



Newsletter

Fall
2021

Dear Friends of CENIT

Twenty months after the COVID-19 pandemic began, Ecuador's schools continue to be fully or partially closed. While classes are being reestablished, students are entering a third academic year outside the classroom.

The closure of schools due to the Health Emergency has caused a delay in education. Many children and adolescents do not receive regular meals or vaccinations at school, suffer social isolation and greater anxiety, and are exposed to abuse and violence. This is causing school dropout, child labor, begging, early pregnancy and / or adolescent marriage. Many parents have lost their jobs, plunging their families into poverty, deepened by the lack of social policies and cuts in the education and health budgets, among other measures and problems that prevent a transparent management of public finances in favor of the most vulnerable population.

Although virtual learning has been an alternative for millions of students, access to technology and the quality of the curriculum have been uneven, since most do not have connectivity with their teachers. This has necessitated looking for alternatives, such as sending homework to students' homes to develop and thus avoiding school dropouts.

Currently, due to UNICEF Recommendations, the Authorities are insisting on the return to classes. The majority of institutions must return as of December 7. In January, 100% of schools will return to face-to-face classes. In view of this return to face-to-face classes, the Ministry of Education suggests the following measures:

- Enforce mask use policies for students and staff;
- Provide facilities for hand washing and / or hand disinfection;
- Clean shared surfaces and objects frequently;
- Guarantee adequate and appropriate ventilation;
- Keep students and teachers in small groups that do not mix with each other; stagger the time of the start, rest, time to go to the bathroom, meals and the end of the day; and alternate physical presence.
- It is necessary to mention that some parents are concerned about the health of their children and do not allow them to return to classes.

Finally, we are awaiting the inspection and authorization from the Authorities for the return to classes.

With Eternal Gratitude,

Ruth Amparo Rosero González
Directora

Sister Hilda María García Arcila
Administradora

Point of view from the trenches: Being a teacher in these times

by Adriana Hipatia Limaico Vaca, CENIT Educator

We all wonder how this time of pandemic has been lived in the space and time specific to school. The pandemic has passed into the physical spaces we have always known. We have had to enter those familial and personal spaces where our children and girls, adolescents and young people are present – to make school, education possible for them these new and changing conditions.

The experience is diverse because the means of communication and the internet have become important parts of our education. In this different and, on occasion, distant context for some, we have experienced the emotion of listening to a little one reading and seeing him/her writing – and the despair that comes with looking for the infinite ways to contact a child.

Being a teacher extends the dynamics beyond working hours or registered in teleworking. A normal day begins at night, looking for different materials, content and games to reduce the gap and distance in which hugs and hugs, or a squeeze on the shoulder when an achievement has been earned become more and more distant.

And when it comes to communicating, language and literature makes us catch consonants that become so difficult, but conventional measures become simple for Lupita and Mario. Enma and Vladimir like to see each other on the computer screen. The challenges and fun dynamics make us forget at times that a screen separates us and that communication has new challenges.

Continuing with the communication and meeting, there is more contact with the parents. Conversations are long, touching on the theme of school or the personal. The experience allows you to meet the family, the grandma, uncle or brother. We find parents involved in learning and parents who do not want to admit that the support that knowledge can provide to their children is great if ... but above all, those values – respect, honesty, enthusiasm – endure.

To be a teacher in these times is, without a doubt, a new way of looking at education. A series of opportunities have opened up. There are so many advances in virtual reality, cards, crossword roulette games, interactive videos. To respond to these demands, we seek self-training by enrolling, at the same time, in two or three courses or workshops. We must update and be in tune with this specific moment that education is experiencing worldwide.

Students are adapting to this way of inter-learning and their studies, according to the internet they have available, the commitment of their parents, and the hope of their teacher. We are all betting on a new way of conceiving education that allows us to find meanings and above all make us more human, supportive, contributing all from where we are and what we do to a new educational perspective.



“To be a teacher in these times is, without a doubt, a new way of looking at education.”



Point of view ... Being a student in these times My experiences and hopes in times of pandemic

by the Students of CENIT



Let's pass the virtual microphone to the students of CENITS's Escuela de Educación Básica "Eufrasia Pelletier" To learn how the pandemic has affected their lives and those of their families.

I went through sad moments because all my family did not see each other. They did not let me leave the house. I could not go to visit my grandparents. My father did not come to the house because his work did not allow him to, and he stayed to sleep where he worked.

My hopes: to see and share with my uncles. Now I can go out, but always with biosecurity measures. I already see my grandparents and I can visit them. And since everything became normal, my dad has already come home.

Student: S. A.

My experience was staying at home, using sanitary protocols and paying attention. I was afraid of getting infected. I also couldn't see members of my family members. I learned to box, draw, dance, to share more with my stepmother's family, ride a motorcycle and to learn better.

I hope that the pandemic will end and that all things and my family will be as before – to return to classes, for my family to recover financially, and for all the parks to open to walk my dogs.

Student: C. T.

When the pandemic started, I heard that people died every 24 hours. We never left the house for fear of being infected and dying. Whenever we went out we had to wear a mask that left marks on our ears and nose, irritated our skin.

I always asked God that none of my family members were infected and no one else, and I wanted this pandemic to end so that no more people died and everything returned to normal.

Student: S. C.

Overcoming adversities

by Bryan Junior Bravo, Centro de Apoyo Escolar (CEA)

Centro de Apoyo Escolar program (CEA) is one of the programs that continues to be carried out at CENIT, to help boys and girls in their academic processes with a response to the educational reality that they live. The Covid-19 pandemic has brought to light the educational deficiencies that our children experience. Connectivity is one of the biggest inconveniences. The greatest difficulties evident with our students and their environment are the difficulty of school delay in basic areas, the socioeconomic situation of the families with whom the Centro de Apoyo works, and the poor preparation and in some cases illiteracy of the parents or representatives with whom the child lives.

