

Skills for Success



The organization

Niños de Guatemala (NDG) provides high-quality education to 532 underprivileged children in Guatemala. Without our three schools, most of these children would not receive an education. We want to break the generation-long cycle of poverty and violence. For this we use the Skills-4-Success program.

The problem

Guatemala has a violent history of poverty, inequality, illiteracy, and unemployment. Children often have to work at a young age, so education is not a priority. The government sees education as something other than a priority too. In addition, the range and level of public education are below par. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, schools were closed for two years (March 2020-February 2022), and local government regulation mandated that during 2022 class sizes had to be reduced in half, reducing by 50% the time that students could be in class. This was and still is a huge challenge, not only for the children but also for the parents and teachers.

The focus for 2023

Clearing the backlogs incurred during COVID, based on the following three spearheads:

- Promoting the mental health of the students
- Improving the physical health of the students
- Put extra effort into Mathematics, Spanish, and English classes.

Intended result

To offer the students a pleasant and safe place to learn now that they can fully follow lessons at school again, and to compensate for the lost learning during the pandemic. Based on this, we offer tailor-made education to the students based on their emotional, physical, and mental needs. We follow up on each student and their family through our psychology and social work departments in each school.

Beneficiaries

532 students and their families and communities

Parental involvement

We believe education is a collaborative effort between teachers, parents, and students. Parents are fully involved in their children's education and attend mandatory monthly parenting school sessions. Through our "Responsible Parents" program, parents also contribute to preparing the daily meals we provide our students and to the upkeep of each school.

Required budget

The total budget of NDG for 2023 is: €910,819. The Niños de Guatemala Netherlands foundation contributes €200,000 to the total budget, and Good Hotel - a social enterprise with hotels in Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala City, and in London founded by Niños de Guatemala founders to support our organization - also contributes €150,000 to this budget.

All donations significantly impact the lives and future of 532 children and their 408 families.

Your donation really makes the difference because our organization is efficient and has little to no expenses. In addition, we can personally involve you in the project you support.

The importance of good education

Education is a fundamental human right. In 2000, the 189 member states of the United Nations agreed that all children, boys, and girls, should be able to attend primary education. The number of children not attending school has halved in those fifteen years. However, 1 in 10 children worldwide still do not go to school. Specifically for developing countries, one in six children cannot access primary education.

Impact of the corona pandemic

On March 12, 2020, the Guatemalan government went into a total lockdown. Schools were closed, and our students came to sit at home. This has taken almost two years. Fortunately, the doors opened again in February 2022, although the students were only allowed to attend school in small groups. These measures have been canceled for the 2023 school year, and all children are back in class together. However, this means that many backlogs have been built up in recent years and that we are working hard to catch up.

Our spearheads for 2023

Our schools take a holistic approach to education, which means we look beyond educational development. We implement our holistic approach based on our Skills-4-Success (S4S) program.

This year we want to focus on clearing the backlogs incurred during COVID. We will do this on the basis of the following three spearheads:

1. Promoting students' mental health
2. Improving students' physical health
3. Extra bets on Mathematics, English, and Spanish language and reading classes

1. Promoting the mental health of the students

To optimize learning performance, it is essential to create a safe learning environment at school, in which students' mental well-being is paramount. In other words, if children are not feeling well, their learning

performance will not be optimal either.

In addition to the attention paid to mental well-being in the classroom, social workers and a psychologist are present at the schools. Many children in our schools come from a vulnerable environment, where the long school closure has affected them even more. Moreover, the psychologists and social workers are in constant direct contact with the parents. If it turns out that there are problems at home, the parents are called in to start a conversation together in order to improve the situation together.

2. Improving the physical health of the students

The importance of a healthy lifestyle has certainly proved essential in recent years. To provide preventive care and to guarantee this physical health, a healthy meal is distributed daily to the students. In addition, we organize sports activities, and there are extra hygiene facilities, including at the toilets and extra hand washing stations. Despite the fact that strict measures are no longer being taken against COVID-19, the government still recommends that basic hygiene measures be adhered to, such as regular hand washing with soap or alcohol. Our schools adhere to this advice.

3. Put extra effort into math, English, and Spanish language classes

Since the re-introduction of face-to-face education, it has become apparent that the students need to catch up, especially in Math, reading, writing, and English and Spanish language classes. The students' learning performance is currently being measured, which allows us to adjust our curriculum to get the students at the desired level. In addition to adjusting the curriculum, the schools have doubled the number of periods per week for Math, Spanish language, and English language classes and extended the school day. The longer school days mean longer working days and/or more teachers, which will increase the cost of salaries.

Additional meal

The above means that the students will be in school longer. Given the longer school days, providing the students with an extra healthy meal is necessary. Sufficient and nutritious food ensures that students can concentrate and perform better. In addition, it has a financial advantage for the families involved, who as a result, have to provide their children with one meal less.

The cost per meal per student per day, including preparation and transport costs, is €1.50. The total amount is made up as follows:

A school year consists of 223 school days x 532 students x €1.50. This brings us to a total of €177,954.

Additional personal guidance

The World Bank, UNICEF, and UNESCO have jointly produced a report on the extreme learning disadvantages experienced in Latin America and the Caribbean during the pandemic. They state that due to the learning difficulties in basic skills, such as reading and math, the children are enormously hindered in all their learning skills in the future. So it is crucial to get these skills back to their previous level as soon as possible so that the aftermath of the pandemic is not felt in the rest of the children's educational careers.

