



# ECUADOR Work Profile



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# LETTER



Dear volunteers to Ecuador,

Welcome! We are very excited that you will be joining the VASE community as a volunteer, and we are sure that you will have a very rich and rewarding experience in a beautiful country!

This document is designed to give you a general idea of the projects and types of volunteer work that are available to you here in Ecuador, as well as to give you a better idea of what to expect overall.

By working in our projects, you will have a unique opportunity to experience and learn about Ecuador, to improve your Spanish, and to grow in many ways you might not even imagine.

Volunteering is an experience that comes with many rewards, and also challenges. Whether it be in the project, in your host family (or group accommodations), or in the culture in general, you can expect to go through some highs and lows. The key is to come with a desire to learn and to grow as much as you can, and your success will depend on your attitude and sense of initiative in facing the challenges.

See you soon,  
VASE team.

# TYPES OF PROJECTS

You will realize that this document is divided by different theme or categories, including ecological, educational, arts and cultural, human and gender rights, and more.

If you do not see the category you are looking for, don't worry, just let us know! There are many projects that could include exactly what you are looking for.

We work very hard to offer a wide variety of projects to fit the diverse interests of our volunteers, and do our very best to ensure that you are placed in a project that fits.

However, please understand that sometimes the project you

hoped may not be available, so we cannot guarantee your first choices. In those cases, we always do our best to get to know your interests so that we can find similar projects for you, that might even be better!



# KEY WORDS TO UNDERSTAND THE TYPES OF PROGRAMS:

**LT:**

Long Term

**STEPS:**

Short Term

**Extra Fee:**



An extra fee applies due to the higher cost of resources in the project locations.

**IJFD:**

German Funded Programme  
(Internationaler Jugendfreiwilligendienst)



**WW:**

German Funded Programme:  
Weltwärts



**Funded Grenzenlos:**

Austrian Funded Organization



# WHAT TO EXPECT WITH YOUR PROJECT



Working hours are usually 30-40 hours per week, from Monday to Friday. Some projects may require work on the weekends, but you will always have two days free per week.

The conditions will depend on what kind of project you are interested in.



For ecological projects, you will likely work long, hard, physically demanding days and live in isolated conditions (internet is not always available, for example), while living in beautiful natural settings with fresh air.



Some projects will require more initiative to start your own projects or find your own way to be useful.

Others might be more structured and with less flexibility to bring your own touch; it all depends on the project.



## Diet

While Ecuador provides a range of healthy local products to sustain all dietary needs, we ask that volunteers with special dietary requirements come prepared to actively participate in food preparation or bringing recipes or ideas of how family can accommodate to your needs using local products.

## Vacations

Long-term volunteers get 2 vacation days per month, up to 12 days (6-month volunteers) or 24 days (12-month volunteers), plus Ecuador's official holidays. Plan your vacation with your project during your first weeks—never before arrival. Some projects may pause, requiring vacations then.

**\*Please look at the National Profile to have more information.**



## Spanish

We strongly recommend that all volunteers arrive with at least a basic level of Spanish.

Many projects do not require that you already know the language, but it is important that you are committed to learn before coming. Considering that it will be much easier and faster to adapt to your project and family, due to most of the Ecuadorian people not knowing a good level of English.

## Visa

Since your stay will exceed 180 days, you must obtain a temporary residency e-visa before traveling.

VASE requires you to enter Ecuador with this visa. Ensure all necessary documents are ready before applying. Start the process early and apply for the visa at least two months before your travel date.

# OUR PROJECTS









## Centro del Amanecer



**Location** Tumbaco, Quito – Pichincha.

**Type of project** Children and youth/Education

### Aims of the project

The project offers alternative, integrative and inclusive education according to Montessori to about 40 children aged 3 to 12 years as well as their parents (mostly with low income). They have 3 “classes” with their own small buildings and 4 teachers. The school’s objective is to offer a personalized, active and playful education in harmony with the environment not depending on the children’s age, but respecting their psychological maturity and development, avoiding authorial guidance. Part of the school’s daily life is that the parents help alternately, focusing on the agricultural projects, the excursions, the cooking-project, etc.

### Activities

The schooldays begin at 8am when the children arrive with the school bus. The classes normally last until 12pm. Sometimes they eat lunch together at school depending on if the cooking-project takes place. Once a week the parents come to the school to help build e.g. a jungle gym.

### Community Context

The school is located on a huge property in a rural area about 5 km from Tumbaco. There is no good public transport.

### Volunteer’s requirements

We are looking for a volunteer who has basic Spanish skills, a lot of patience, who is active and interested in alternative teaching methods and working with children. Preferably a male volunteer, but females are welcome as well!

### Volunteer’s tasks

Depending on where the volunteer lives, he/she starts to work at 7 or 8am when the school bus picks him/her up and brings him/her to school. There he/she should already take care of the children. Throughout the day, the volunteer helps with all tasks pending. Helping the children with their breakfast, playing with the children (especially outside where they spend a lot of time), helping the teachers in the classes and preparing materials after classes, accompany excursions, support different projects like gardening and help to repair/build different things together with the children’s parents once a week. Working hours are from 7 or 8am until 12pm (except if there are meetings or special projects), Monday to Friday.

**Host situation** Host family/Volunteers house

**Programs** LT, STEPS, WW

# Centro una familia de familias



Location

Quito - Pichincha

Type of project

Children and youth/Education

## Aims of the project

Centro una familia de familias provides education and technical training to children and families that work in the street.

## Activities

The project provides basic education (high school degree) for all members of the family, while allowing children to maintain their jobs on the street (selling gum, shining shoes, etc.). Then, once they obtain their high school diploma, they can specialize in a variety of subjects from Mechanics, to Sewing, to Carpentry.

## Community Context

This organization was founded by retired Catholic priests over 45 years ago. It is extremely well structured with great staff. The center has served over 3,000 families and is one of the most well known organizations in Latin America. In Quito there are two centers: one in the historical center and a larger one in the north of Quito.

## Volunteer's requirements

Very good level of English and Spanish, being hardworking, proactive and willing to work 8 hours a day. The Center only accepts volunteers starting in August.

## Volunteer's tasks

Support in a variety of subjects depending on interests (day care, English, computation, adult education, etc.), help in one of the technical areas (carpentry, mechanics, sewing), play sports, help in communal areas such as the library.

