Teaching Management Plan
Bolivia

OVERVIEW

Company Mission

Our mission is to encourage young people to volunteer for worthwhile work in developing countries. We expect that doing this kind of voluntary work will in time become the norm. As more and more people join us, we aim to create a multi-national community with a passion to serve, to learn, to understand, to teach, to inspire, and to be inspired.

Teaching Programme Mission

Our Teaching programme mission is to provide sustainable educational support within disadvantaged schools and communities to reduce inequality in education. Through our volunteers, we aim to empower underprivileged students by improving their future prospects and equipping them with the skills needed to actively engage in a multi-national community.

Background Information

Primary Education

Though the first 6 years of primary school are free and theoretically compulsory, one in seven children in Bolivia does not complete primary school[i]. Education issues are exponentially worse in rural areas where many children drop out of school (averaging only 4.2 years of school) as they are expected to work and help support the family income.[ii] Beyond the high dropout rate, state schools are also underfunded and in poor repair. The school structure (split into two shifts, one in the morning and one in the afternoon) and education system allow for very little time to make education more enjoyable.

Secondary Education

As secondary school is, on the other hand, non-compulsory, the majority of Bolivians never reach secondary school[iii], and those that do normally choose to attend private schools. Some of these are based on the American model, whereas others are religiously affiliated and espouse traditional values.

Hence education is skewed to the advantage of the already-haves and often passes over the heads of those who might have benefited the most.

Vocational Education

Vocational training in Bolivia is largely uncoordinated and left in the hands of private colleges in urban areas. There are a number of ongoing international aid agency initiatives in place; however, access to this type of education remains severely limited for children from poorer rural families as there is simply nowhere to enrol.

Tertiary Education

There are 10 state-funded and 23 private universities, and yet only 1% of students receive a university degree[iv]. The University of San Andrés in La Paz is the largest in terms of student numbers, while the University of San Francisco Xavier in Sucre is the oldest, having been founded in 1624.

Here, an institution by a Spanish King to promote the wealthy gentry's knowledge of theology and law has become democratised, and today welcomes all students to its arms who have surmounted the hurdles of a nation's questionable education system.

http://www.classbase.com/countries/Bolivia/Education-System

Partners

Projects Abroad Bolivia registered as an Association (Asociación Projects Abroad Bolivia) in 2004 and has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Linguistics Department of San Simón University and with secondary schools.

GOALS

In order to work towards our Teaching programme mission, we have set the following goals to achieve in the placements where we send our volunteers:

1. Improve English

English is now a universal language used in international business, online communication and media. It is now more important than ever for young people to learn English so they can properly engage in a global community. We aim to develop three main skills areas: reading, speaking and writing. In public institutions in Bolivia, English is only taught as of secondary school. The level of English taught is often poor, so native speaking volunteers can especially help improve the students' oral skills, so this way they can grasp a better English and find better jobs or to go study abroad with a scholarship.

2. Encourage learning through creativity

The best way to learn a new language is making it fun. Creativity is an important tool and a suitable learning environment should be created. This space should provide students with opportunities for interaction in which the acquisition of a new language is seen as a meaningful process and not as a pointless final product. When such an environment is created, students are given the chance to experiment, explore, create and recreate with real imagination and creativity. Volunteers can encourage students to be creative through the creation of flashcards, story-telling and debates around a trend topic.

3. Increase Literacy

The literacy rate in Bolivia was estimated at 91.2% in 2009, with over one million Bolivian children over the age of 15 today unable to read or write[v]. Illiteracy remains especially high in more rural areas. Improving both child and adult literacy levels will allow people to gain skills that will help them succeed in different areas and progress in their education.

4. Improve Classroom Support

With large numbers of students and very little funding, many educational institutions lack basic teaching materials and many students don't have the means to afford books and learning materials. Volunteers play an important role in the creation of new materials, visual learning aids. They also work alongside teachers to help students improve their pronunciation and command of a foreign language, as most local teachers have not had that opportunity to learn the language from a native speaker. Volunteers also assist with classroom discipline, providing personalised help to slower learners through one-to- one lessons, and designing new presentations and exercises.

