



EMPOWERING AND CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 120 CHILDREN AND YOUNGSTERS FACING HIGH VULNERABILITY CONDITIONS IN PATIO BONITO BOGOTÁ – COLOMBIA

FUNDACIÒN ZUA
Creating a future for children and young people

1. BASIC INFORMATION

The ZUA Foundation was created in 1998. Through its Resolution No. 0916 of 7th June 2002, the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar– ICBF) granted the Foundation with its legal status and approved its Statutes or Bylaws, which define its purpose as "... to help highly human rights vulnerable minors of age, mainly those girls, boys and youngsters remaining most of the time in the streets, through programs that involve both children and their families. "
<https://fundacionzua.org/>

The Foundation operates with a General Council, a Board of Directors, a Statutory Auditor, an Accountant, a team of Volunteers, specific bank accounts, a legal representative and its fulfils tax obligations before the National Tax and Custom Directorate - DIAN with matriculation number - NIT 830104271-8. It produces regular income statements and balance sheets in conformity with the law.

In 2002, in compliance with its corporate purpose, the Foundation started to work in Patio Bonito, a sector of the city of Bogotá, characterized with several problems such as unemployment, violence against women and children, a significant number of women heads of families with several small children and without the ability to ensure the minimum income necessary.

From the beginning it was clear to the Foundation that the strategy for fighting poverty and crime was education, so the work with this population has been to help them enter and remain successful until completing their primary and secondary education, and for the most talented, facilitate their entry to the university.

Since 2002, approximately 2000 people have received assistance from the Foundation and this, in some way has impacted their lives. The Foundation is particularly proud of what has achieved so far but is not entirely satisfied because there remain many thousands of children and youngsters who still need help to go ahead with their lives. The Foundation has learned that the union of good will can transform the most complicated realities and that she can further help members of her target population to dream and realize their own dreams.

Hence, the Foundations keeps committed to her moto: *Creating a future for children and youngsters.*

2. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES

General Objective:

The Zuá Foundation's general objective is to contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through the reduction of poverty, the improvement of nutrition and education, the creation of economic opportunities and the promotion of peace and social inclusion.

Specific objective:

The Zuá Foundation specific objective is to help, in consecutive rotations at least, 120 girls, boys and youngsters, from the neighbourhood Palmitas in Patio Bonito - Bogotá, to look and move ahead, to dream and realize their dreams; with a view to help them transform their lives and those of their families and to build a better country.

Activities:

- To improve the food access and nutrition of the children and youngsters attending the Foundation's daily programs.
- To strengthen the permanent attendance and academic success of girls, boys and youngsters in public schools, until the end of grade 11, so that, through education, they can break the cycle of mental and physical poverty.
- To develop the artistic, sports and theatre talents of girls, boys and youngsters.
- To facilitate the admission and studies of youngsters to the university, until finishing a university degree.

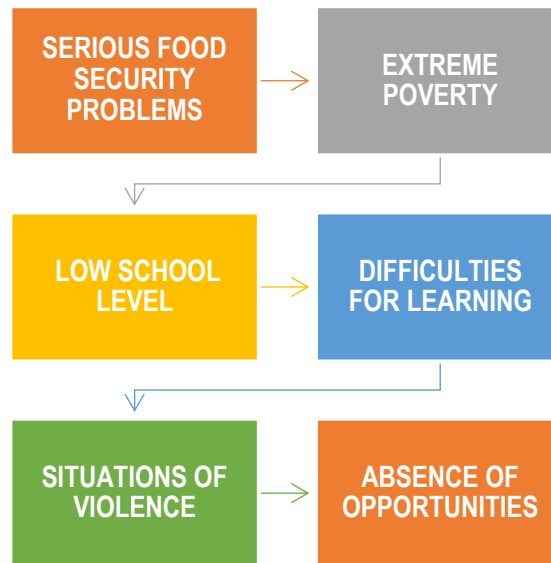
3. ANALYSIS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SITUATION OF PATIO BONITO POPULATION

Patio Bonito is one of the most depressed sectors of the Kennedy neighbourhood in the city of Bogotá. It is located between the eastern edge of the Bogotá River and the Ciudad de Cali avenue. This popular district of Bogotá is confronted with many negative aspects. A study by the mayor's office of Kennedy revealed that 34 percent of the inhabitants of the sector are between 15 and 19 years old and 49 percent between 20 and 54. There, live more than 120,000 people, unfortunately belonging to the lower income layers of the society – layers 1 and 2.

For their income, many of them depend on garbage collection, transport and recycling. There is a large presence of victims of forced displacement, many living in extreme poverty, lacking decent job opportunities. Most of the population is in a situation of illegal settlement, confronted with serious health problems and occupying basic home shelters built with recycled elements.

The headquarters of the Zuá Foundation, is in Bogotá Colombia Carrera 99 D BIS No. 38 C-23 Sur, Patio Bonito Barrio Palmitas

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND MOTHERS THAT ARE HEAD OF FAMILY IN SITUATION OF VULNERABILITY



In Patio Bonito, an important number of families derive their subsistence from recycling, which forces the mothers to leave their children, either locked up or hanging in the streets. While mothers go on long journeys through the city trying to make for a livelihood or just survival, the children are left alone without anyone picking them up or ensuring they go to school. This generates high dropout rates and high occurrence of pregnancies among young adolescent girls, which unfortunately trigger and a chain of poverty and frustration, transmitted from generation to generation.

