



## OVERVIEW OF

# Ecuador

## Overview of Ecuador



YEAR OF  
**1830**  
INDEPENDENCE

POPULATION  
**15,223,680**  
MILLION

**28.6%**  
Population  
**BELOW**  
poverty line

**Languages** Spanish, indigenous (Quechua, Shuar)

**Under-five Mortality Rate:** 20 per 1,000 live births. Ecuador ranks 98 in the world.

**Infant Mortality Rate:** 18 deaths per 1,000 live births.

**Human Development Index (HDI)** for 2011: 0.720 (ranked 83 out of 187, indicating high human development).

**Maternal Mortality:** 110 deaths per 100,000 live births.

## Brief History of ChildFund in Ecuador

**ChildFund came to Ecuador:** 1984

**Number of enrolled children (FY12):** 28,626

**Number of beneficiaries (FY12):** 188,336

**Number of provinces:** 24 provinces

**ChildFund works in 5 provinces:** Carchi, Imbabura, Pichincha, Cotopaxi and Tungurahua.

ChildFund Ecuador's work has been oriented to community development, centered in childhood, with the involvement and leadership of local partner organizations. ChildFund has consistently promoted the establishment of strategic alliances with communities, enabling them to lead the improvement of their living conditions in areas such as education, health, social organization, and environmental care. Many lessons learned have established ChildFund as one of the most recognized organizations in child centered development in Ecuador through the establishment of strong collaboration linkages with public and private organizations.

# Brief Program Overview



The improvement of quality and impact of programs is a priority for ChildFund Ecuador. These results are being achieved through significant progress in Monitoring and Evaluation and the development of more effective intervention strategies, with increased participation of children and families. Significant resources have been raised through partnerships which improve the organization's response capacity towards poverty and exclusion in Ecuador.

## 2012 Program Achievements

**Infants.** Through consistent interventions led by our local partners, 94% of children who participated in the Early Childhood Development program have reached the bio-psycho-social development levels required for their age.

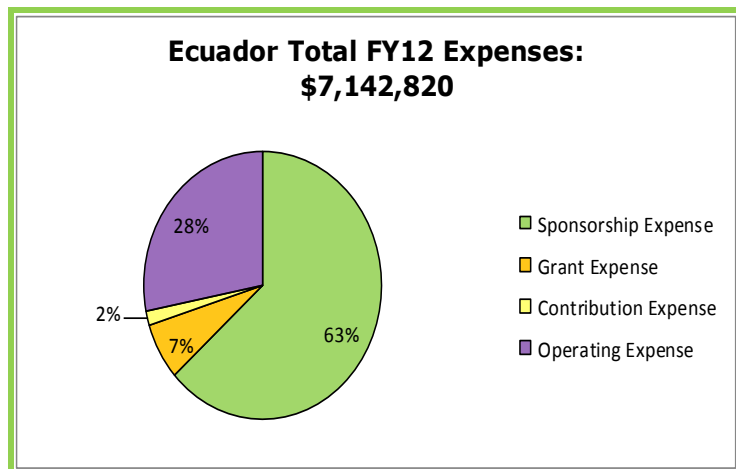
**Children.** By the end of FY12, 5,149 children completed their training in social and financial topics with the Aflatoun program. Children in the various provinces have taken their participation in this project above and beyond with the creation of community gardens, recycling initiatives and even “mini-banks” and saving programs, under a cooperative financial scheme in their schools.

**Youth.** A total of 126 youth have assumed the role of “community communicators,” producing information products addressed to communities and their peers, contributing to their societies and strengthening their own expression and socialization skills.

**Societies.** The 58 local partner organizations that work hand in hand with ChildFund Ecuador have progressed in their empowerment, autonomy and organization for the defense of children's rights and have established specific initiatives to stop and help report child abuse.



# Financial Report



## **Ecuador FY12**

|                      |                  |             |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Sponsorship Expense  | 4,521,435        | 63%         |
| Grant Expense        | 490,922          | 7%          |
| Contribution Expense | 123,850          | 2%          |
| Operating Expense    | 2,006,613        | 28%         |
| <b>Total Expense</b> | <b>7,142,820</b> | <b>100%</b> |

## Challenges

Ecuador is a country where the social and economic inequality persists and affects mostly the indigenous population living in rural areas. According to governmental sources, there are 5.5 million boys, girls and adolescents in Ecuador; 3.3 million of them live in poverty and 1.6 million in extreme poverty.

The biggest development challenge faced by the Ecuadorian State and its society, is to improve the living conditions of the populations most excluded and most affected by high malnutrition rates. Malnutrition rates reach as high as 53% in certain areas, causing severe deficiencies in children's language and social interaction skills, a situation that in many cases is irreversible and affects their future development.

In the field of education, 390,000 children and adolescents between 5 and 17 years of age do not attend school and only 37% of young people in rural areas complete their high school education. The biggest challenge is contributing to the development of a robust intercultural educational system that stands out for its quality and ensures access and retention in the educational system.

A particular challenge related to the youth population in Ecuador (1.8 million) is the alarming increase in teen deaths from preventable causes, such as traffic accidents, violence and suicide. There is a growing percentage of teenage mothers, entailing not only health risks for the mother and child but also implications for the future of these young mothers, who are particularly vulnerable to social exclusion.

From ChildFund Ecuador we work in active participation with youth to facilitate self-reflection processes that enable them to learn and be the protagonists in the exercise of their rights, participate in making decisions that affect their future and support them in their comprehensive training for their full and effective inclusion as citizens.

## Challenges (continued)

ChildFund's commitment is to continue to strengthen the capacities of local partners to lead the development of their communities in an autonomous way and to give sustainable solutions to the problems affecting children, adolescents and families.

## Why Sponsorship is Important

Julio is a 16 year old sponsored youth who lives with his parents and eight siblings. "The truth is that if I were not sponsored, maybe I would not be attending 12th grade. In my family, everyone cooperates because my parents' income was not always enough. They work as day laborers in a sugar cane plantation and I help them after school."

"My sponsor's support through ChildFund has helped me through all my life, for 15 years. I have learnt a lot of good things at basic school and at high school and I will graduate this year with a special degree in tourism."



"I always write to my sponsor about how my studies are going and about the garden we have and about my brothers and parents. The sponsorship has helped me to be a strong person and with human values. I advise other young people not to use drugs or alcohol. What I have learnt most with ChildFund's program is to know me better as a person, how to help my family and friends, and how to be responsible with my sexuality."

Over a year ago, Julio's parents began taking part in a ChildFund project for building community gardens. At the beginning, all the production was for family consumption. However, five months ago they were trained in production and also joined the Producers Association where they learned to commercialize their products. Now they are selling their fresh produce and generating additional income. "We used to buy vegetables from the city but now we don't do it anymore. Besides, what we sow does not have any chemicals and we do not suffer from illnesses as before. All we used to spend for buying products and medicines now is savings to my parents".

"I get along well with my family and what I like most about them is that they support me in all they can. I always say that it is better to be poor than be a delinquent. I am happy and grateful to ChildFund and my sponsor and may God bless her."

"My dream is to have a tourism company and study English and if possible other languages, I would like to continue studying."