RESOURCES

Human Resources	Average 20 volunteers per year Projects Abroad global staff teams Placement staff support
Physical Resources	Projects Abroad offices Placement materials
Online Resources	Volunteer Resources Database Myprojectsabroad webpages
Financial Resources	Monthly budgets for overall operations Donations to specific projects or placements
Intangible Resources	Reputation in destination communities Goodwill; genuine desire to help Expertise

Projects Abroad provides a range of resources for each of our programmes. These fall into four interdependent categories:

Human: Volunteers themselves are our most crucial asset in achieving our goals. Through their creativity and energy, all of our ambitions can be realised. Another central support team is our extensive network of Projects Abroad staff worldwide, dedicated to supporting volunteers and achieving our company mission. We also depend greatly on the staff in all of our placements; whose support guides volunteers through their daily activities.

Physical: Projects Abroad has offices in all of our destinations, where volunteers can come to speak to staff or attend workshops. There are also office materials and placement supplies available to volunteers.

Online: The Volunteers Resources Database and myprojectsabroad webpages all provide vital support before, during and after their placements.

Financial: Funds for all of Projects Abroad's work come solely from volunteer placement fees. These are distributed via monthly budgets, to ensure fair allocation of funds for each destination. Occasionally volunteers may also send donations directly for a specific placement or project.

Intangible: The good reputation of volunteers in local communities is what makes our work possible. This reputation has been earned over years of dedicated volunteer contribution. This is supported by the combined knowledge of our extensive staff network. With over 700 staff across every continent, we are proud to be a diverse and accomplished team.
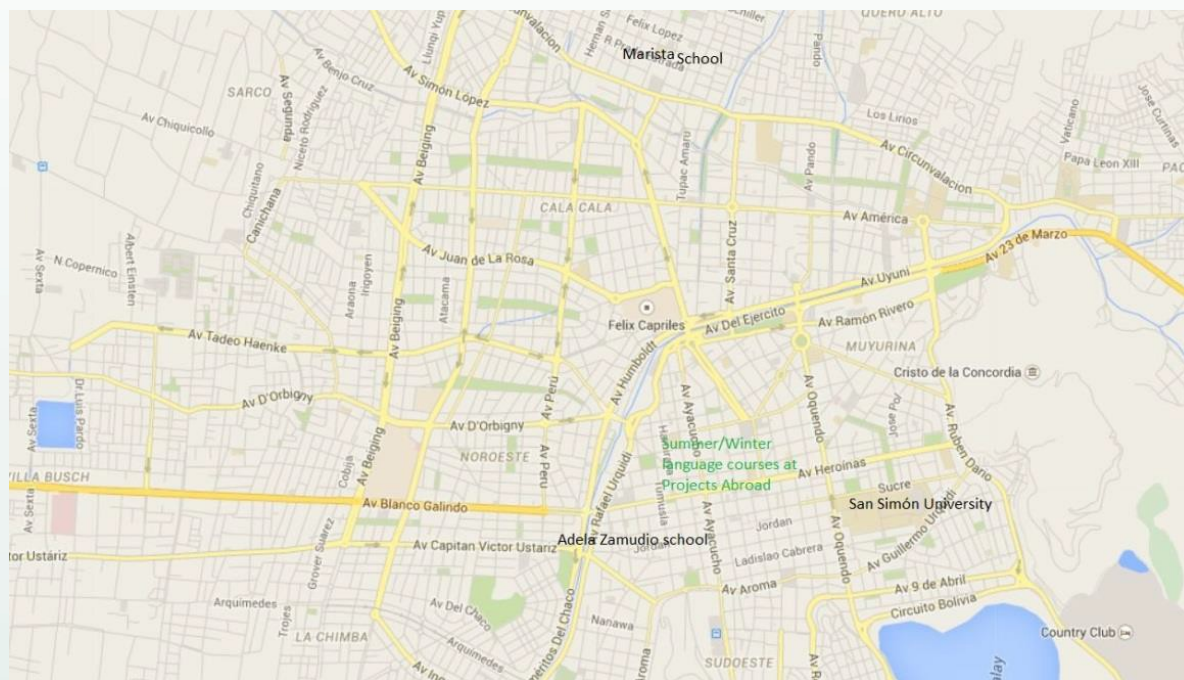
MONITORING & EVALUATION

Placement visits
Volunteer workshop sessions
Staff meetings
Volunteer Resources Database
Feedback evaluation

Physical monitoring: Through placement visits and volunteer workshops, volunteers are in frequent contact with staff members, who will observe and advise volunteers in action. Staff participate in regular meetings to discuss best practices within and between destinations.

