

CHILD SURVIVAL IN ECUADOR

PROPOSAL

INTERVENTIONS
COMPASSION FOR CHILDREN

Releasing children from poverty
Compassion
in Jesus' name

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND SAVING LIVES THROUGH CHILD SURVIVAL INTERVENTIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mothers are the source of life. However, poverty makes pregnant mothers and their babies vulnerable to malnourishment and diseases, many of which are preventable.

The Un Lugar de Esperanza Student Centre provides 421 children born into poverty with access to education and healthcare as well as access to income-generating training. This centre would like to continue hosting their important Child Survival intervention to support 30 vulnerable mothers and babies in their community.

According to UNICEF, 46% of women receive below three visits by a healthcare provider before giving birth.ⁱ This lack of support leads to mothers not having the resources they need to ensure new-born babies will be born safely and healthily.

The Borgen Project states that ‘Approximately 8.7% of the population of Ecuador lives on less than \$3.20 [equivalent of £2.38] per day. This is not enough to feed the family and pay for healthcare.’ⁱⁱ

As family size increases, pressure to provide for the children often leads to men abandoning their families. This leaves many women





alone and struggling to feed large families. Sadly, this can lead to severe malnutrition.

According to UNICEF, for every \$1 invested in nutrition interventions to end child and maternal mortality, \$16 is saved.ⁱⁱⁱ This is because less money is spent on healthcare, women choose to have less children, and a healthy working population generates wealth.

By supporting Child Survival at this centre, you will help provide mothers living in poverty with the support they need to see their children thrive.



CONTEXT

-  Un Lugar de Esperanza Student Centre, Ecuador.
-  30 mothers and babies will participate in this intervention.
-  £5,717 will fund this Child Survival intervention between December 2020 and July 2021.
-  £15,518 will fund this Child Survival intervention between December 2020 and July 2022.

Poverty deprives parents of access to education, healthcare and nutritious food. This results in fatalities and a poor quality of life for children.

According to UNICEF, 29% of youth in Ecuador stop attending class by upper secondary school.¹ Leaving school early prevents these children from learning skills that will help them to attain jobs with the necessary income to support their future families. This cycle leads to families not having the resources needed to ensure new-born babies will thrive.

Most mothers in the Un Lugar de Esperanza Student Centre community have inadequate knowledge on health and other relevant topics. A lack of awareness about preventing disease and malnourishment is putting children at risk of health complications and death.

Many mothers here also struggle with unemployment. In response to this, the centre staff intend to teach these mothers income-generating skills through this intervention. This would enable them to support their children and families.

Centre staff have also recognised that most parents do not have enough support from loved ones which can lead to low self-esteem and depression. The staff will seek to arrange relationship counselling for caregivers and education to create a healthy emotional environment.

Mothers living in poverty in this community need access to support to ensure they give birth safely and nurture their babies in a way that enables them to grow into healthy, happy children. This Child Survival intervention will provide this.

Compassion is supporting over six hundred Ecuador mothers and their babies through pregnancy and the first year of life:



630 mothers are being supported through our Child Survival interventions.



641 babies are being helped as they establish the foundations of their lives.



In the last 12 months, 94% of births that took place within Child Survival interventions were a normal birth weight.

Caregivers participating in Child Survival interventions gain vital emotional support from Compassion’s local child survival implementer and each other – building a network of support for the future. The local church strives to ensure that children are given the best opportunities to survive and thrive in the all-important early years of development. In Ecuador, they do this through:

TEACHING mothers basic reading, writing and maths skills.

PROVIDING workshops on income-generating skills.

GIVING nutritional support. Supplements are given to those who are malnourished or vulnerable to malnourishment – both mother and child.

INVOLVING fathers. Men’s seminars are organised, encouraging fathers to take an

active role in the development of their child.

TRANSITIONING children into the sponsorship programme when they reach the age of one.

VISITING homes. Every caregiver is visited in their home at least once a month, often several times.

EMPLOYING trained staff. Every Child Survival intervention has at least two full-time staff members

and many volunteer staff members.

ENSURING access to medical care, a local healthcare facility and medicine.

IMPLEMENTING the tried-and-tested UNICEF and WHO’s joint initiative: GOBI-FFF (Growth monitoring, Oral rehydration, Breastfeeding, Immunisation, Female education, Family spacing and Food supplements).

