FOR PEACE BUILDING

_The Context_

Poor quality of rural education in Colombia.

“Good teachers do not reach the remote places where they are needed the most.” Professor Sugata Mitra, TED Prize winner

3/10 children from rural areas have never attended school

7/10 children have been unable to complete their studies

(Source: Norwegian Refugee Council, April 2018).

Educational gap in post-conflict Colombia

In 160 municipalities most affected by armed conflict

300,000 youth ages 15-24 rural, indigenous and afro-descendant boys and girls who are far from everything:

• >50% did not complete primary education
• 20% finished secondary education
• 5% entered tertiary education of some kind (technical or professional)

(Source: Colombian National Program for Education for Peace, 2017)

10,000 ex-combatants

• 92% did not complete secondary education
• 3% completed tertiary education
• 10% do not read or write

(Source: Censosocioeconómico UN-CNR 2017, National University of Colombia)

SOLE Colombia Project

What? Transform the future of learning in post-conflict Colombia

Why? To allow people to become creative and curious problem solvers who have the confidence and skills they need to tap into the global network of knowledge and transform their world.

How?

• Empowering thousands of educators, librarians, leaders and communities with SOLE
• Designing strategies and tools for SOLE to be widely practiced throughout the country.
• Analyzing SOLE’s ability to transform communities.
• Consolidating a community of SOLE Ambassadors and a network of volunteer e-mediators, aka “Grannies”, to encourage learning.

We do this by

1. Setting up a network of SOLEs making use of existing computers and internet in public places:
   • 44,000 public schools
   • 8,000 public internet kiosks
   • 1,400 public libraries

2. Setting up SOLE Labs in areas where public infrastructure is unavailable

_The Results_

In 3 years we’ve reached:

20 Provinces
524 public schools
111 public internet kiosks
10 public libraries
60k children, youth and adults

Awards

• Finalists / Best Leaders of Colombia 2017 Award
• Finalists / 3rd National Digital Social Mobilization Award 2017
• Finalists / PriceWaterhouseCoopers-Cintel Award for Digital Transformation with Social Impact 2017

In partnership with the Ministry of Culture, SOLE is in:

1,100 public libraries
320K participants in 2016-17
_The Challenge

Leverage educational public policy to transform the future of learning in rural Colombia.

4 of 10 Strategic Challenges of the 2016-2026 Education Plan for Colombia are:
No. 5: Transform the dominant education paradigm so far.
No. 6: Promote use of new and diverse technologies to support learning.
No. 7: Build a peaceful society with equality and inclusion
No. 8: Prioritize rural development based on education.

(Source: Ministry of Education, National 10-year Education Plan 2016-2026)

SOLE Colombia’s Challenge 2018 - 2023

Impact post-conflict rural Colombia through disruptive learning in:

- 5k SOLEs
- 2.5mm children, youth and adults participating of SOLE in the next 5 years.
- 10k FARC ex-combatants learning through SOLE.
- 25k Grannies (e-mediators).

SOLE SELF-ORGANIZED LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

SOLE is learning at the edge of chaos: a place where children, families or communities come together to discover and explore self-organised learning as they develop:

- Autonomy
- Deep Learning
- Collaboration
- Real-life problem solving

What is a SOLE?
A SOLE can exist anywhere where there is a computer, internet connection, and people who are ready to learn. Within a SOLE people are given the freedom to learn collaboratively using the internet. A Big Question is posed and people form small groups to find an answer.

Develop soft skills:
SOLE allows soft skills to emerge such as:
- Collaboration and communication
- Creativity and innovation
- Critical thinking
- Self-direction
- Global and local connections
- Technological fluency

_The Theory

“if you allow the educational process to self-organise, then learning emerges. It’s not about making learning happen, it’s about letting it happen.”

Professor Sugata Mitra, TED Prize Talk 2013.

Rural Communities + Public Tech Infrastructure + Self-organized Learning = Peace and Happiness

1. Autonomy and self-direction
2. Curiosity and the pleasure of knowledge
3. Connection to a local and global network
4. Open decentralized dialogue

+ Persistence