## Host situation

In the Center in the North of Quito there is a big volunteer house, with private rooms and private bathrooms. There is internet connection in the house and you have 3 daily meals (you can also make your own food if you prefer). Volunteers also have the option to live with a host family.

Programs

LT, STEPS, IJFD, WW

# Centro de Erradicación del Trabajo Infantil (CETI)

Location

Quito - Pichincha

Type of project

Children and youth/Education



## Aims of the project

One center located in the north of the city and five in the south. The project looks to provide a baby care service for the workers of the Markets, preventing child labour and accompaniment. Meanwhile, Mariscal(1) and Carollo (1) receive working and street children from the surrounding area with the purpose of giving them education, food and a shelter while their parents work on the street.

## Activities

To provide day care for babies, academic help, and extracurricular activities to older children who work, mostly on the street or markets, and to support their families.

## Community Context

The Project is located in three different parts of Quito, the first being in the Mariscal area, the northern center of Quito. The area is very touristic, with lots of bars and night-life. Most of the parents work around there. The second one is located in San Roque, in the historical center of Quito (also a very touristic area) and the third one: Chiriyacu, Carollo and Mayorista is located in the South.

## Volunteer's requirements

The volunteer should have a good level of Spanish, preferably be 22-25 years old and experienced in teaching, and be willing to work with children from poor families. Interest in social issues, deep social conscience, passion in working with children, creativity, proactivity and hardworking. The volunteer must be willing to participate in a wide range of tasks. The volunteer must speak basic Spanish.

## Volunteer's tasks

Be part of the team. Take care of the children (from one year old and up). Help with homework, lunch and during the educational part of the day, and play with the kids during free time. Help with field trips and various activities and summer camps that are held in August. Also help to plan and prepare various events for the parents. Daily work also includes helping with homework and serving lunch.

## Host situation

Host family

## Programs

LT, STEPS, IJFD, WW

# Chicos de la Calle – Salesianos Project



**Location**

Quito – Pichincha. And Ambato – Tungurahua.

**Type of project**

Children and Youth / Orphanage / Education / Sports

## Aims of the project

This is a project that seeks to help children and young people in vulnerable situations (who live and work in the streets) in different areas so that they can have all the tools to succeed in their lives.

## Activities

The project works in different areas:

"La Marin" and "Pisuli" are considered a safe place for some young people, who come for support school and other things

"Mi Caleta" focuses on helping young people who need a home due to violence or poverty

"Granja Don Juan Bosco de Ambato" is a farm on the outskirts of the city where the focus lays on improving the living conditions of the youths by providing support in education, food and shelter

"Golaso" seeks to support the people in their after school activities and promotes sports in different championships of soccer, basketball, volleyball, etc.

"UESPA" is an educational unit that provides the opportunity for children and youth people to access education, as well as snacks and food

## Community Context

This organization is managed by the Salesians and is very catholic and conservative. It works in vulnerable sectors of the city and with more than 150 children/young people.

## Volunteer's requirements

The volunteer must have basic Spanish skills, be motivated, and dedicated. Also, the volunteer must be able to work in recreational activities and sports. She/he needs to be a very open-minded and flexible person.

## Volunteer's tasks

The volunteer's major task will be to help with homework. She/he will also support and lead a few activities and play with the children. He/he will also help to maintain order in the project. Besides helping in the formal way, the volunteer serves an important role as a mentor for the children and young people. S/he will be part of the "Salesianos" team. Tasks are for example: cleaning, sometimes office work, helping with homework, doing sports and being part of everyday life.

## Host situation

Host family

## Programs

LT, STEPS, IJFD, WW

# Instituto Suizo “Carlos Álvarez Miño”



Location

Quito - Pichincha

Type of project

Children/Education

## Aims of the project

To provide education for over 300 students from 3 - 14 years of age

## Activities

This private school has a kindergarten and a school where the children are taught subjects such as Math, Science, English, Social Studies, Physical Education, Music and Computation.

## Community Context

The community is located in Carapungo, an urban area in the north of Quito. Its climate is quite dry, which makes it less suitable for agriculture than in other sectors.

## Volunteer's requirements

Very good level of English and Spanish, hardworking, proactive, organized, motivated and committed. She/he must be patient and like to teach.

## Volunteer's tasks

Depending on their skills and desire, the volunteer can assist in English classes, considering that the highest needs are in English. They also have the possibility to assist the English teacher in the kindergarten. If they are doing well and enjoy their job they can also take on the responsibility of teaching their own classes if they want to.

## Host situation

Host family

## Programs

LT, STEPS, IJFD, WW



# Instituto Suizo “William Tell”

Location

Quito - Pichincha

Type of project

Children/Education

## Aims of the project

Provide education to over 200 students from 3-12 years of age.

## Activities

The project is divided into a kindergarten and a school where the children are taught subjects such as Math, Science, English, Social Studies, Physical Education, Language and Computation.

## Community Context

The project is located in La Planada, an urban, but remote area in the north-west of Quito about 3000 meters above sea level. In the morning it is quite cold, later it can be sunny and hot. The population is quite poor and the majority of adults work as domestic servants and construction workers in nearby upper-class communities. The director's family lives next to the school which helps cultivate a close community atmosphere.

## Volunteer's requirements

The volunteer must have good or very good English skills. He/She should be organized, motivated, proactive and should like the interaction with small children. Previous experience with working with children, and ability in the arts would be an asset. He/She should not be afraid of working as an independent teacher. Maturity is a must.

## Volunteer's tasks

The volunteer contributes to the school life mainly by working as a teacher. Supported by the Ecuadorian teachers, the volunteer gives English classes of 40 minutes each. Working hours are Monday to Friday, 7:30am-1pm. The volunteer is responsible for teaching and structuring the lessons, giving homework and designing and giving tests.

## Host situation

Host family

## Programs

LT, STEPS, IJFD, WW

# Granja Montessori



Location

Cayambe, Pichincha.

Type of project

Children/Education

## Aims of the project

The aim of the project is to offer different types of therapy to children with and without disabilities, such as equine therapy as well as other extracurricular activities

## Activities

The day starts in the morning with a door to door transportation service, the morning group includes kids up to six years of age who partake in activities such as equine therapy, art and cooking classes, and music therapy

## Community Context

Cayambe is an agricultural service city in highland Ecuador. It lies at the foot of the Cayambe volcano. While the city is mainly populated by mestizos, the surrounding rural population is primarily composed of indigenous people who are mainly involved in subsistence agriculture, dairy farming and procurement of lumber. It is the third-largest city in Pichincha Province.

