

We Build Dreams

Fundación Raíz Ecuador

Annual Report 2020



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MISSION

Work in favor of vulnerable human communities,
conservation of nature and inclusive education.



Fundación Raíz is a not-for-profit organization created under the auspices of the Ecuadorean Ministry of the Environment through Ministerial Agreement 105 dated October 3, 2016.



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During 2020 Fundación Raíz Ecuador has focused on the following initiatives:

CAEMBA

Casitas Emergentes de Bambú (Emergency Bamboo Houses) is an initiative which began immediately after the April 2016 earthquake devastated northwest Ecuador.

CAEMBA provides sustainable housing to vulnerable families whose housing was destroyed by the earthquake or other natural causes or because of extreme poverty.

COVID-19

Faced with the Covid-19 pandemic, Fundación Raíz, true to its principle of providing effective and opportune aid in cases of natural or anthropogenic disasters that impact vulnerable human communities, conducted a wide ranging program of assistance to thousands of Ecuadoreans belonging to minority indigenous groups as well as families in extreme poverty.

BEYOND LAGARTOCOCHA

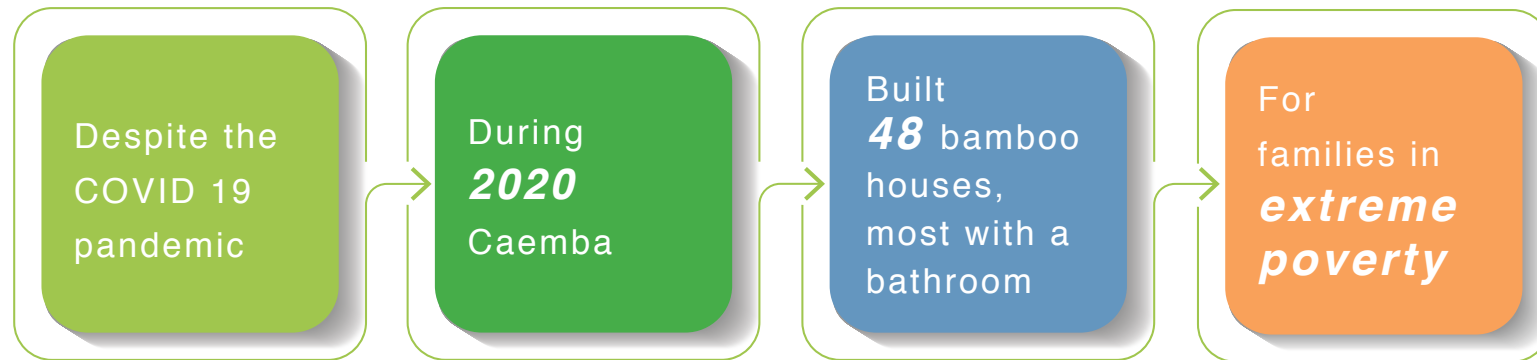
This initiative involves students from private schools in Ecuador to finance and foster schools in communities of indigenous Seikopai people in Amazonia who, due to low population and geographic isolation, do not have public schools.

CAEMBA





ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020



- 01 The 43 m² housing is prefabricated and most include a bathroom.
- 02 Made of panels consisting of cultivated wood.
- 03 Covered with treated bamboo.
- 04 Most of the houses are on raised platforms.
- 05 Materials resistant to weathering are used to provide a useful life greater than **20 years**.

Also constructed were:

- 1 Workshop for cosmetology and tailoring
- 1 Health Center in San Salvador, a Chachi community



CAEMBA MODEL HOUSE



Galvalume roof, oven painted, with projection for protection against rain and sun.

35 m² interior space with a 3 m² porch.

Bamboo treated with linseed oil for fire and weather resistance.

Reinforced concrete posts.