To illustrate the extent of the gaps, two tables below show the level of reading and numeracy in Latin America

and the Caribbean:

Figure ES.5. TERCE 2013, ERCE 2019 and simulated 2022 reading scores

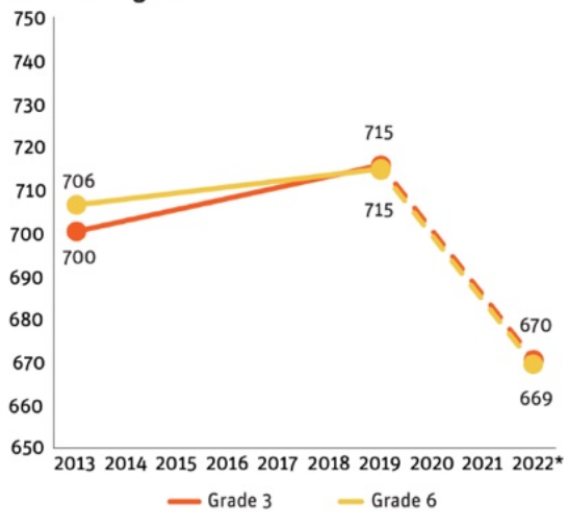
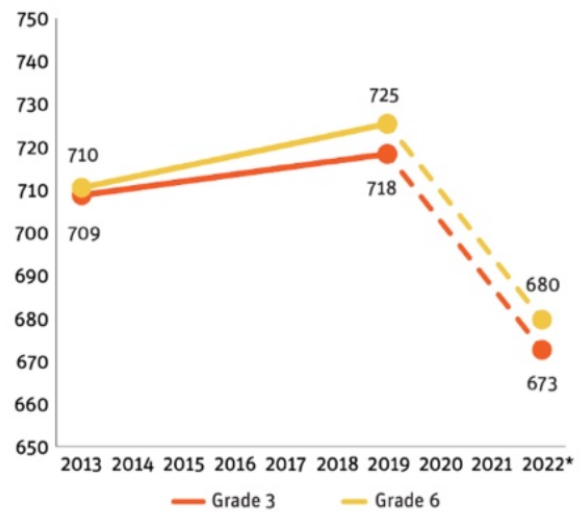


Figure ES.6. TERCE 2013, ERCE 2019 and simulated 2022 math scores



Our education system: Skills-4-Success

In 2019, NDG introduced the Skills 4 Success (S4S) program. It is our goal to raise the quality of the education we offer even further and thereby lay the foundation for a better and, above all, sustainable future for the communities in which we work. The main goal of S4S is to enable our students to be successful.

With the S4S program, students are taught to become citizens who can eventually participate in the international labor market. S4S consists of a set of five 21st-century skills. The program does not replace the existing curriculum but is woven through the curriculum. Teaching these skills, which are completely new to many students, is a major challenge that requires much time. In all five skills, 'learning by doing' is applied. In this way, children learn to apply the theory in practice and translate practical examples into the theory of the teaching material. The S4S program focuses on these 5 skills:

1. Physical, mental, and emotional health
2. Language skills in Spanish
3. Language skills in English
4. Math and Research Skills
5. Digital Citizenship Skills

In order for this program to succeed, it is very important to involve the parents and caregivers. In this way, they are made aware of the importance of education and they learn how to support and motivate their children. To this end, regular parent meetings are organized, and the lines of communication between the school staff and the families involved are short.

Finances Niños de Guatemala Foundation: How do we get our income?

- Gifts of funds
- Gifts from donors
- Gifts from 'padrinos' and 'amigos' of the foundation
- Income through targeted social enterprises we set up on learning the Spanish language and on tour guidance
- Good Hotels Profits, <https://goodhotel.co/>

> For more information, see our website www.ninosdeguatemala.org

> We have a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status in the United States

> We have an ANBI status in the Netherlands (number 817009012)

> We have non-profit, tax-exempt status in Guatemala.

Budget S4S 2023

Education		
Language skills	€ 45.000	total
Textbooks Spanish (duration of 5 years)	€ 30.000	
Textbooks English (duration of 5 years)	€ 15.000	
Math and Science skills	€ 16.216	total
Class material	€ 10.000	
Teacher training	€ 6.216	
Digital citizenship	€ 12.360	total
Class material	€ 12.360	
Additional support	€ 251.989	total
Extra meal per child per schoolday*	€ 177.954	
Teacher-assistants (9x) as teacher support	€ 43.235	
Afterschool tutor program math	€ 30.800	

Emotional health (/wellbeing?)		
Social-emotional skills	€ 9294	total
Teacher training	€ 7.412	
EQ tools	€ 1.882	
Additional mental support	€ 36.025	total
Psychologists (3x) and social workers (3x)	€ 36.025	
Other		
Salaries **	€ 488.410	total
Office costs	€ 27.235	total
Maintenance schools	€ 22.885	total
Costs graduation	€ 1.405	total
Total for 2023	€ 910.819	

*Food program: €1,50 per child (total of 532) per school day (223 in a year) =

$$1,5 \times 532 \times 223 = € 177.954$$

**Salaries: we didn't include the salaries of the psychologists and the social workers and attached their costs (salaries) separately. This way we can highlight that we have this mental support for the children.

Note: the exchange rate of our different currencies (Quetzal, Dollar & Euro) fluctuates a lot. So sometimes, it's a bit more difficult to make calculations, and the exact amount can vary throughout time. However, if we are raising money for the food project for example, and we use €1,50, people know that \$1,50 is not the same. Therefore it's important to do the calculations.

Giving examples: How can you contribute?

- Spanish textbooks per school that last five years €10,000
- English textbooks per school lasting five years €5,000

- Provide five students with a meal of €1,500 for a school year
- Social worker and psychologist per school €12,000
- A teacher assistant for the classroom €4,800
- Teaching materials charge €10,000

The Niños de Guatemala Foundation hopes that you will support our work with a donation.

For More Information, Reach out to: