



# **Junior Doctors Sponsorship Programme**

## **Report**

August – November 2023

It's the last months of this year, and the Junior Doctors are in the final stretch of their academic year. Inflation continues to plague the country's economy, and the doctors are not spared. However, thanks to the contributions of donors, it is possible to continue with this program where not only the doctors who receive scholarships are benefited but also hundreds of people who are treated daily by the doctors.

### **How the Programme Works**

The sponsorship requests come from the heads of discipline in hospitals where junior doctors are training. Once a request is received, our National Project Coordinator verifies the information and shares it with the board. If approved in the UK, we request the heads of medical departments in Venezuela to provide the documentation as per our guidelines.

The criteria to participate are:

- The applicant is from a low-income background, and her/his financial situation jeopardises their training

- The applicant does not receive any additional support from scholarships schemes similar to Healing Venezuela's
- The head of department/head of discipline proposes the applicant
- The applicant must keep an average of 15 points (over 20), or if less, it needs to be justified by the sponsor
- The applicant commits to remain two years in the country after finishing the training

The documents requested are:

- Studies certificate from the university
- Form filled
- CV
- Testimonies, when required

Once these have been received and verified, the new applicants are included in the list of grantees. Cash transfers are done at the beginning of the month through a money transfer outfit in the UK, *Roraima Remesas*, to each doctor's bank account in local currency. If a doctor leaves the programme, the head of the department proposes new candidates to replace them. The National Project Coordinator verifies that payments are made by checking the invoices and keeping in touch with the beneficiaries via email and WhatsApp.

The number of scholarships is allocated considering the size of the hospital, the population density of the catchment area, and the requests from the heads of discipline. Table 1 shows the number of scholarships allocated per hospital.

**TABLE 1**

<b>Scholarships Allocation per Hospital</b>	
<b>August – November 2023</b>	
<b>Hospital Name and Location</b>	<b>Number of Scholarships Allocated per Hospital</b>
<i>Hospital Vargas</i> University Hospital (Caracas)	14
<i>Maternidad Concepcion Palacios</i> Gynaecology Obstetrics Dept. (Caracas)	10
<i>Maternidad Concepcion Palacios</i> Neonatal Dept. (Caracas)	6
<i>JM de los Rios</i> Children Hospital (Caracas)	8
<i>Hospital Universidad de los Andes</i> University Hospital (Merida State)	26
<i>Hospital Pedro Garcia Lara</i> Zulia University Hospital (Zulia State)	6
<i>Hospital Clinico Universitario</i> Caracas University Hospital (Caracas)	9
<i>Hospital Luis Ortega</i> University Hospital (Nva. Esparta State)	10
<i>Hospital Luis Razetti</i> University Hospital (Anzoategui State)	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>93</b>

## Impact

The impact of this programme has multiple dimensions. First, it allows young professionals to continue their education, increasing their probability of higher income. Second, with the exodus of doctors and such a high percentage of poverty, junior doctors keep hospital wards open, allowing the poorest Venezuelans to receive medical attention.

## Testimonial

*Name and surname: Desire Del Carmen Gonzalez Gonzalez*

*Hospital: Dr Pedro Garcia Clara. Zulia*

*University: La Universidad del Zulia*

*Specialist: Internal Medicine*

*Date: August 2023*

How do you feel when you receive the monthly scholarship?

Dissatisfied

Neutral

Grateful

X

Do you think the scholarship helps you in your financial situation?

Yes

Neutral

No

X

Do you know a colleague who is in a position to need this scholarship?