THE CAEMBA PROCESS

Before and after conditions for a family



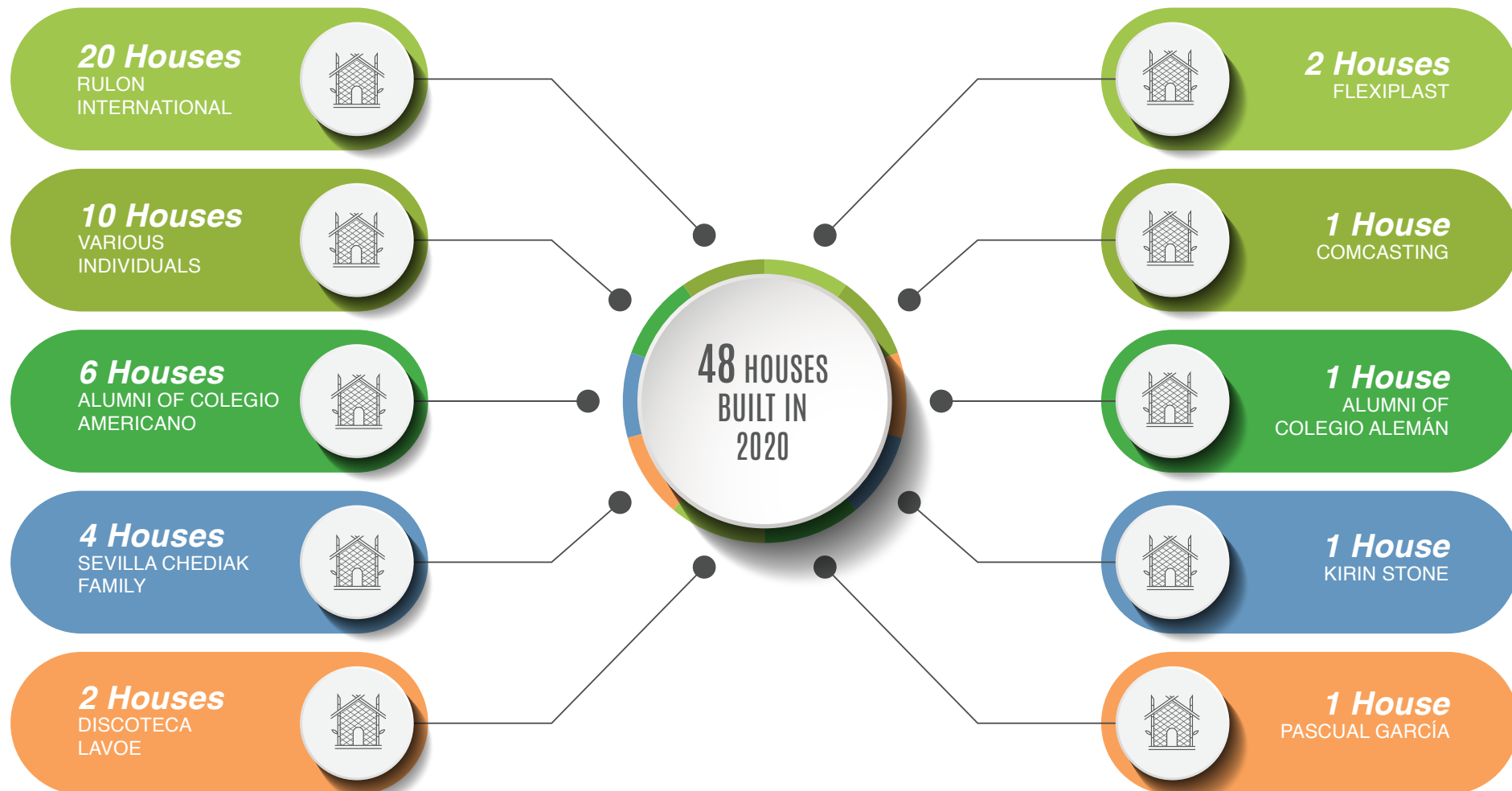
Construction moments in Atacames



Caemba houses built in 2020 transformed the lives of many families. Since we focus our work in areas of high poverty, Caemba transforms not just the life of individual families but also entire communities.



HOUSES BUILT IN 2020



48 TOTAL HOUSES IN
ESMERALDAS Y MANABÍ



CAEMBA: ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR WOMEN

For women in extreme poverty and living in precarious conditions a Caemba house is a first step towards dignity and self-esteem. Yet, we recognize that this is just a start and that effective empowerment of women depends on economic self-sufficiency.

This is why Fundación Raíz undertakes holistic work to bring vocational education to women in the areas where we work to eliminate precarious living conditions.

Despite the pandemic, Fundación Raíz graduated **17** of 20 women enrolled in a cosmetology and tailoring course.

This was an important achievement given confinement requirements which caused the course to be suspended for **7 months**.

The cosmetology course lasted **150 hours**, took place in the Casa de la Mujer, and was presented by the FUNDER organization.

Fundación Raíz ***provided the sewing machines and arranged for donations of materials necessary for the training.***



CAEMBA: ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR WOMEN



IN MAY 2021, 17 WOMEN GRADUATED, 13 OF WHOM FORMED AN ASSOCIATION AND BEGAN TO COMMERCIALIZE VARIOUS PRODUCTS.

FUNDACIÓN RAÍZ ALSO BUILT A SPACE TO BE USED BY THE GRADUATES AS A SEWING CENTER AND FOR EXHIBITIONS WHILE THEY DEVELOP THEIR BUSINESSES AND OBTAIN THEIR OWN SPACE.



THIS SPACE WAS BUILT BY CAEMBA WITH SUPPORT FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL OF THE COLEGIO AMERICANO DE QUITO



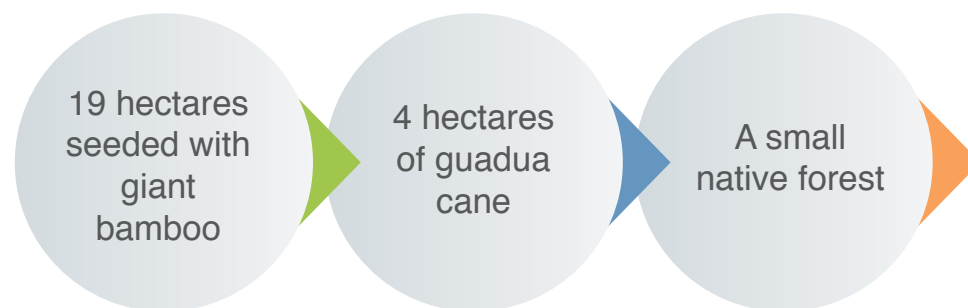
CAEMBA INFRASTRUCTURE

With support from an anonymous donor Fundación Raíz purchased a 25 hectare piece of property in July 2019. The property is situated at km 32 of the Santo Domingo - La Concordia road.

WITH THIS ACQUISITION:

- 01 Fundación Raíz has a source of raw material
- 02 The property is situated on a main road
- 03 The property has access to water, electricity
- 04 There is access to abundant labor
- 05 Services such as hardware suppliers and mechanics are available in the area

THE PROPERTY COMPRISES:





CAEMBA INFRASTRUCTURE

During 2020 Fundación Raíz completed construction of a processing plant for producing Caemba houses as well as pools for bamboo treatment.



Completed
Caemba plant



Pools for treating
bamboo



Work area for
assembling panels



CAEMBA INFRASTRUCTURE

PRODUCTION PLANT

1

The plant has an area of 468 square meters

2

Has 2 work areas for producing prefabricated panels for house construction

3

Can deliver 300 houses per year

POOLS FOR BAMBOO

1

One 12 meter long pool is used to treat thick, structural pieces of bamboo

2

Two 6m x 3m pools are used to treat bamboo used in walls and flooring



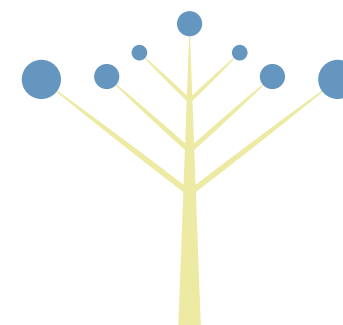
Thanks to the donations we receive, we progress year after year.

BEYOND LAGARTOCOCHA





ACTIVITY IN 2020



During 2020 Beyond Lagartococha could not realize significant activity because schooling was suspended in Perú and Ecuador due to the pandemic. As such it was not possible to raise funds for the high school students of Quito who support this project financially. Likewise classes in the Siekopai communities were suspended in 2020.



For this reason the major activity of Beyond Lagartococha during 2020 was training of the teachers of the two schools. The teachers traveled to Iquitos for an intensive 3 month course provided by Formabiap. Successful completion of this course provided the teachers with the equivalence of second year studies as intercultural, bilingual teachers.

Teachers should complete 4 courses before achieving permanent status as teachers in schools of intercultural education. Having completed the second year of professional development allowed the teachers sponsored by Beyond Lagartococha to sign contracts with the Peruvian Government for the 2020-2021 school year.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY





INTRODUCTION

On March 16, 2020 the Ecuadorean government declared Covid-19 a national emergency. This required the majority of the Ecuadorean population to remain in isolation to avoid transmitting Covid-19. This left millions of people without work or income, a situation that affected most those who were already poor.

Fundación Raíz reached out to our primary donors and in a few days raised

\$35.000

For the purchase of food and medicine for vulnerable families in the areas where Caemba had built housing in Atacames.

01

We initiated GoFundme campaigns to deliver food to families of the Siekopai community.

02

We aided vulnerable communities affected by economic and health impacts of the pandemic.

03

We achieved a strategic alliance with the trust "Por Todos"

04

We worked closely with personnel of Ministry of Public Health.

05

We work with the Amazon Indigenous Confederation (CONFENIAE); the Federation of Chachi Centers of Esmeraldas and the Indigenous and Peasant Movement of Cotopaxi (MICC).

The initial raising of \$35,000 opened the gates to a total raised of

\$1'083,999.92



1. FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Fundación Raíz distributed 22,399 food kits of which 20,318 were financed by Trust Por Todos

During the months of lockdown, Fundación Raíz focused its activity in providing food kits to families in poverty so they could remain in place and not have to move to obtain food.

Food distribution was complemented with rapid testing acquired by Fundación Raíz and other rapid tests donated by trust “Por Todos” and Catholic University of Quito.

Recipients

Manabí & Esmeraldas

- In Atacames, particularly in the Nueva Esperanza neighborhood
- Chachi ethnic minority of Esmeraldas
- Awa nation

Amazon

We aided these indigenous groups:

- Siekopai
- Chachi
- Siona
- Kofán
- Shuar

Issues in these communities

- Extreme poverty
- High criminality rates
- Drugs
- Families whose members contracted Covid-19
- With personnel of the Ministry of Public Health we identified families in extreme poverty with handicapped members or those with serious pre-existing conditions.

Strategic Alliances

- We worked with and supported personnel from the Muisne-Atacames branch of the Ministry of Public Health.
- We collaborated with the trust “Por Todos” who provided USD 430,513 for food purchases which Fundación Raíz distributed using its extensive networks.



1. FOOD DISTRIBUTION

INVESTMENT IN FOOD

| ITEM | POR TODOS | FUNDACION RAIZ |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Food | \$430,513.00 | \$47,231.00 |
| Logistics | | \$30,127.00 |
| TOTAL | \$430,513.00 | \$77,358.00 |

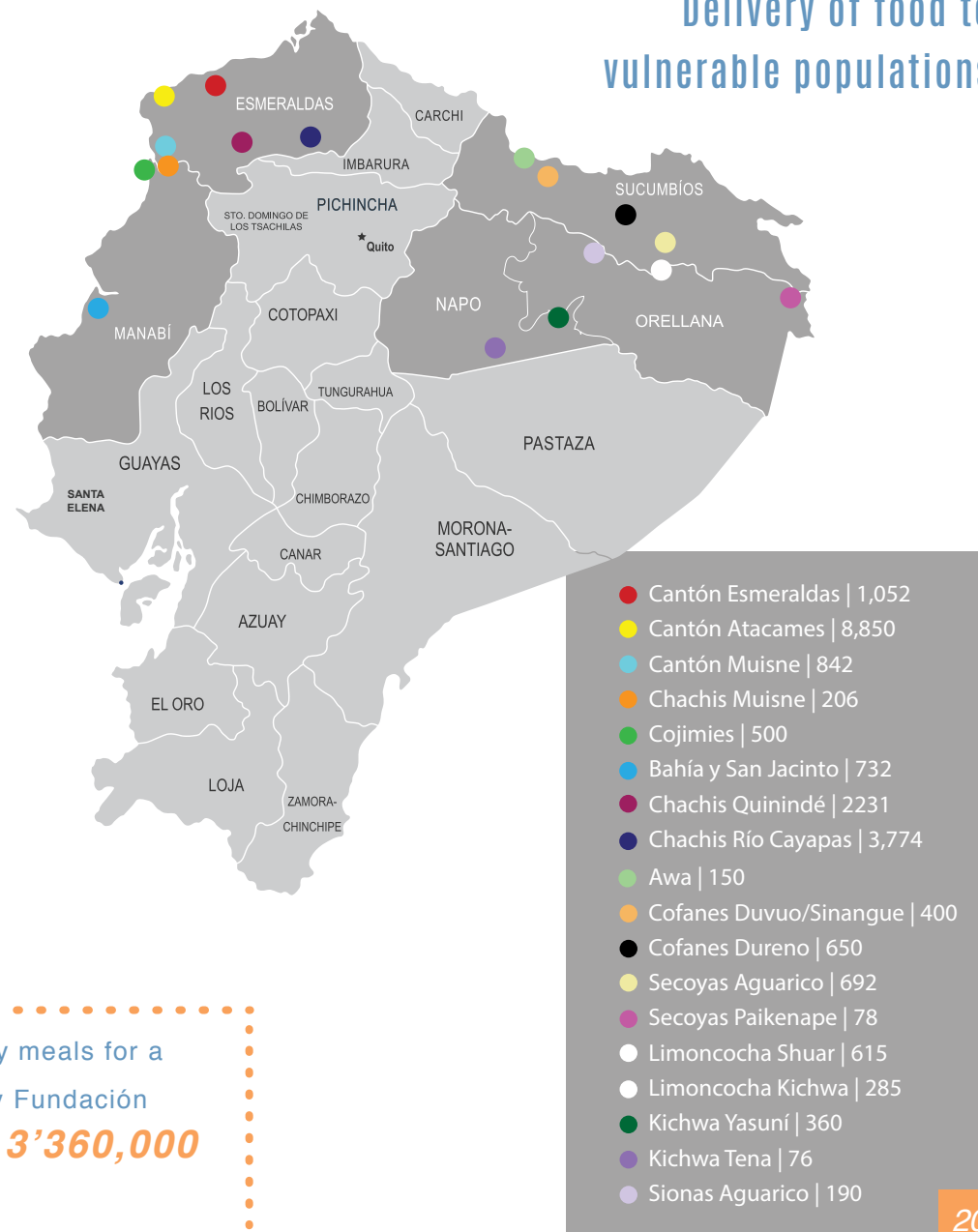
FOOD KITS DELIVERED

| CANTON | | NATIONALITY | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Atacames | 9,043 | Chachis | 6,211 |
| Muisne | 842 | Secoyas | 960 |
| Esmeraldas | 1,052 | Shuar | 615 |
| Bahía | 732 | Kofán | 1,050 |
| Pedernales | 500 | Kechwa | 721 |
| Quinindé | 523 | Awa | 150 |
| TOTAL | 12,692 | TOTAL | 9,707 |