## Volunteer's requirements

The ideal volunteer profile is someone who is adaptable, willing to learn and orientated towards guidance. They need to be balanced, capable of dealing with frustration, and a person that values respect, empathy, cooperation, sensitivity and compromise, as these are the main principles of the institution.

## Volunteer's tasks

The volunteer will always have the support of the tutor and the teachers of each area, they will participate in the different therapy programs they offer as well as environmental conservation projects.

## Host situation

Host family

## Programs

LT, STEPS, WW

# Fundación Cielo Azul



## Location

Communities in the rural surrounding of Otavalo, Imbabura.

\* These communities are located between 30 minutes to 1 hour from the city of Otavalo.

## Type of project

Children / Education / Health

### Aims of the project

The “Cielo Azul” foundation works in different communities around Otavalo (30.000 people) with both indigenous and mestizo families in their rural schools or surrounding areas of Otavalo. At the moment, there are 13 schools cooperating with Cielo Azul”. The aim is providing education to the indigenous communities.

### Activities

Cielo Azul's partner schools are located in rural areas outside Otavalo. The children and young people come from diverse cultural and social backgrounds, some from indigenous families with strong traditional roots, and others from mestizo or mixed families more aligned with an urban lifestyle. The school activities include formal education and extracurriculars like agriculture, environmental education, sports, computer literacy, and arts and crafts.

Families are highly involved: mothers prepare the food, often using locally grown products, and participate in the care of the school gardens. This community model fosters both education and food sovereignty.

### Community Context

The volunteer lives (3-4 days) in a local family in the community during the week. The family offers a simple life and food, living in a rural community environment (Ex. no washing machine, no good wifi sometimes) but volunteers do have telephone signals. Because of this situation we have a flat in the center of Otavalo, with shared rooms, shared spaces (kitchen, living room, etc.). Once a week, the coordinator of the project meets with all volunteers to share experiences, plan activities and work tasks, and resolve problems. The communities can be 30 minutes to 1 hour from Otavalo, and schools are located in areas with varying degrees of access and cultural dynamics.

### Volunteer's requirements

It's an advantage to speak good Spanish because the local people's mother tongue is Kichwa but the majority speaks Spanish. Volunteers have to be very flexible, proactive and adaptable because the schools generally suffer from poor management and so things are always changing a lot. Volunteers have to communicate with people and integrate themselves within their community. Sharing food or activities with the family and the teachers can open doors.

### Volunteer's tasks

The volunteer works from Monday to Friday every morning between 8am and 1.30pm. She/he helps in the school in the areas of: English, Sports and Arts or in other areas where help is needed. Depending on the school they will be working at, the volunteer can help in the school garden by harvesting vegetables for lunch or get active offering workshops or free-time activities for the children. Many families live from agriculture and expect volunteers to help in this task and in their daily activities (e.g. help with the homework).

### Host situation

Host Family in the communities and shared flat

### Programs

LT, IJFD, WW



# Sembrar Esperanza

**Location**

Pomasqui, Quito – Pichincha.

**Type of project**

Children / Education

## Aims of the project

To improve the quality of life of the people that live in at-risk areas and to promote sustainable development.

## Activities

The project works with 2 kindergartens: “Violanta y Werner” and “Nuevo Miguelito”. They take care of children between 1 to 6 years old, whose parents have low incomes or with complicated social and family backgrounds. At the project, the educators and volunteers teach the children how to make handicrafts, coordinate group games, and teach good table manners, as well as music and English.

## Community Context

The project is located in the district of Santa Clara/Agua Clara close to the “Ofelia” bus station - North of the city. Volunteers can live in an apartment owned by Sembrar Esperanza with another 1-2 volunteers. The apartment is located in Pomasqui, about 30 minutes by bus from the north of Quito.

## Volunteer’s requirements

The project needs an orderly, responsible, active, social and dynamic volunteer. He/She should have a basic level of Spanish.

## Volunteer’s tasks

The volunteer’s tasks would be to prepare teaching material for the children’s English classes that he/she teaches together with the teacher. Other tasks are playing with the children and helping to do some sports. If the volunteer is musical, he/she should as well help with the Music class.

**Host situation**

Host family / Volunteer apartment

**Programs**

LT, STEPS, IJFD, WW

# Programa Inclusivo Multicultural Originario Kañari "PRIMOK S.A.S".

Location

Azogues - Cañar.

Type of project

Education



## Aims of the project

Since the creation of the PRIMOK S.A.S. The program has focused on teaching the English language to children and young people of the Cañar city and its communities, the teachers have been foreigners who speak this language fluently.

## Activities

This Program emerges with the sole purpose of serving the citizens of the Cañar canton and its surrounding communities, providing them with a personalized and quality education and proposing an environment of participation and cultural exchange between diverse groups such as: indigenous, mestizos, foreigners and other ethnic groups.

Promote a bilingual intercultural education from the exchange and interaction that occurs within the educational community during the teaching-learning process. Encourage the tourist development of the canton, province and country as complementary and extra curricular activities of the program.

## Community Context

Like most of the cities in the Andean region of Ecuador, the canton of Cañar has very low crime rates, which is why it is considered safe. To be specific, the school is located on Av. 24 de Mayo and Ingapirca Avenue in the center of the city. The travel time from the school to the volunteer's place of residence is 8 minutes by bus; the transportation system is efficient and economical in the canton. 60% of the population of the canton is indigenous, and for this reason the main productive activities are agriculture and livestock. It is located 1 hour from one of the main cities of Ecuador: Cuenca (southern highlands).

## Volunteer's requirements

The PRIMOK S.A.S. program focuses on teaching the English language, for this reason it is essential that the volunteer speaks English fluently, it is not necessary to have experience because inside the classroom there will be another teacher from the Cañar canton. It is important that the volunteer has a passion for teaching, is an extrovert, likes to spend time with children and young people and has a vocation to serve and help society.

## Volunteer's tasks

The main activity that the volunteers will carry out is to teach English to children from 6 years old to 17 years old from the Cañar canton and its rural communities. They will teach together with another teacher from Cañar who is fluent in Spanish and English. In addition, they must attend training or workshops held by the program's teachers. Conversation clubs (Spanish and English) are also held on Wednesdays and Fridays. In order for the children and youth to learn English properly, it is necessary to plan each of the classes, create activities, dynamics, games, didactic material, projects, online material, conversations, videos, audios, dialogues, readings, and lesson plans prior to each day of classes.

## Host situation

Host family / Host Project

## Programs

LT, STEPS, Funded Grenzenlos, WW

# Hogar Santa Marianita



**Location**      Ambato - Tungurahua.

**Type of project**      Children/Education

## Aims of the project

To offer a quality and warm service to children and adolescents at risk whose rights are violated, providing them with an Institutional Foster Care based on the Technical Standard and other legal tools with a vision of law and with basic services of health, nutrition, education, psycho-pedagogical care and comprehensive training for the duration of the process aimed at family reintegration, autonomy or adoption.

## Activities

- Comprehensive care for children and adolescents in vulnerable situations.
- Social intervention.
- Family accompaniment.
- Home visits.
- Home assistance.
- Psychological care and support.

## Community Context

The project is located in the city of Ambato, 2 hours from Quito (capital), a city close to indigenous communities in the Andean region of the country.

## Volunteer's requirements

Volunteers require skills for working with children and babies such as: patience, initiative, energy and joy.

A basic knowledge of Spanish is required.

## Volunteer's tasks

Accompaniment in recreational activities: games, outdoor activities, hand-crafts, art, sports

Care, homework monitoring, general services and attention to children and preadolescents.

Timetable: Monday to Friday

**Host situation**      Host family

**Programs**              LT, STEPS, WW

# Tránsito Amaguaña



Location

Quito - Pichincha

Type of project

Children/Education

## Aims of the project

The project exists with the purpose of giving education to the children. Great emphasis is put onto the preservation of the indigenous culture. Therefore, the students also have classes in Quichua and Music.

The project also aims to give the children a chance to play, have fun, and truly be kids, as often when the school day ends they must work in the market or return to an unstable home

## Activities

The project works as a bilingual school for children whose parents do not have the resources to send them to a school outside the market, where most of them work.

## Community Context

The school is located on the grounds of the Mercado Mayorista, a very busy market mainly for wholesalers. The people working in the market are mostly indigenous and come from low socio-economic backgrounds

## Volunteer's requirements

The volunteer will need creativity, patience, flexibility, sense of responsibility and the ability to work independently.

The volunteer would also need to be open-minded, as many of the children in the school cannot do tasks such as everyday homework, as they must work in the market with their parents.

## Volunteer's tasks

The volunteer would have to work from 7am to 1pm, Mondays to Fridays. He/she would mostly help the teachers at the school and play with the children during the breaks.

## Host situation

Host family

## Programs

LT, STEPS, IJFD, WW

# SPECIAL NEEDS





# Camp Hope

**Location** Quito – Pichincha

**Type of project** Disabled/Education

## Aims of the project

Camp Hope provides a safe and supportive space for children, youth, and adults with disabilities. Many of the residents have intellectual and/or physical disabilities, and some of them, regardless of their age, may express themselves or behave similarly to young children due to their condition. The project seeks to offer rehabilitation, therapy, medical care, and emotional support in an inclusive environment. It also provides residential housing for those without parental care or whose families are unable to meet their needs.

## Activities

Camp Hope is dedicated to improving the quality of life for its beneficiaries through therapy, inclusive education, and daily care. All of the beneficiaries are either orphans or their parents can't take care of them. Beneficiaries are divided into small groups based on their abilities, not age, which means volunteers may work with people of various ages, children, teenagers, or adults, who require similar levels of care

## Community Context

Camp Hope is situated in the north of Quito (Carcelén). "Casa Hogar" is located in Carapungo (as well in the north).

## Volunteer's requirements

Volunteers should have basic Spanish skills, empathy, patience, and emotional resilience, along with flexibility and a genuine desire to help others. While the project is rooted in Christian values, volunteers do not need to be Christian but must respect the environment. An interest in healthcare and working with people with disabilities is essential.

## Volunteer's tasks

Volunteers are placed according to their preferences and the needs of the center. Tasks include:

- Assisting in personal care for children, youth, or adults (changing, feeding, hygiene)
- Supporting educational or therapeutic activities (physical therapy, speech therapy, sensory development)
- Organizing play-based learning and stimulation (helping with arts and crafts and play games to practice reading and writing).
- Participating in spiritual or recreational activities.

**Host situation** Host family

**Programs** LT, STEPS, WW, Funded Grenzenlos

# Instituto NOVA



**Location** Cuenca, Azuay.

**Type of project** Children /Education/ Special Needs

## Aims of the project

The aim of the school is to give the children of Cuenca who have disabilities the chance to have a truly inclusive education where the goal is that they can develop independence and can go to a regular school in the future

## Activities

The children arrive at school and have a variety of classes according to their developmental needs, these include art, math, music, P.E

## Community Context

Cuenca is one of the most beautiful cities in the country, and is split by four rivers, colonial style streets, european style architecture, churches and cathedrals, incan ruins and cultural markets and buildings filled with art and handicrafts. The project itself is located in a safe area in Cuenca that is easy to access by the public transportation system

## Volunteer's requirements

The volunteers should like to work with children and feel comfortable playing with them, teaching them and taking care of them. Volunteers also must be very proactive, flexible and be ready to help in any need of the school. Basic Spanish skills are helpful but not necessary.

## Volunteer's tasks

The volunteer can participate in a variety of tasks such as:

- Supporting the staff in any way
- Helping to teach English, math, arts
- Planning classes and taking care of the children
- Recreational activities: outdoors games, workshops, theater plays, etc.

Timetable: Monday to Friday 7:30am - 1:30pm

**Host situation** Host family

**Programs** LT, STEPS, Funded Grenzenlos



## SINAMUNE – Sistema Nacional de Música para Personas Especiales



Location

Quito – Pichincha

Type of project

Disabled Youth / Music/ Education

### Aims of the project

SINAMUNE is a specialized center that offers music, art, and inclusive education for children, youth, and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities. Its aim is to promote social inclusion and personal development through music therapy, orchestra training, painting, dance, and basic academic education. While many students are biologically adults, due to their conditions they may express themselves or behave like children. The center runs two orchestras: a main orchestra that performs monthly, and a beginner's orchestra for students learning instruments.

