



Ecuador

Project Snapshot

Name: Improving Food and Nutritional Security

Location: Pedro Moncayo, Pichincha Province

Duration: 24 Months

Amount Requested: \$80,000 (\$40k per year)

CARE Contact: Dana Tseng

Project Summary

In the northern Andean highlands of Ecuador, the loss of biodiversity/native species on family plots has impacted the food and nutritional security of families. The main threat to family farm production of corn, beans, potatoes and vegetables, particularly in Pedro Moncayo canton in Pichincha province where this proposed project is located, has been climate change – increased and erratic occurrences of drought, hailstorms and frost. Poor farm production has deepened the problem of malnutrition in farming households and has increased the price of food in local markets that most indigenous families cannot afford when they need food. Moreover, the area’s agro-export sector concentrates production on a single product (floriculture), generating excessive dependence and vulnerability due to potential external price shocks and decrease in demand. Overall, recent vulnerability studies indicate that most families in Pedro Moncayo are at high risk to climate hazards and subsequent malnutrition.

In response, CARE will work with local farmers, including women, to **implement an agro-ecological model to improve healthy food production and nutritional security (particularly for children under age 5) in Pedro Moncayo**. It involves promotion of organic fertilizers, live barriers and other climate-smart practices to restore land and increase production of Andean vegetables and other nutritional foods. **With MD19 Lions support, the project will impact 1,000 indigenous families** in Tupigachi, Tabacundo, La Esperanza, Tocachi and Malchingui communities in Pedro Moncayo. In particular, **our core work will involve:**

- Implementing a staggered production strategy with associations of agro-ecological producers to promote healthy food production according to their nutritional properties.
- Promoting climate-smart agricultural practices and developing post-harvest processes and marketing with quality standards that improve their origin, presentation, handling and added value.
- Establishing a commercialization network of producers that will grow and provide vegetables, fruits and animal protein to children in homes and daycare centers/schools in the area to improve their nutritional status.
- Initiating a nutrition campaign in Pedro Moncayo to sustain production and promote a healthy diet for children.



Key outcomes include: 1) Created areas of production and commercialization of seedlings for sustenance and continuous production of healthy foods in Pedro Moncaya; 2) Provided training and materials to improve post-harvest processes and the cold chain (for protein) for agro-ecological products; 3) Provided children at daycare centers with balanced diets using locally produced agro-ecological products with high nutritional values; 4) Provided technical assistance, through the development of farmer field schools, to increase production and the use of climate-smart agricultural and adaptation practices that are relevant to the area; and 5) Established a nutrition campaign based on regulations that support and sustain agro-ecological production to improve the diets of children in Pedro Moncayo.

Budget

The proposed budget for MD19 Lions funding is \$80,000 over two years (\$40,000 per year) to advance this critical work in one of the most vulnerable areas of Ecuador’s Andean highlands where children are at high risk of malnutrition. On behalf of the children and farming families that will benefit, we appreciate your consideration and generosity.

Item	Amount
Personnel	\$30,000
Agro-ecological Production	\$15,000
Agro-ecological Commercialization	\$10,000
Nutrition Campaign	\$9,600
Communications and Office Costs	\$5,000
CARE USA Technical and Administrative support (13% of gift total)	\$10,400
Total	\$80,000

March 2018