TOTAL 22,399

Each Food Kit provides 60% of the nutritional elements for 2 daily meals for a family of 5 people for 15 days. The 22,399 Food Kits delivered by Fundación Raíz, thanks to the Por Todos donations, provided approximately **3'360,000 food dishes**.

Delivery of food to vulnerable populations





2. SUPPORT FOR THE MEDICAL SYSTEM



Center for Respiratory Care in Atacames

The Atacames district has a population of approximately 50,000. In high tourist season the population nearly doubles.

There is no public hospital. The sole hospital in Atacames, Hospital Guasti, belongs to the Catholic Church and is leased to the Ministry of Public Health. Hospital Guasti provides basic health care. During the pandemic 3 beds were isolated from the rest of the hospital and dedicated to treatment of patients with moderate respiratory issues caused by Covid-19.

Patients who could not be treated at Hospital Guasti would be sent to the hospital in Muisne, 90 minutes from Atacames, and those requiring intensive care would be sent to General Hospital Delfina Torres in Esmeraldas, 30 minutes from Atacames. These arrangements not only complicated treatment for Covid-19 patients but opened the possibility of further contagion as patients and their families had to travel for care.



Center for Respiratory Care in Atacames

1

Fundación Raíz was solicited by the Muisne-Atacames branch of the Ministry of Public Health:

- We were asked to build a provisional center for treating Covid-19 patients.
- With capacity for hospitalizing 8 patients.
- With oxygen.
- With a clinical laboratory.
- With tools for tracing Covid-19 patients.

2

- **Fundación Raíz and Caemba** built the medical facility with an investment of **\$32,500**.
- Trust “Por Todos” provided all medical equipment at a cost of \$70,790.
- Trust “Por Todos” also provided 1,500 rapid tests at a cost of \$19,500.
- Fundación Raíz undertook the costs of cleaning and maintenance of the facility during June 2020 to December 2021.

3

Construction and equipping the facility took 10 days on land lent by the Lions Club of Atacames. The land is located next to the highway between Atacames and Tonsupa which provides convenient access to most of the population in Atacames.

Between June and December 2020 the medical center treated 50 patients with Covid-19 out of which one died and 3 patients were transferred for intensive care at General Hospital Delfina Torres de Esmeraldas.



Center for Respiratory Care in Atacames

This center became of fundamental importance. It allowed Atacames to keep its beaches open during August through December 2020 and avoided stressing their medical system.



Hospital Ward



Hospital Ward



Clinical Laboratory



PROVIDING OXYGEN

Vulnerable Communities

PROCESS



01

We surveyed the existing supply of oxygen tanks:

- Health subcenters in the Amazon
- Health subcenters in Esmeraldas
- Health subcenters in Cotopaxi

The survey was conducted by:

- Fundación Raíz
- CONFENIAE
- MICC in Cotopaxi
- Federation of Chachi Centers in Esmeraldas
- Various local branches of the Ministry of Public Health

02

Survey results:

- **60 of 90** subcenters in Amazon had neither oxygen nor necessary medical equipment
- **Only 6** tanks of oxygen existed in the Atacames district
- No health center focused on the Chachi population had oxygen tanks.
- In Cotopaxi there were **30 oxygen tanks** for an indigenous **population of approximately 200,000**

SOLUTION



01

To address the need Fundación Raíz obtained:

- **181** oxygen tanks, each of 6 m3 volume
- **12** oxygen tanks of 1 m3 volume aerial evacuation for indigenous communities in the Amazon.
- **30** oxygen concentrators of 5 l/m.

02

In Cotopaxi Province, Raíz, in collaboration with the Indigenous and Peasant Movement of Cotopaxi (MICC), established an oxygen bank comprising:

- **52** oxygen tanks of 6 m3 volume
- **30** oxygen concentrators of 5 l/m



PROVIDING OXYGEN

Vulnerable Communities

Distribution of oxygen tanks to remote locations required transport by air and river.