It has been chosen to take a progressive return, in order to continue carrying out the process that must be achieved with each child, with the support of directed tasks and school reinforcement. With progressive assistance, it is of the utmost importance for them to continue to excel in their life and of course overcome challenges and put aside the "I can't", and showing that, despite the difficulties, to move forward you only need the desire to overcome – that the greatest poverty that exists is mental and not poverty of the pocketbook.

In all this time, we have not left them alone without a doubt. We continue to battle this virus in a "progressive" way, contributing and supporting all our children and their families who continue to seek a better world for the present and the future of our homeland.



Volunteering: responsibility, solidarity y commitment

by Gladys Pérez, Volunteer Coordinator

Would you like to volunteer at CENIT?

For CENIT, the support of Volunteers in the different Programs and Departments is vital, since they allow us to continue with our great objective of eradicating child labor, through education and the comprehensive care that we offer to girls, boys, adolescents and their families.

The activities carried out by our Volunteers differ in direct attention to children, provided you have experience and interest. Other opportunities are in the areas of Psychology, Social Work, Health, and finally administrative activities. They can be done virtually and in person, as long as the Health Emergency lasts.

Currently, we have the presence of our dear volunteer Lorraine, who with her knowledge, experience and commitment motivates us with her creative and innovative ideas. Also, there are young Ecuadorian and foreign university students from USF, UPS, Politécnica, Academia Cotopaxi, from OMPRAKASH, individuals (who apply personally). We hope for 2022 the arrival of young volunteers from VíaE, individuals, OMPRAKASH, and the Medical Brigade with Doctor Don Wedemeyer. Thanks to the humane and generous spirit of our past, current and future volunteers.



How can you become a volunteer at CENIT?

Well, it's very easy. Visit our [web site](#) and check out the information about the different Volunteer Positions. Drop us an email [here](#) or [here](#), requesting to be a Volunteer with us. You'll get a quick response.

The CENIT family is waiting for you!!

Point of view ... Being a volunteer in these times United for a marvellous cause

by Anderson, Joseph, Marcos y Mery, CENIT Volunteers

Often it's believed volunteering people helping others without expecting anything in return, and it is. However, in the case of CENIT, it is not only about collaborating but also about learning and understanding the realities of human beings that are invisible to the public eye, of putting body and soul at work with children.

We believe that our goal as volunteers is not only to support them at school, but also to make the environment as dynamic as possible, so that at least for a short period of time they get away from the cruel reality they face on the streets and in their family environment.

In the short time that we have been at CENIT and during this time, we have not only shared the little knowledge we have, we have also acquired new ways of seeing the world. For this we thank the children, since they have given us more than we to them.

We hope all the children that we have helped and that we have to help, grow and improve, are capable of everything, that no one tells them that they cannot do something and that they are always good people. We thank God and all those who make up CENIT for giving us the opportunity to live one of the most beautiful experiences of our lives, we believe that the purpose of life is to serve and with all our hearts we want to continue doing it in a selfless way.

CENIT is one of the places we always want to return to!



Children and adolescents in times of pandemic

by Andrés, CENIT Psychologist

The situation of children and adolescents (C&A) in times of pandemic has been affected by the following characteristics:

Pre-existing family problems before the time of the pandemic are aggravated due to the lack of economic income. Situations of stress and anxiety on the part of parents are transmitted to children.

Children are caught in the marital conflicts of their parents, which produces situations of anguish, stress and feelings of guilt in the children.

The development of social capacities in children and adolescents has deteriorated, due to the lack of contact with their peers and with figures outside the family group. Social isolation has led children and adolescents to find their main leisure activity in technology, which keeps them away from reality, accentuating sedentary lifestyle and keeping them isolated without the need to establish significant relationships in their environment to remain in a fictitious reality and virtual reality that does not present the difficulties of reality, which makes it more comfortable for them to belong to that fictional and virtual world.

Adolescents are at risk due to the lack of safe containment places outside the family group (such as educational institutions) where they can be with their peers. This leads to the risk of school dropout, consumption of alcohol and other substances, criminal acts, among others.

The virtual educational modality does not respond to the student and personal needs of the population of children and adolescents with whom it works. There has been a setback in the development of learning. In the same way, this modality has caused deterioration in the motivation to continue their studies.

The situation of children and adolescents (C&A) in times of pandemic has been affected by several characteristics.



Workshops with students and families

by Erika Herdoiza, CENIT Education Psychologist

During the time of the pandemic, to minimize the consequences of confinement and the lack of socialization with peers, it was a priority to hold workshops generating spaces to think and reflect on daily experiences that favor the development of personal, cognitive and social skills in order to offer tools that allow solving problems between parents and children.

These sessions were successful and profitable because the participants shed their own prejudices and had the opportunity to have new alternatives that lead to change and enable new understandings, attitudes and decisions.

The children and adolescents who left the classroom and have adapted to digital communication will continue to participate in workshops at least once a month in person to maintain a better rapport (create a relationship). In this way, significant learning is, in turn, generated and a sense of belonging is also evidenced.

Workshops
create spaces
to think and
reflect on
everyday
experiences.





HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Tune in to the special program for
INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY

on **CENIT's** [Facebook](#) page
Monday **6 December** 2021

¡NOS VEMOS!

With the beginning of Advent, we enter Christmas.

*We thank you for all your support —
past, present and future.*

*And we wish you, your family and your community,
a Christmas full of Joy and Health,
and a New Year full of Blessings.*

*Merry Christmas!
Happy New Year 2022!*

Cenit
CENTRO INTEGRAL DE LA
NIÑEZ Y ADOLESCENCIA