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT VIEW



In September 2015, UN world leaders set a transformational course for the future of human development by creating the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Along with other major charities such as UNICEF and Save the Children, Compassion includes these goals at the heart of its work, in order to combat poverty and inequality, and transform our world.

The Sustainable Development Goals call on the world to:

- ④ Eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere.
- ④ End hunger and ensure access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.
- ④ Reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.
- ④ End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls.
- ④ Empower and promote the inclusion of all.^{iv}

Through Child Survival interventions, we are answering this call.

Why is this intervention providing monthly growth monitoring, food supplementation and education about a balanced diet so important?

- ⑤ Around 45% of deaths among children under five years of age are linked to undernutrition.^v
- ⑥ The first 1,000 days is a critical time for physical and intellectual growth and sets the stage for long-term health and development.^{vi}
- ⑦ A child with severe wasting is six times more likely to die of diarrhoea than a well-nourished child, and almost nine times more likely to die of pneumonia.^{vii}
- ⑧ On average, children who are stunted will earn 20% less as adults.^{viii}
- ⑨ Global health expert, Hans Rosling, argues that child survival is achieved not solely through expensive hospitals, but primarily through preventative measures by local nurses, midwives and educated parents.^{viii} Compassion Child Survival interventions are effective because they empower local health workers and parents.

Not breastfeeding is associated with a 165% increase in diarrhoea for children under 6 months, and a 47% increase in diarrhoea-related deaths in children aged 6-11 months. Through Child Survival interventions, mothers are empowered with the knowledge of the benefits of exclusively breastfeeding their babies.^{ix}



Soraya is taking part in a Child Survival intervention. Compassion were able to help her get safe transport when she went into labour during Ecuador's COVID-19 curfew. Soraya shares –

"We had to wait a long time. We thought that the baby Luan would arrive there in the corridor of the hospital emergency room and I was afraid that we would get coronavirus because there were many people in that place."

“Because of the support we receive from Child Survival interventions, my children always have something to eat.”

Maritza’s story from Ecuador demonstrates the impact Compassion is making in the lives of mothers living in poverty through Child Survival interventions:

“My name is Maritza and I am the mother of Lya. I want to thank the supporters so very much for the aid we’re receiving in this time of emergency due to the pandemic. It means a lot to me because my husband is unemployed. I have two children and at the beginning I had no hope, because we had no money and we were not allowed to go out to work.

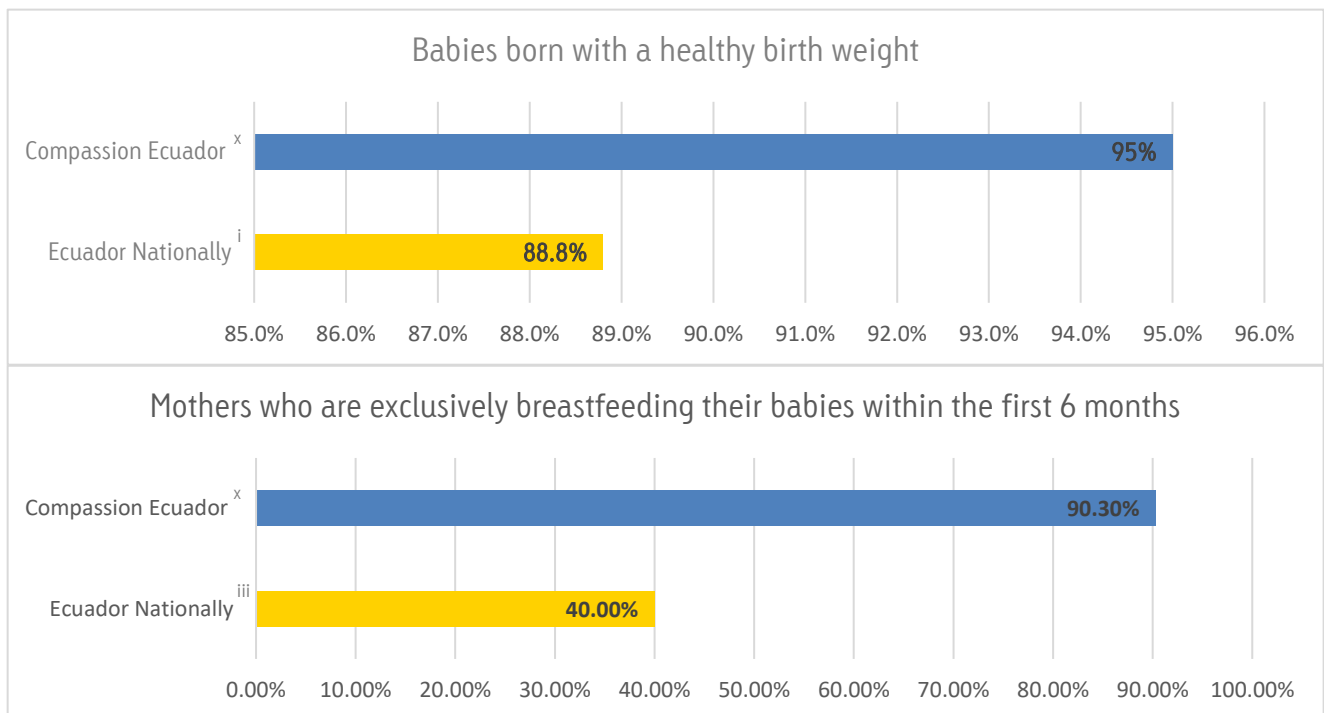
But now I’m thankful to God for His blessings. I’m grateful to all the sisters who always care for us and give us a hand. They care for our physical and spiritual health. Thanks for your prayers. May you succeed in everything you do! Blessings to you all.”



