record keeping system for each placement and maintain it for each child on a monthly basis		
1.4	Design and initiate 2 mini-campaigns per year		

1.5	Set small goals and targets for each child			
1.6	One-on-one lessons			
1.7	Create visual learning aids on the placement walls and make sure these are updated every month			
1.8	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 per month for those identified as slow learners			
2.2	For a minimum of 1 hour per week research and document new learning and teaching aids to focus on the 4 key areas of ECD			
2.3	Design and initiate 2 mini-campaigns per year			
2.4	Introduce a record keeping system for each placement and maintain it for each child on a monthly basis, including profile of child, learning ability, test results, etc.			
2.5	Run 1 workshop per month for volunteers on early childhood development, especially attachment theory			
2.6	Introduce creative activities to help develop motor skills			
2.7	Ensure no child is left by themselves for a substantial length of time			
2.8	Create team games where all the children are included			
2.9	Create visual learning aids on the placement walls and make sure these are updated at least bi-monthly			
2.10	Engage children in regular games and activities to improve their attention span			
Goal 3:				
IMPROVE HYGIENE LEVELS OF THE CHILDREN				
	Actions:			
3.1	Provide basic health check-ups for children every 4 months			
3.2	Give 1 lesson every 4 months to children about brushing their teeth and basic hygiene			
3.3	Each day allocate a time to check placement is clean and safe (no harmful object or hazards)			
Goal 4:				
INCREASE EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AND CARE TO CHILDREN				
	Actions:			

4.1	Establish a weekly chores roster for each placement including cleaning, feeding, bathing and nap time			
4.2	Run bi-monthly workshops on sexual abuse and child safe practices			
4.3	Increase awareness of signs of child abuse			
4.4	Ensure all volunteers receive a copy of our Child Protection Policy			
4.5	Run monthly workshops for volunteers so they can incorporate the techniques in the classroom			
4.6	Ensure activities are aimed at involving everyone (improving team participation)			
4.7	Ensure no child is left by themselves for a substantial length of time by doing headcounts when each new activity starts and ensuring children have activities to engage in during break times			

Goal 5:

IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THOSE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

	Actions:			
5.1	Carry out vocational training in crafts, hair dressing, cooking, pastry-making, sewing, knitting, cleaning and shoe repair			
5.2	Introduce creative activities to help develop motor skills			
5.3	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.			
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