### Activities

The center teaches how to play different instruments. When the kids have developed some skills, they become part of the orchestra. Therefore, the kids practice for the orchestra concerts and presentations every day. Later, they have different classes. One day every week is gym class, where the whole school leaves to go to a pool and one day PE (Physical Education) class.

### Community Context

SINAMUNE is located at the very north of Quito, in a district called Carcelén, a popular area full of little stores and restaurants. The steady group of working colleagues is about 25. The atmosphere is caring, lively, and dynamic, and volunteers quickly become part of the supportive and joyful environment.

### Volunteer's requirements

It would be an advantage to already have some experience working with people with special needs and disabilities. Also, having musical knowledge will help the volunteer to have a stronger role in the organization. SINAMUNE is open for all those volunteers who are willing to share experiences with people that need a lot more attention than others. Volunteers are expected to engage with individuals who require extra support and attention. Respect, consistency, patience, encouragement, and enthusiasm are key values.

### Volunteer's tasks

The volunteer will help the educators with activities including: Depending on the skills of the volunteer, he/ she may be working in the orchestra and teach some of the children in music class (piano, clarinet, guitar or flute). The volunteer also supports the teachers in the different classes and activities the students perform. At the end of the day the volunteers have to accompany the students in the school bus that brings them home.

Host situation

Host family

Programs

LT, STEPS, WW, IJFD



## Ángeles de cuatro patas

### Location

Quito, Bellavista (near Parque Metropolitano Guangüiltagua) - Pichincha.

### Type of project

Health / Education / Disability / Children and Youth / Others in social field

### Aims of the project

Ángeles de Cuatro Patas is a non-profit organization that works to improve the quality of life of children and youth with physical, intellectual, and emotional disabilities. The center uses animal-assisted therapy, specifically hippotherapy and canine-assisted therapy, to promote physical development (motor skills), emotional regulation, social connection, and confidence building.

### Activities

Each week from Monday to Saturday, 15 to 20 individuals with various types of disabilities come to the center to receive personalized therapeutic sessions. Activities include:

- Hippotherapy sessions guided by professional instructors.
- Horse care routines (feeding, grooming, leading horses to open pastures).
- Interactive therapy games and exercises to stimulate fine and gross motor skills.
- Support with emotional development and relationship building.
- Equine riding classes to strengthen physical coordination.
- Light facility cleaning and maintenance, always involving animals in calm and safe ways.
- The organization currently has 16 horses, 2 donkeys, and 27 dogs that are part of the therapy process.

### Community Context

The project is uniquely located within a green area inside the city of Quito, near Parque Metropolitano Guangüiltagua. While still in the city, it offers a quiet, nature-based environment. The facility is secure, with camera surveillance, emergency protocols, and close coordination with local police and fire services. The living and working space are within the same location, creating a deeply immersive experience with the animals and the therapeutic routines.

### Volunteer's requirements

Volunteers should be 18 years or older, feel comfortable around animals, especially dogs and horses, and be open to work with people with disabilities and in outdoor settings. She/he should show patience, emotional sensitivity, and flexibility around the activities that need to be done. It is preferable to have a basic Spanish level to communicate with the team and families but all volunteers, female and male are welcome to apply if interested.



## Ángeles de cuatro patas

### Location

Quito, Bellavista (near Parque Metropolitano Guangüiltagua) - Pichincha.

### Type of project

Health / Education / Disability / Children and Youth / Others in social field

### Volunteer's tasks

The workday starts at 8:00 a.m. and ends around 5:00 p.m. Meals are included, with a shared kitchen available. Volunteers are integrated gradually into the daily activities. A training process during the first week will introduce them to:

- Horse handling routines, including safety, grooming, and releasing to pastures.
- Supporting therapy sessions, helping the instructor in activities with the children and youth.
- Assisting in field activities and play-based learning during the therapy.
- Helping with light cleaning of stables and facilities.
- Participating in basic household routines, meals, and coordination with staff.
- Learning how to guide and support emotional and physical therapy through animals.

### Host situation

Volunteers live at the same place where they work in a shared apartment with shared kitchen, bathroom, and living room. There are two bedrooms (each shared between two people), access to laundry facilities like washer and dryer, and meals that may be organized by the coordinator or jointly prepared. The place has safe access to nearby transportation (taxis, buses, or Uber for later hours) and a short distance from public transport.

### Programs

LT, STEPS, WW



## Centro Médico Divino Niño

Location

Quito – Pichincha

Type of project

Health / social

### Aims of the project

The objective of the medical center is to provide access to health care to low-income people so that they can be treated in time in case of any disease or illness. They receive a minimum of 2 people per day and a maximum of 20 people per day.

### Activities

The day starts at 8 am until 4:30 pm. Patients may be infants, children, adults or older adults. And the medical specialties that are treated throughout the day are: General Medicine, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dentistry, Radiology, Psychology, Nutrition, Physical Therapy and clinical laboratory.

### Community Context

Cotocollao is an urban parish in the north of Quito, close to the zones of Condado, Ponceano and La Concepción. It is a commercial area with many businesses and street vendors, which makes it easy to access and to get to other parts of the city as many buses cross the area. The population in the area tends to go from lower to middle class and are mostly of mixed race, meaning they will speak Spanish.

### Volunteer's requirements

There are no gender specific requirements as long as the volunteers are older than 18 years old. It would be preferable to have someone with experience in the medical field, but if not, they must have an interest in learning about this topic and flexibility to adapt to different scenarios in the clinic. It is better if they have a basic knowledge of Spanish, for better development in the project.

It is essential that they should have social skills so that they can work with people of different ages.

### Volunteer's tasks

The volunteer will help the educators with activities including:

Volunteers can provide assistance in different areas, depending on their profile. If they do not have previous experience in the medical area, they can also support in the social and administrative area until they learn about more specific tasks. Among the activities they can perform are:

helping to serve food

checking the vital signs (blood pressure, saturation, temperature, ...)

measuring blood sugar

pharmacy errands

help the patients with washing and changing

changing dressings

cleaning / sterilizing medical equipment

organizing and refilling medical supplies

Supporting during medical campaigns in other cities (when they go to communities).