4. PROGRAMMES AND PROJECT ACTIVITIES

4.1 Food and nutrition programme.

The Foundation firmly believes that improving nutrition and strengthening the education of children and youngsters are the adequate means to fight poverty at its roots. Therefore, its activities are mainly focused on feeding and schooling minors of age whilst attempting to ensure they attend and remain in the schooling system, even until undertaking and achieving university degrees.

This is undoubtedly the centrepiece of all the programs of the Foundation, since it responds to the very first basic need of the 120 girls, boys, and youngsters for whom it would be difficult to study and participate in workshops with hunger.

The children who are attending schools in the afternoon receive breakfast in the premises of the Foundation, as well as a lunch at 11 am before going to school. Those attending schools in the morning, come for lunch at the Foundation early afternoon and later receive early evening snacks.

On Saturdays, both groups meet and stay all day at the Foundation's headquarters. All the food is prepared by the children's mothers who contribute their time in return for the service their children receive. Every day there are at least three different mothers attending this service, in rotations. Mothers receive training on food quality and nutrition norms to comply with legal requirements.

4.2 “We learn” workshops.

These workshops consist in sessions aiming at improving school and academic performances through specific programs in various curricular areas, implemented by ad hoc tutors. The students attend workshops where they receive advice in the basic areas of knowledge, as well as in the specific areas corresponding to their needs and learning difficulties as identified and assessed by the tutors. The purpose is for them to achieve better school performances, with the help of their tutors and using computer platforms such as IXL, CODE, KAHN ACADEMY, among others.

We strive to help children not to leave school and to pursue their studies. They are currently attending 25 different public schools in the area, near their homes.

4.3 “Artistic Training” Workshops.

Artistic training is ensured through workshops, where children and youngsters learn music, choir singing, dancing and theatre. These enable them to discover their hidden talents and to develop skills and abilities they did not suspect. It further enhances their confidence and builds their respective personalities.

Artistic training is very demanding in terms of levels of concentration, discipline, understanding, body management and teamwork. Hence, this is one of the best strategies to develop skills and abilities that are to be used in the academic field and life in general. Besides the workshops, the children and youngsters can show and share their talents in public representations for their communities, friends and partners of the Foundation as well as general public.

4.4 Higher education programme.

As of 2006, when the first boys and girls linked to the Foundation finished high school, and some of them proving being particularly good students with the ability to move forward, we invited them to enter the university and pursue a university degree. The Foundation pays their tuition fees and in return, the students become tutors for the younger children who are attending the education workshops.

The best students are invited to enter the university in the discipline they select. The tuition fees are paid by the Foundation and they are given a weekly subsidy. This far, 17 professionals have graduated. Currently, there are 16 youngsters attending the university and 7 completing the pre-university program organized and developed by the Fundación Zuá.

The Foundation is implementing an intermediary preparatory programme between secondary school and college as it was realised that despite being good students, some were ill prepared to enter higher education and with high risks of failure.

The Foundation is accordingly running a pre-university programme aiming at strengthening students' capacities in mathematics, critical reading, English, and science, with a view to enable them to obtain higher scores in the required admission tests and to enable them to pursue their studies successfully. Since 2014, 9 students who attended this programme were admitted in university, completed, or are completing their studies.



5. Activities and Achievements 2020

The last year the pandemic, just as it affected the entire world, affected the Zuá Foundation. However, and despite its devastating effects, today we can say that during such a catastrophe, we take this opportunity to seek new paths, improve and expand the programs and create two new ones. The pandemic hit us hard, but it did not defeat us, and we can say that we came out stronger and with all the enthusiasm to better help more vulnerable children and families.

We have continued to receive the generous help of people who have certainly been affected by the pandemic, but who have redoubled their efforts to continue helping us. Thanks to your generous support as donors through Global Giving and other sources of support, we were able to work intensively on several of the Foundation's programs.

NUTRITION and the food security of the Foundation's most vulnerable families in Patio Bonito was strengthened, through the delivery of 530 groceries.

LEARNING WORKSHOPS: Support to 100 girls, boys, and young people in their learning, coordinated through the support network of the tutors, who virtually developed different learning activities, to help them with their schoolwork, in the use of free time of the kids.

ARTS: It was the area that presented the most challenges, since teaching each of the arts from virtuality to young children is a challenge to the imagination, patience, and intelligence. However, there were children and families who responded and learned, and important progress was made. In addition, work with several children in musical learning, three families made the assembled the works, invented the costumes, mounted the scenography, and recorded the video of their production, using their own homes as stages.

HIGHER EDUCATION: 19 young people were enrolled in university this year, advanced two academic semesters in the year and obtained exceptionally good scores. This is incredibly significant for our donors and for us because we can show that we are helping to dream and make dreams come true. 6 young people finished the first year of pre-university, they have one more semester left and in July 2021 they will enter university, next year another 12 young people enter pre-university.

6. REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND COSTS

PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	FOUR MONTHS COP	SEVEN MONTHS COP	COSTS USD
Food and nutrition	Feeding 120 children from the community, per week, 4 weeks per month.		\$56.000.000	USD 15.140
We learn workshops	Reinforcing the school performance of 120 children and youngsters in various areas of studies, using computer platforms.	\$21.000.000		USD 5.680
Artistic workshops	Training of 120 children and youngsters in artistic activities through weekly seminars in music, singing choirs, theatre.	\$21.000.000		USD 5.680
Higher education	Preparing 5 youngsters for academic studies through pre-university training sessions and 10 youngsters attending university		\$ 32.000.000	USD 8.500.
		TOTAL		USD 35.000

NB USD 1 = COP 3.700



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