COVID patients in Cotopaxi with oxygen treatment in their homes

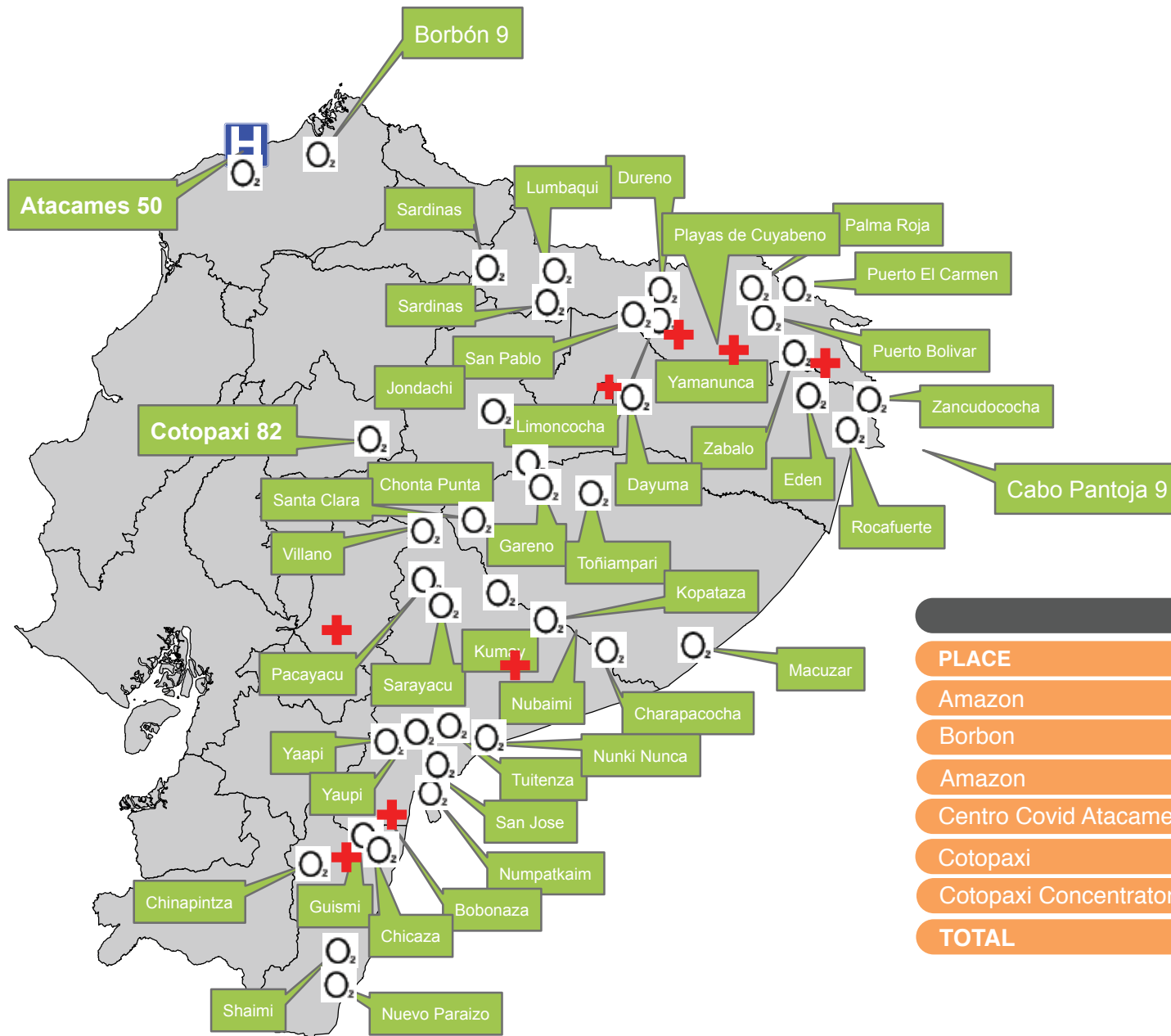


Collaboration with indigenous groups through organizations as the Amazon Indigenous Confederation (CONFENIAE); the Federation of Chachi Centers of Esmeraldas and the Indigenous and Peasant Movement of Cotopaxi (MICC) was key to the success of this work. In the Amazon, CONFENIAE was responsible for the logistics of delivering oxygen from the town of Puyo including aerial and river transport.



PROVIDING OXYGEN

Vulnerable Communities



OXYGEN TANKS

| PLACE | CAPACITY | AMOUNT |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Amazon | 6m ³ | 70 |
| Borbon | 6m ³ | 9 |
| Amazon | 1m ³ | 12 |
| Centro Covid Atacames | 6m ³ | 50 |
| Cotopaxi | 6m ³ | 52 |
| Cotopaxi Concentrator | 5cl/min | 30 |
| TOTAL | | 223 |



EPIDEMIOLOGIC CONTROL

Together with personnel from the ministry of Public Health, **Fundación Raíz** managed a Covid-19 testing program. This work monitored contagion in Atacames and also early detection of Covid-19 in the Amazon.

