



One Laptop Per Child in Ecuador: Pilot Study



About Fe y Alegría:

The International Federation of Fe y Alegría (IFFyA) is the largest and most successful education provider in Latin America and the Caribbean outside of public education systems.

IFFyA is a Jesuit-sponsored network of schools, vocational training centers, and community services that reaches over 1.3 million of the poorest and most isolated members of society. It works in close partnership with the Education Ministries of 16 countries.

The first Fe y Alegría organization was founded by much-loved Jesuit José María Vélaz of Venezuela in 1955. It has inspired similar programs all over the world, including the Cristo Rey Catholic schools in the U.S.

Background Information

Out of all of Fe y Alegría's schools in 16 countries, only 15% have computers, and even fewer are connected to the internet. Many schools that do have computers are using old, outdated models that were donated years ago. The Fe y Alegría schools struggle to make do without, using typewriters to teach typing skills and appealing to corporations for donations.

The International Federation has made technology a priority, as they realize that their students must be technologically literate to truly move up in society. They are turning more of their attention to equipping more schools with computers, connecting them to the internet, and training their teachers to use them and teach them effectively.



Project Description:

One proposed plan is the use of the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) computers, designed to be affordable and usable in any school, urban or rural, and created specifically for children in developing countries. Fe y Alegría Ecuador is interested in conducting a pilot study on using the OLPC laptops in its classrooms, to determine if they are appropriate pedagogical tools for the Fe y Alegría setting. Laptops will not be distributed individually but will be used in computer labs.

Fe y Alegría Ecuador would like to purchase 400 OLPC computers and install them in 40 schools around the country where there are currently no computers at all. Over the course of one year they will track the utility of the laptops and determine whether they should pursue a larger partnership with the makers of OLPC. They hope that the computers will be an inexpensive way of bringing computer literacy to students at all of their schools.

Cost of the Project:

\$40,000	Cost of purchase and delivery of all 400 computers
\$10,000	To train 1 teacher at each school
\$2,500	Production of final reports on the pilot study
\$52,500	TOTAL

Impact:

- Determine efficacy of OLPC computers in improving computer literacy for Fe y Alegría students
- Computers will introduce students at 40 schools throughout the region to basic computer skills—reaching an average of 4,000 students overall