### Host situation

Host family

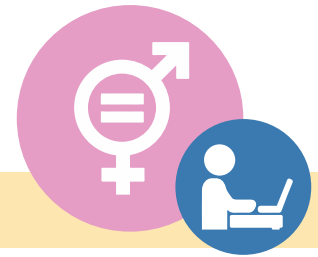
### Programs

LT, STEPS, WW

# GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS



# CEPAM – Centro Ecuatoriano para la Promoción y Acción de la Mujer



Location

Quito – Pichincha

Type of project

Gender equality / administrative

## Aims of the project

CEPAM aims to improve the social situation and quality of life of women, as well as contributing to the development of principles and policies which promote equal opportunities for women in the social, political, and economic spheres. CEPAM is a self-sustainable institution, specialized in defending the human rights of diverse women through the different stages of their lives.

## Activities

Our services include: training activities in gender themes, prevention of violence, empowerment and employability; legal services; psychological services / crisis intervention; and social services. The working areas for volunteers are communication, marketing, fundraising and organizing images.

## Community Context

Volunteers will work in the CEPAM office in the Center-North of Quito.

## Volunteer's requirements

Volunteers should be interested in and adhere to principles of gender equality / social inclusion. Spanish proficiency is preferable. Both men and women are welcome. Preferable if volunteers have their own computers. One volunteer should have general computer, communication, marketing and social media skills. A second volunteer should ideally have experience in or have studied social sciences or politics, and be interested in themes of development and cooperation.

## Volunteer's tasks

Depend on volunteer skills:

- Share CEPAM's activities through social media

- Help develop / update the webpage

- Train CEPAM team members in use of social media

- Design social media campaigns for: fundraising, volunteering, and for specific themes including gender violence, femicide, working with youth, 'masculinities' and commemoration of important dates

- Create English content for websites.

- Map out and create a database of potential ally non-profit organizations in other countries

- Develop information, content and project profiles for potential donors

- Assist CEPAM in developing new sources of cooperation

- Eventually translate documents (Spanish/English)

## Host situation

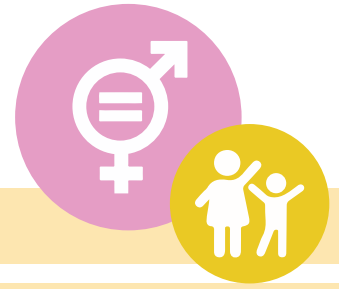
Host family

## Programs

LT, STEPS



# Alas de Colibrí



Location

Quito - Pichincha

Type of project

Education, Children and Youth, Women

## Aims of the project

“Alas de Colibrí” is an organization located in the north of Quito that seeks to abolish child labour and begging in the streets of Ecuador. The house is a home to young girls who were abused in their past (domestic violence, sexual abuse, child labor, human trafficking...). They stay in the house for 3 to 6 months, after which they may return to their families or are sent to other shelters. The aim is to provide psychological and educational support for the girls to help them regain confidence and ownership over their lives or to help them develop their future perspectives.

## Activities

Within the home we accompany the girls in the educational field and organize different workshops (handicrafts, costume jewelry, gastronomy), promote sports and excursions to many different places. At the same time, Alas de Colibrí gives them legal support as they are underage.

## Volunteer’s requirements

Only female volunteers! The volunteer needs to be at least 18 years old and should have a basic knowledge of Spanish. Volunteers should be aware of the girls’ situation and be motivated to participate in and independently take initiative in the daily activities. A volunteer with some level of experience in the psychological field would be an asset. Maturity is a must.

## Volunteer’s tasks

The volunteer will support and accompany the social worker and the psychologist in their daily work that includes being with the girls, helping with homework, preparing and promoting games/workshops, accompanying during excursions. The volunteer will work from Monday to Friday. Support during the weekend is sometimes needed, however she will then get two weekdays off.

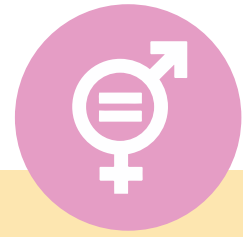
## Host situation

Host family

## Programs

LT, STEPS, IJFD, WW

# Casa de la Mujer – Adole Isis



**Location**

Quito – Pichincha

**Type of project**

Gender equality

## Aims of the project

The project has two main aims:

1. It is a center for pregnant adolescents and mothers from 11 to 18 years old who have left their high-risk homes (violence, abuse, sexual abuse, etc.)
2. The Center works in schools on issues of violence prevention.

## Activities

The project runs 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. The adolescents have daily routines ranging from personal hygiene and psychological follow-up, both individually and with family or groups, as well as school activities, etc.

## Community Context

Volunteers work with adolescent girls, their children and families. They will live with a host family in Quito.

## Volunteer's requirements

Volunteers should be female aged 19–25 years old with basic proficiency in the Spanish language. They should have an interest in working with at-risk youth, and have the strength and desire to work with some difficult cases. The volunteer is expected to comply with and adapt to the standards, rules, and routines of the center.

## Volunteer's tasks

Help with the daily activities (educational, medical and recreational) of the adolescents.

## Host situation

Host family

## Programs

LT, STEPS, IJFD, WW



# ENVIRONMENT





Location

Tena - Napo

Type of project

Environment and animals

## Aims of the project

Amazoonico has become one of the biggest animal rescue centers in Ecuador. One of amazoonico's strengths is that the team is made of a mix of the traditional knowledge and wisdom of local people and a vast array of perspectives and experiences brought by people coming from all around the world.

## Activities

They rehabilitate and reintroduce wild animals, who were victims of illegal trafficking, back into their natural habitats, to take care of those who can't be released, and carry out educational activities with visitors.

## Community Context

The project has 5 hectares where they work. To get there it is necessary to take a bus that takes 1 hour and a half, then the volunteers take a canoe that takes another 10 minutes to get to Amazoonico.

## Volunteer's requirements

Applicants should demonstrate responsibility, a positive and hardworking attitude, and the ability to live cooperatively with several people. No professional training in animal care is required, though a genuine interest in learning and contributing to the team is essential.

## Volunteer's tasks

- Animal Feeding
- Enrichment for animals
- They can participate in the treatment of animals as well
- Animal lovers have different tasks, in conservation projects
- Guiding visitors through the center

## Host situation

Living at the project

## Programs

Steps, Extra Fee



# Jardín Botánico de Cuenca

**Location** Cuenca - Azuay

**Type of project** Environment

## Aims of the project

The main objectives are conservation, environmental education and research; On average, around 2000 visitors are received monthly. The project maintains 7 permanent staff members to maintain green areas but lacks environmental guides for guided tours.