7.500 COVID TESTS

2.000 WERE TYPE PCR AND WERE
DONATED BY THE CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY OF QUITO
(PUCE).

1

In Atacames the tests were done in conjunction with food distribution so that people in dire poverty who tested positive could remain in quarantine with food assistance.

2

The effort in Atacames lasted from March through December 2020 and resulted in successful control of the contagion.

3

Sadly the effort was halted at the end of December 2020 due to lack of funds. This caused an uptick in contagion in Atacames in early 2021.

The effort included two Covid-19 detection campaigns focused on people who offer tourist services so that visitors to Atacames could be assured that their guides and hosts were not Covid-19 carriers.



DEVELOPMENT OF A LABORATORY WITH ELISA ANALYSIS CAPABILITY

Control of the Covid-19 pandemic is highly dependent on low cost timely diagnostic testing for monitoring levels of exposure and immunity of the population.

It is necessary to make large numbers of immunological tests. One of the most efficient and reliable methods are ELISA serological tests.

ELISA testing also allows identification of various tropical diseases such as Chagas, Dengue, Yellow Fever, Leptospirosis and other diseases endemic in the coast of Ecuador and Amazon.

Fundación Raíz facilitated the donation of equipment and necessary training for making ELISA studies in two laboratories:

FRANKLIN TELLO BINATIONAL HOSPITAL

- 01 Located in Nuevo Rocafuerte on the Ecuador - Perú border.
- 02 Serves a population of around 9,000 Ecuadoreans living on the Napo and Aguarico rivers in the Aguarico and Cuyabeno districts.
- 03 60% of this population is indigenous.
- 04 Fundación Raíz obtained and donated the equipment needed for ELISA testing.
- 05 We stocked a laboratory with:
 - Hematology analyzer
 - Coagulation meter
 - Trinocular microscope
 - MicroElisa reader
 - Computer
 - Printer
 - Furniture

CENTER FOR RESPIRATORY CARE IN ATACAMES

- 01 Operated by the Ministry of Health.
- 02 Fundación Raíz obtained and donated equipment needed for ELISA testing.



ENABLING HEALTH SUBCENTERS FOR THE CHACHI POPULATION OF ESMERALDAS

Indigenous Chachi people reside in 16 scattered villages along the Ónzole, Cayapas, Hoja Blanca and Canandéa rivers in the north of Esmeraldas and in communities in the Muisne district.

Chachi people rely upon subcenters for basic health care.

A study carried out by Fundación Raíz and personnel from the Ministry of Public Health and the Confederation of Chachi Centers determined that the greatest need in the subcenters is basic equipment for gynecology and pre- and post-natal care.

Acting on this information, *Fundación Raíz*, using funds provided by Trust “Por Todos”, purchased **16 maternity Kits** for each subcenter that serves the Chachi population in Esmeraldas Province.