Maritza holding her baby, Lya.

CHILD SURVIVAL INTERVENTIONS: THE DIFFERENCE BEING MADE

Compassion’s Child Survival interventions are in some of Ecuador’s poorest communities. They are changing lives:



THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to explore the difference Child Survival interventions are making to mothers and babies across Ecuador, and in particular the opportunity for more lives to be transformed in Un Lugar de Esperanza Student Centre.

Mothers living in poverty in this

community, face the challenges of malaria, cholera, anaemia and typhoid fever and a lack of awareness on how to prevent disease. Through this Child Survival intervention, we will ensure that access to vital support is provided.

Together, we will ensure babies are

given the opportunity to thrive, and caregivers are supported to provide the upbringing they want for their children.

If you have any questions about this Child Survival intervention in Ecuador, please contact Mike Robins at 07889 213645
MikeR@compassionuk.org.



“My dream is that my son can grow up and be able to study and be a professional. I don’t want him to grow up surrounded by mud walls. I pray every day for my son and his dad Leonardo. With God’s blessing, in the future I want to get married and form a stable and blessed family.” – shares Lesly, a mother from Eben Ezer Student Centre, Ecuador.

ⁱ UNICEF, *Key Demographic Indicators*: data.unicef.org/country/ecu/

ⁱⁱ Borgen Project, *HEALTHCARE IN ECUADOR*: borgenproject.org/healthcare-in-ecuador/

ⁱⁱⁱ NUTRITION FOR GROWTH, *Why Nutrition?*: nutritionforgrowth.org/why-nutrition

^{iv} UN, *Sustainable Development Goals*: sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs

^v USAID, *Nutrition: An introduction*: www.globalhealthlearning.org/course/nutrition-introduction-0

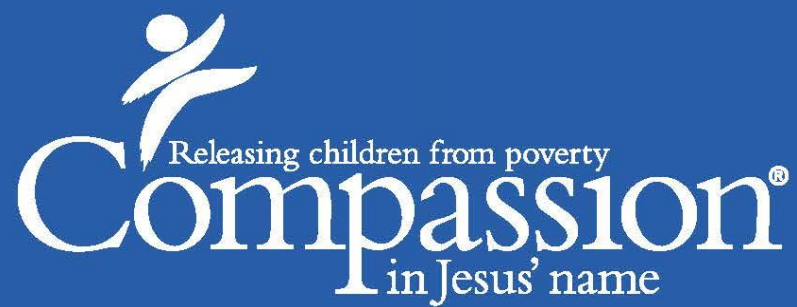
^{vi} WHO, *WHA Global Nutrition Targets 2025: Stunting Policy Brief*: www.who.int/nutrition/topics/globaltargets_stunting_policybrief.pdf

^{vii} UNICEF, *Children, Food and Nutrition*: www.unicef.org/media/63016/file/SOWC-2019.pdf

^{viii} Rosling, H. [2017] *Factfulness*

^{ix} Current Tropical Medicine Report, *The Role of Maternal Breast Milk in Preventing Infantile Diarrhoea in the Developing World*, Turin and Ochoa, June 2014

^x Compassion International, *Global programme, Child Survival*



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