## Activities

The project has permanent staff that takes care of the plants and installations, they also offer nature conservation and education events for schools and children to raise awareness.

## Community Context

Cuenca is one of the most beautiful cities in the country, and is split by four rivers, colonial style streets, european style architecture, churches and cathedrals, incan ruins and cultural markets and buildings filled with art and handicrafts

## Volunteer's requirements

The volunteers should be proactive, as they will be in charge of their own personal project. Basic Spanish skills are helpful but not necessary.

## Volunteer's tasks

The volunteers will develop a personal project which they will propose, as well as taking care of activities assigned to them such as: visitor management, guided tours, nocturnal events, biocommerce markets, agricultural work, upkeep and cleaning of installations, working in the entomology laboratory taking care of the collection and plastering of insects.

**Host situation** Host family

**Programs** LT, STEPS, Funded Grenzenlos



# Jardín Botánico de Quito

## Fundación Botánica de los Andes



Location

Quito - Pichincha

Type of project

Environment / flora rescue

### Aims of the project

The Jardín botánico de Quito is an entity whose main mission is to conserve and educate about the Andean flora, through the exhibition of plants, the most regular or common activities are the maintenance of the collections and green spaces.

### Activities

The project is responsible for taking actions to consolidate a culture of respect for the natural environment in the Andean Region, contributing to the defense and protection of the environment through scientific research for the Andean flora.

### Community Context

El Jardín is located in the center of the city, inside Carolina Park. It is one of the areas with the easiest access to restaurants, hospitals, transportation and facilities. We understand that the volunteer will be staying with a host family, however, mobilization to the Jardín Botánico de Quito will not be complicated.

### Volunteer's requirements

In general, because of the type of work, volunteers from 19 to 27 years of age are required. They must be in good health and, above all, be willing to get dirty and do outdoor activities.

### Volunteer's tasks

The volunteer will mainly participate in the maintenance of collections of orchids, carnivorous plants, cacti, succulents, tropical plants and native plants. He/she will be responsible for planting, reseeding, propagation, watering, cleaning, pruning, fertilization. Your role will be to assist and learn about these processes, getting to know the species and acquiring long-term skills.

**Host situation**

Host family

**Programs**

LT, STEPS, WW



# Fundación AMARU

Location

Cuenca – Azuay.

Type of project

Environmental Protection

## Aims of the project

To develop projects or initiatives that conserve and protect ecosystems and wildlife habitat, through initiatives that involve people and wildlife.

To contribute to the protection of the environment, promoting knowledge and awareness of biodiversity through the creation of unforgettable experiences, the implementation of scientific research programs, education, management and breeding of fauna and flora applied to the conservation of animal and plant species, ecosystems and native ethnic groups of Ecuador.

## Activities

Volunteers rotate through different areas such as:

- Animal welfare:
- Preparation of diets in the nutrition department.
- Fauna care: feeding and cleaning of the enclosures of the housed fauna.
- Reforestation with native flora within the biopark grounds.
- Biotherium laboratory: reproduction of bugs.
- Adequacy: improvement of enclosures, cleaning, construction of areas for the species.
- Administrative:
- Files, data, reports, research papers, information for the museum.
- Projects:
- Educational projects: educational guides, support in vacation colonies or educational talks.
- Bioprojects: compost, fertilizer, nursery.

## Community Context

The project works in a rural area of the city of Cuenca, which allows them to work with a group of experts in animal care. In addition, they also work on education projects in nearby communities to raise awareness of the importance of caring for animals and nature.

## Volunteer's requirements

These are the basics for volunteer profiles, regardless of gender:

- Computing
- Organization
- Intermediate level of Spanish
- Teamwork
- Honesty
- Respect
- Good interpersonal skills with the team and other volunteers
- Order and personal cleanliness
- Passion for wildlife and nature
- Interest in sharing and learning from other cultures
- Enjoyment of outdoor activities



# Fundación AMARU

Location

Cuenca - Azuay

Type of project

Environmental Protection

## Volunteer's tasks

Fauna care: feeding and cleaning of the enclosures of the housed fauna.

Reforestation with native flora within the biopark grounds.

Biotherium laboratory: reproduction of bugs.

Adequacy: improvement of enclosures, cleaning, construction of areas for the species.

Administrative work.

Educational guides, support in vacation colonies or educational talks.

Make compost, fertilizer, and nursery.

Volunteers live inside the project, and they have shared spaces (kitchen, living room), they have to prepare their own food so it helps to develop their independence and responsibility.

## Host situation

Living at the project (extra cost)

## Programs

STEPS, EF



# Fundación Sembrar Esperanza “Sembres”

**Location**

Quito, Barrio Santa Clara – Pichincha

**Type of project**

Education / Culture & Sport / Environmental Protection

## Aims of the project

Fundación “Sembrar Esperanza” is a non-governmental organization founded in 2002. Their philosophy was clear: sustainable change requires not only financial help, but also a transformation in people’s mindset and sense of responsibility. The main goal of the foundation is to improve the quality of life of people living in vulnerable areas and promote sustainable community development through early childhood education and ecological awareness.

## Activities

The organization runs two kindergartens and a small-scale internal ecological project. They provide:

- Early education to children from local families.
- Support for teaching English and creative subjects (sports, music, games).
- Environmental activities linked to sustainability and local awareness.
- Occasional cultural or artistic events to engage the community
- The work focuses not only on education but also on building strong human values, encouraging creativity, and fostering ecological sensitivity from an early age.

## Community Context

The project is located in the Santa Clara/Agua Clara district of Quito, near the Ofelia bus terminal in the northern part of the city. This area includes a mix of working-class families and is undergoing ongoing community development efforts.

## Volunteer’s requirements

Volunteers should be responsible, dynamic, friendly, and proactive, comfortable working with children, and be enthusiastic about supporting creative and environmental activities. She/he should be able to communicate in basic Spanish and ideally motivated to engage in social education work. Also, musical skills or sports interests are a plus!

## Volunteer’s tasks

Volunteers are expected to work Monday to Friday, usually during morning hours, and their tasks may include:

- Preparing teaching materials (especially for English classes).
- Supporting the classroom teacher in games, music, and sports activities.
- Playing with the children and supporting their emotional development.
- Contributing to environmental or garden-based tasks if desired.
- Taking initiative in small educational or cultural projects.
- Participating in occasional weekend activities if organized by the foundation

## Host situation

Live in an apartment owned by the foundation or a host family.