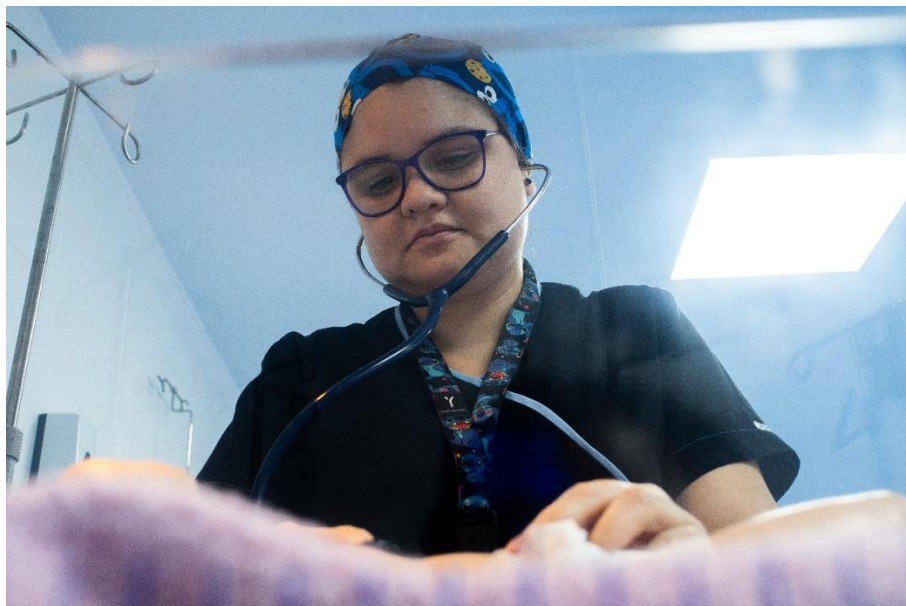
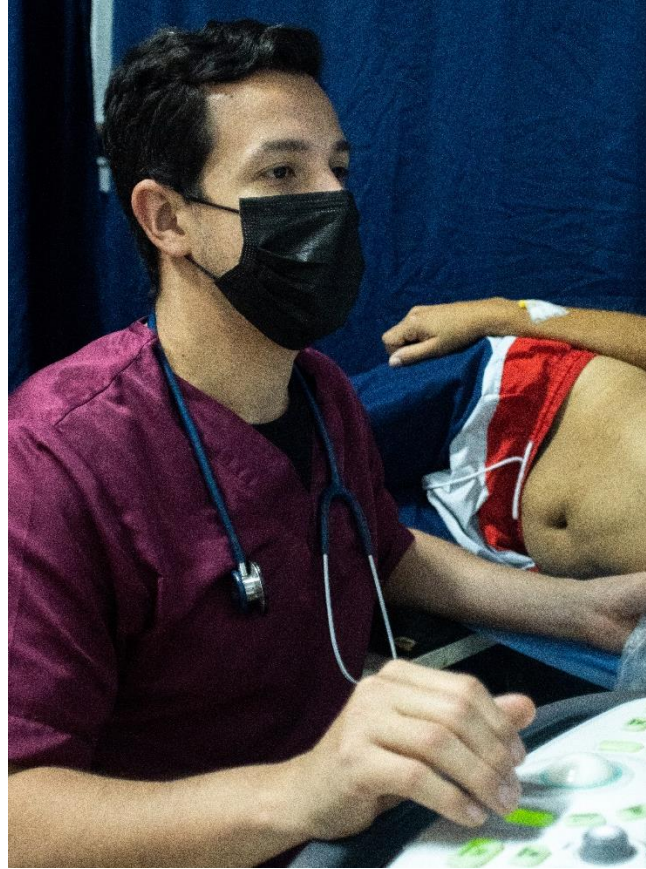
Yes

No

X

## Photos

Here are some photos of the Junior Doctor from Universidad de los Andes – Merida





## Conclusion

The commitment, dedication and hard work of these young professionals, who work with very few resources, deserve all the support we can provide. Organisations such as GlobalGiving and others made a big difference in the lives of thousands of Venezuelans in 2023. We hope we can count on their generous support in the near future.

## REFERENCES

1. <https://www.unhcr.org/uk/venezuela-emergency.html>
2. <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/venezuela>
3. <https://observatoriodefianzas.com/venezuela-al-borde-de-la-hiperinflacion/>