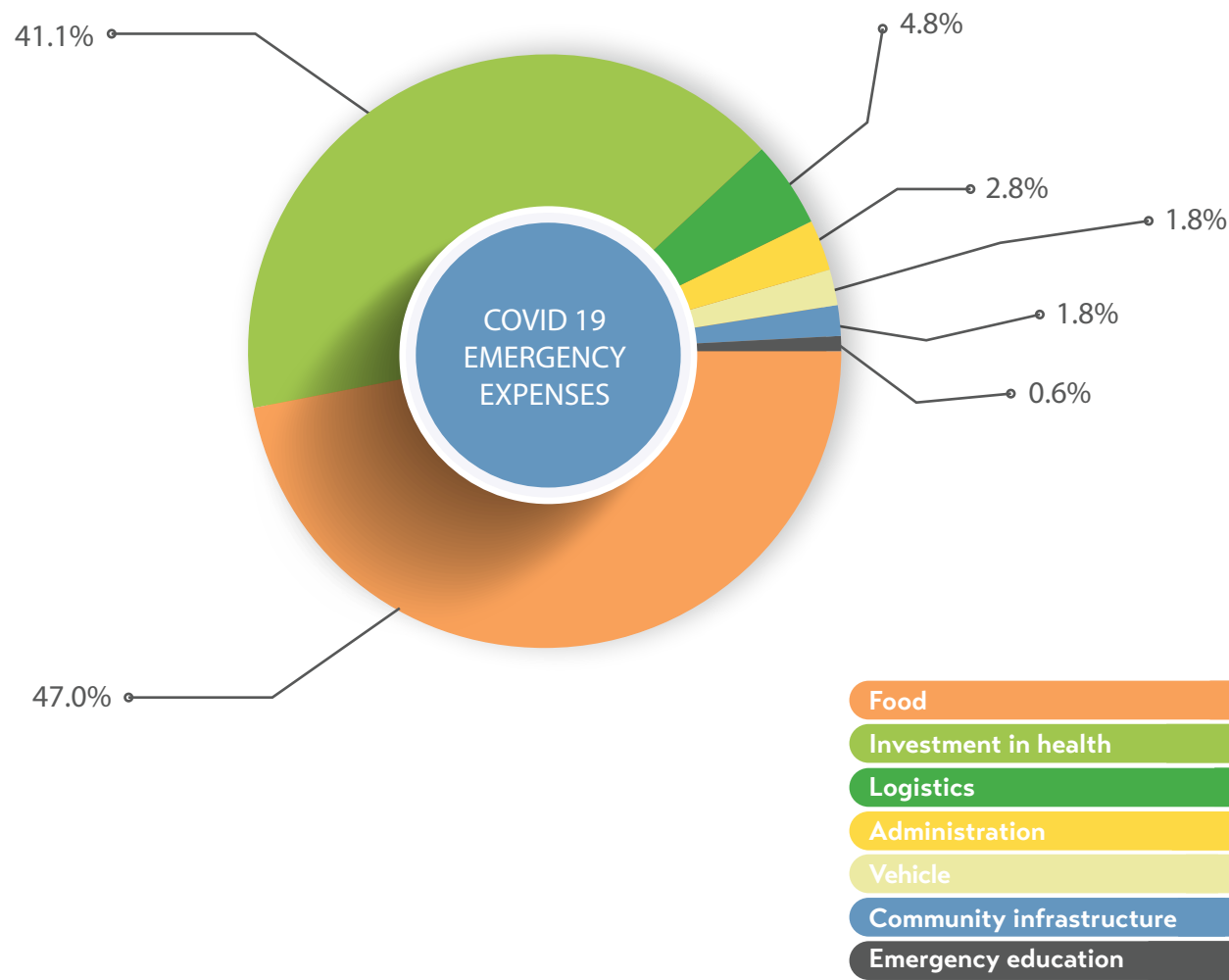
Delivering equipment in the San Miguel subcenter and conditions in one of the health subcenters in Ónzole river.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR FUNDACIÓN RAÍZ IN 2020





INCOME AND EXPENSES IN 2020





INCOME AND EXPENSES IN 2020

INCOME

INVESTMENT IN FOOD

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Trust Por Todos Cash | \$689,470.92 |
| Trust Por Todos in species | \$29,990.00 |
| Raíz USA COVID | \$125,000.00 |
| Tamer Family Foundation & Friends | \$90,000.00 |
| Rulon International | \$60,000.00 |
| Ecuador Donations | \$36,071.00 |
| Foreign Donations | \$30,000.00 |
| Gofundme | \$22,668.00 |
| TOTAL | \$1'083,199.92 |

RAIZ USA DONATIONS FOR OPERATING COSTS RAIZ ECUADOR

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Raiz USA Operations | \$200,000.00 |
| Raiz USA Purchase of Land | \$65,000.00 |
| TOTAL | \$265,000.00 |

CAEMBA (Bamboo Houses)

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Rulon International | \$56,000.00 |
| Various Donors | \$84,000.00 |
| TOTAL | \$140,000.00 |

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| TOTAL INCOME 2020 | \$1'488,199.92 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|

EXPENSES

COVID RELATED EXPENSES

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Emergency Food | \$507,871.00 |
| Medical Equipment | \$273,000.00 |
| Medical Infrastructure | \$61,245.00 |
| Logistic | \$52,000.00 |
| Protection Equipment | \$31,000.00 |
| Raíz Vehicle | \$29,990.00 |
| COVID Tests | \$25,230.00 |
| COVID Staff Salaries | \$23,000.00 |
| Medicines | \$19,500.00 |
| Medical Supplies | \$19,300.00 |
| Administrative Costs | \$15,000.00 |
| Community Infrastructure | \$20,000.00 |
| Covid Education | \$6,450.00 |
| TOTAL COVID INVESTMENT | \$1'083,586.00 |
| COVID 2020 BALANCE | \$346.44 |

NON COVID EXPENSES

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries | \$186,630.00 |
| Purchase of land | \$65,000.00 |
| Tools | \$1,500.00 |
| CAEMBA Constructions | \$124,800.00 |
| Machinery Maintenance | \$4,500.00 |
| CAEMBA Gala Booking | \$12,000.00 |
| Secoya's Teachers Course | \$2,800.00 |
| Legal Expenses | \$2,800.00 |
| Services and Office Supplies | \$4,300.00 |
| TOTAL NON COVID EXPENSES | \$404,330.00 |
| NON COVID 2020 BALANCE | \$670.00 |