## Programs

LT, STEPS, WW

# ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATIONS



# Fundación VASE – ICYE Ecuador



Location

Quito – Pichincha

Type of project

Administrative

## Aims of the project

Fundación VASE-ICYE Ecuador is a non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to improving the social situation in Ecuador through volunteering.

## Activities

The office is located in downtown Quito.

## Volunteer's requirements

They need to have a good level of English and basic knowledge of Spanish and PC literacy (Word, Excel, Access), be diligent and reliable in their work, and be willing to work overtime in peak seasons. Creativity and interest in international work are needed – your ideas will always be welcome!

## Volunteer's tasks

There is a lot of flexibility based on the volunteer's desires and interests. They will most likely work with the short-term program and seminars (orientation, midterm, final camp) and monitoring (project and family visits) for long term volunteers. Depending on the volunteer's interests there is also work to do on VASE's social media and internet representation.

## Host situation

Host family

## Programs

LT, STEPS, WW, IJFD, Funded Grenzenlos



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT





# Fundación Despierta – Andes Region

Location

Toacaso – Cotopaxi, Ecuador

Type of project

Education, Agriculture, Children & Youth, Environmental Protection, Women

## Aims of the project

Fundación Despierta aims to promote a harmonious and sustainable relationship between local Andean communities and their surrounding natural ecosystems. Based in Toacaso, Cotopaxi, the project combines environmental conservation, participatory education, and community-led development to protect the páramo, a high-altitude ecosystem vital to Ecuador’s water security, biodiversity, and climate resilience.

The foundation works hand in hand with Kichwa communities to support the restoration of native ecosystems and to foster a deep, local stewardship for nature.

## Activities

Volunteers join a highly motivated local and interdisciplinary team to support a range of activities such as conducting flora and fauna censuses during guided nature walks, creating biodiversity records (like photos, videos, sound) and organizing the data, and leading environmental education sessions in local schools. They also collaborate with youth in the community to manage Despierta’s social media presence and participate in “mingas” as a way to restore and clean collective spaces. Finally, they organize distinct workshops and word circles for knowledge exchange and reflection on nature, climate, and community practices.

## Community context

Toacaso is an organized and peaceful rural Andean community about 30 minutes from Latacunga. The community depends on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods and has a strong collective identity and culture of cooperation. Volunteers will live and work in a safe, structured, and welcoming environment, with active participation in everyday life and environmental efforts.



# Fundación Despierta – Andes Region

## Location

Toacaso - Cotopaxi, Ecuador

## Type of project

Education, Agriculture, Children & Youth, Environmental Protection, Women

### Volunteer's requirements

They welcome volunteers who are passionate about the environment and committed to community-led conservation, that are creative and proactive with a positive attitude and in good physical condition to engage in different community processes and open spaces. They value someone who is comfortable with teamwork and cultural exchange while basic Spanish proficiency is recommended. Also, they highly value knowledge in ecology, biology, botany, agroecology or similar.

### Volunteer's tasks

At least two volunteers are required. Volunteers will work on the following activities depending on the day:

- Participating in daily nature walks to identify and document local species.
- Assisting with environmental education in local schools.
- Designing communication materials with community youth.
- Supporting restoration and conservation tasks with the Despierta team and community.
- Facilitating workshops and word circles on ecological knowledge and sustainability.
- Promoting traditional knowledge, sustainable agriculture, and eco-tourism.

### Host situation

Living in the project: volunteers will stay at a shared house in Toacaso managed by the project. They have all the facilities needed and meals are prepared with the community or in the shared kitchen. The home is safe and located within walking distance of the project sites.

### Programs

LT, STEPS, Extra Fee



# Fundación Despierta – Amazonian Region

Location

Tarqui – Pastaza, Ecuador

Type of project

Education, Agriculture, Children & Youth, Environmental Protection, Women

## Aims of the project

Located in the Amazonian region of Ecuador, Fundación Despierta works hand in hand with a Kichwa community committed to recovering the tropical forest that was once exploited for timber. Over the last 15 years, the community has shifted from extraction to conservation, promoting environmentally friendly practices and preparing for sustainable community-based tourism. The project seeks to rebuild the relationship between people and the rainforest by blending traditional knowledge, environmental restoration, and youth leadership. Volunteers will join local leaders in shaping a future where nature and community thrive together.

## Activities

Volunteers are an essential part of a participatory and communitarian process that includes daily observation walks to record flora and fauna, supporting biodiversity conservation efforts through species identification and mapping, as well as co-designing communication materials with community youth. The project also helps in leading environmental education for children and young people, creation of word circles (spaces for community dialogue and ancestral knowledge exchange) plus organizing and participating in workshops and “mingas”.

## Community context

The community is located 30 minutes from Puyo and consists of about 50 members, including children, teenagers, and adults. Many community members are engaged in agroecology and ancestral medicine, while young people are preparing for futures in ecotourism and sustainable practices. The community is well-organized, safe, and fully committed to the vision of ecological restoration and education.



# Fundación Despierta – Amazonian Region

Location

Tarqui – Pastaza, Ecuador

Type of project

Education, Agriculture, Children & Youth, Environmental Protection, Women

## Volunteer's requirements

They welcome volunteers who are enthusiastic about rainforest conservation and intercultural collaboration, that are creative and proactive especially in the use of photography, video, and social media, with a positive attitude and in good physical condition to engage in different community processes and open spaces. They search for someone who is comfortable living in a rural setting and open to learning from ancestral practices while basic Spanish proficiency is recommended. Backgrounds in ecology, biology, botany, agroecology, or environmental communication are highly valued.

## Volunteer's tasks

Volunteers will contribute in full-time weekday activities such as:

- Observing and recording species in the forest alongside community members.
- Organizing digital biodiversity records.
- Designing and co-managing social media content with local youth.
- Assisting in environmental education sessions with school-aged children.
- Facilitating or supporting workshops on sustainable practices.
- Participating in mingas for forest cleanup and infrastructure development.
- Supporting the promotion of local sustainable tourism.

## Host situation

Living in the project: volunteers are housed in individual rooms in a designated volunteer area within the community. They will live in a shared space home and meals will be prepared in a community kitchen and eaten in a shared dining area.

## Programs

LT (6 months maximum), Extra Fee




# ECUADOR IS WAITING FOR YOU

**For more information**

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