Online monitoring: The Volunteer Resource Database is platform for staff and volunteers to share and develop ideas.

Feedback evaluation: Feedback from placement staff, Projects Abroad staff and volunteers is continuously gathered and used to inform future plans.

LOCATION OF PLACEMENTS

[i] http://www.fsdinternational.org/country/bolivia/yeissues

[ii] http://www.fsdinternational.org/country/bolivia/yeissues

[iii] http://www.fsdinternational.org/country/bolivia/yeissues

[iv] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Bolivia

[v] http://www.fsdinternational.org/country/bolivia/yeissues

Projects Abroad Teaching programme		INDICATORS	MONITORING (MEANS OF VERIFICATION)	ASSUMPTIONS
Company Mission: (the change we want to see in greater society)				
Our company mission is to make it the norm for men and women from developed countries to live and work				
Teaching Programme Mission: (the change we want to see for the target group)				
Our Teaching programme mission is to provide sustainable educational support within disadvantaged schools and communities to reduce inequality in education. Through our volunteers, we aim to empower underprivileged students by improving their future prospects and equipping them with the skills needed to actively engage in a multi-national community.			1. Onsite visits 2. Placement staff feedback 3. Projects Abroad staff feedback 4. Volunteer feedback (DQs & EOPF) 5. Children feedback 6. Test results	1. Number of volunteers does not drop considerably 2. Number of volunteers with with a good grasp of English does not drop considerably 3. Political and civil stability in the countries we work 4. No natural disasters that could affect our work
Goal 1:				
Improve English - priority goal				
	Actions: (the tasks that need to take place to achieve the goal)			
1,1	Create a resource centre of flash-cards and other English learning materials			
1,2	Establish a weekly after school English conversation club. ½ hour small group sessions on a chosen topic each week.			
1,3	Use creative techniques to help improve the listening and speaking skills of student's e.g. role plays, acting and drama, games.			
1,40	Introduce realistic daily role plays to focus on 'real life' conversational English.			
Goal 2:				
Encourage learning through creativity - priority goal				
	Actions:			
2,1	For a minimum of 1 hour per week research and document new teaching aids, then present them in workshops with other volunteers to be used in the classroom			
2,2	Volunteers to work with the placements to make learning environments visually appealing and educational to the students e.g. "word of the day wall" –whereby the volunteer displays a new word each day along with a definition and the students are tested on it the following morning			
2,3	Initiate story writing competitions/ poem writing which can then be presented to the class			
2,4	In break times engage children in regular games and activities to improve their attention span, stimulate their brains and encourage team work.			
2,5	Volunteers to do a presentation to their class on their home country, and divide class into groups to prepare a presentation on a topic of their choice.			
2,6	Arrange fortnightly "teachers meeting" for volunteers to get together and discuss tips, highs and lows.			
Goal 3:				
Increase literacy				
	Actions:			
3,1	Organise workshops with volunteers to help them understand techniques for working with slow learners			
3,2	Incorporate different types of grammar exercises (don't always use the same style), interrogation and method of explanation (using examples that can be incorporated in daily life, etc). – not entirely sure I understand it but parts of it sounded interesting!			
3,3	Allow a regulated time-period per week to implement spelling tests/pronunciation exercises/reading practice in the classroom.			
3,4	Organise monthly workshops with volunteers to help them identify areas of weakness in literacy among the students			

	Goal 4:			
	Improve classroom support			
	Actions:			
4,1	Help guide teachers with correct pronunciation and grammar (English)			
4,2	Develop lesson plans in line with the school which would focus on the development of struggling students			
4,3	Develop workshops providing alternative methods of teaching subjects to keep students interested			
4.4	Create motivational exercises and activities to reduce student desertion and lack of interest			
4,5	PRO teachers to lead teacher training sessions focused on how to plan lessons, different learning style, positive discipline			