



Escolhares

Rio de Janeiro Project

Sponsorship file 2022

Who are we ?



Escolhares is a humanitarian association concerned with vision problems of young children. Our association is a non-profit organization, composed mainly of Swiss and Brazilian medical and nursing students. It is based in Lausanne and recognized as a public utility by the canton of Vaud.

Our mission is to provide eye exams to schoolchildren in poor neighborhoods in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. We also provide eyeglasses to children who need them.

Our story

In 2015, in Rio de Janeiro, two medical students, Katia Steinfeld and Guilherme Horta carry out eye screenings in an elementary school with some classmates, for 180 children. They offer free consultations in a partner clinic for children with low vision. However, many children are unable to attend.

In 2016, Katia moved to Switzerland and decided to improve the project to ensure that every child screened is seen by an ophthalmologist and receives their glasses. The pilot is funded by the University of Lausanne through a Clinton Foundation competition.

In September 2017, the pilot was implemented, for 1,000 children. Following this success, the *Escolhares Association* is founded in Lausanne, in October 2017.

The challenges

75% of teachers do not identify vision problems in school children

25% of children have a vision problem

63% of them can be corrected with glasses

In Rio, 60% of school children come from families living on less than 300 CHF per month. Parents do not have the money or time to take care of their children's eye problems. Moreover, the wait for an appointment can be as long as a year and a half. The consequences of poor vision can be very significant. Children find it harder to read, write and count, which leads to illiteracy.



Our solutions

Offer simple eye exams, an appointment with a Brazilian ophthalmologist and give glasses to schoolchildren in disadvantaged areas who need them

Return to the same schools every 2 years to follow up on the screened students and test new ones

Teach children, parents and teachers the importance of caring for their eyes and those around them and how to do so

Quantify the problem in order to better inform school communities, local authorities and the general public



Our actions in 3 steps

1 Screenings

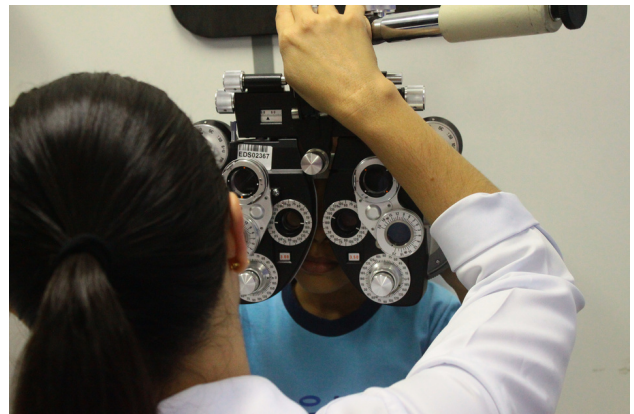


In Brazil, the Brazilian Society of Ophthalmology and some universities help us to train medical students as volunteers to do the screening tests for eye problems.

Once a year, Swiss students, trained by the Jules Gonin Eye Hospital, join the group in Rio. Logistics are set up with the Secretariat of Education and the school. The volunteers screen all the students.

2 Eye exams

Children with low visual acuity are then examined by Brazilian ophthalmologists with whom we collaborate. They then choose their glasses with the help of opticians. Everything takes place in the school.



3 Delivery of glasses

A month later we hold an eyeglass distribution ceremony, with awareness activities for families and teachers. Children needing further treatment are taken care of by partner clinics, free of charge, with transportation included.



Our results

Since the beginning of our association in 2017:

5000

screened children

1000

pairs of glasses distributed

50 %

of children screened saw an ophthalmologist for an eye exam



Budget 2022

Although the students who participate in the screening do so on a voluntary basis, there are many expenses that we must incur. We pay our partner ophthalmologists and opticians for their work as well as a coordinator who facilitates communication between the association and the schools to ensure that the screenings are well organized. Fortunately, one of our local partners, *Vision For Life*, provides the glasses free of charge.

This year, we plan to invest in educational materials, such as models or posters. We will use it to teach parents and teachers the main concepts of vision problems.

Here is the detailed budget for the year 2022. Our goal is to screen 5 schools during this year. The estimated amount per school is therefore about 3'800.00 CHF.

Coordinator in Brazil	6'300.-
Ophtalmologists	5'300.-
Opticians	500.-
Outpatients consultations	1'050.-
COVID equipment	1'000.-
Kit screening	1'500.-
Donation of glasses event	300.-
Educational material	3'000.-
TOTAL	19'100.-
TOTAL BY SCHOOL (5 schools)	3'820.-

Our team

Committee in Switzerland

Sindy Cardoso Pires - President, medical student
François Weyer - Vice President, medical student
Elisabeth Dotto - Treasurer, medical student
José Moreira - Brazil project coordinator, medical student
Emily Zuber - International projects coordinator, medical student
Sofia Sebti - Head of membership and events, medical student
Marine Guignet - Head of Sponsoring, medical student
Giovana Kraft de Carvalho - Webmistress, medical student
Katia Steinfeld - Head of research and development
Prof. Micah Murray - Scientific advisor, professor in neurosciences

Committee in Brazil

Mariana Damasco - Volunteer manager, medical student
Dr. Guilherme Horta - Head of Marketing, Ophtalmologist
Dre Luciana Lima - Scientific advisor, Ophtalmologist
Dr. Thiago Pelegrine - Head of Ophtalmologists

