



**EL RIO FOUNDATION
ACADEMIC TUTORING
PROGRAMME 2023**

EL RIO ACADEMIC TUTORING PROGRAMME OVERVIEW:

1. AIMS OF PROGRAMME:

- To improve the education of 70+ children in our local town of Buritaca, Colombia.
- To provide 24 hours of Academic Tutoring every week to help children who didn't go to school for 21 months.

2. WHO ARE WE?

Rio Hostel, Buritaca is an award-winning hostel (voted 2nd best in Latin America and best in Colombia in 2018) with a large community outreach programme.

Our charity arm, the El Rio Foundation runs educational, sporting and environmental projects to positively impact our local community.

Our Academic Tutoring programme was designed in response to a request by local parents and community leaders to help provide educational opportunities for local children, who as a result of the pandemic, didn't go to school for nearly two years and have huge gaps in their education.

For the best introduction to the Foundation, please click [HERE](#) (short video) or [HERE](#) (longer video). For the latest foundation updates, please follow us [@elriofoundation](#) on Instagram.

To see a video introduction to our 2022 Academic Tutoring Programme please click [HERE](#).



3. CURRENT SITUATION:

School-aged children in our local area were really struggling in January 2022 for a number of reasons:

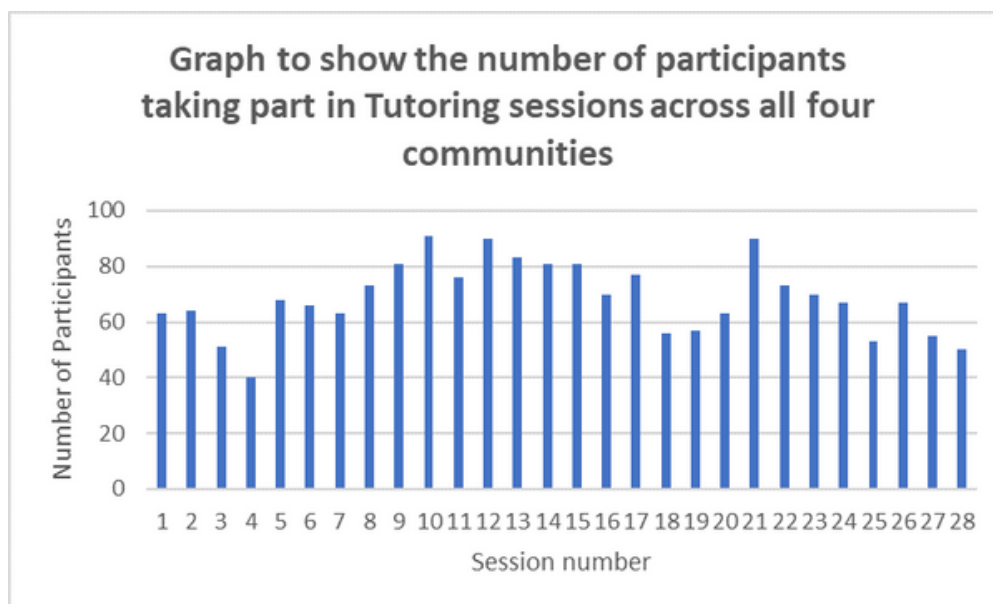
- There was no in-person schooling for 21 months – Schools closed in March 2020 and remained closed until late January 2022. National plans to deliver lessons virtually were not realistic in our area due to poor internet connection and very limited devices.
- Academic work practically ended for many children – Weekly homework or ‘Guides’ could be picked up from school but as most children’s parents didn’t have the sufficient level of education to help them, most children didn’t understand what was being asked of them. Lots of children also live 30 minutes to 2 hours from school, so almost immediately stopped going to pick up the ‘guides’ that they didn’t understand.
- Large class sizes and difficult learning environment – Even now there is school, it is sometimes very difficult for children to learn effectively in the school environment with 30+ pupils in the class and teachers without much experience or teaching qualifications.
- There are huge gaps in children’s education – The low level of education over the past two years has resulted in some students not knowing basic maths and having great difficulty with reading and writing.

With very strong feedback from parents and the local community about what would help their children the most and to address the nearly 2 year gap in schooling, we decided to provide Academic Tutoring for 24+ children in our local area.



4. OVERVIEW OF ACADEMIC TUTORING PROGRAMME

Our goal at the start of the project was to improve the education of 24 local primary school children, however thanks to funding from La Vida and the Lata Foundation and the work of our brilliant teaching team, we have been able to provide educational opportunities for 70+ children each week.



As well as focusing on Spanish and Maths and supporting children with their homework, we have been working with the children to improve their concentration, team-working, problem solving, empathy, confidence and communication skills. Understandably lots of the children struggle with many of these key skills, with some children aged 9+ not being able to read and write at all at Week 1.

Even in a few months, we have seen amazing progress. Please read our latest impact report [HERE](#).

	Villacuisa	Las Cabanas	Buritaca	Linderos	Overall % increase
Reading	2%	24%	8%	21%	14%
Writing	8%	14%	11%	15%	12%
Listening	9%	12%	11%	19%	13%
Wide vocabulary	3%	15%	8%	21%	12%
Speaking clearly	5%	12%	8%	14%	10%
Overall Communication and Language	5%	15%	9%	18%	12%
Overall Maths	4%	10%	8%	15%	9%
Concentration	7%	12%	17%	14%	12%
Team-work	16%	13%	10%	4%	11%
Confidence	2%	8%	15%	17%	11%
Empathy	16%	18%	10%	8%	13%
Problem Solving	5%	10%	11%	13%	10%
Average improvement across all skills	7%	14%	10%	15%	11%

The children were assessed on each of the skills above in Feb 2022 and again in late June 2022 by a mixture of tests (for Reading, Writing and Maths) and Teacher assessment.

Following a very successful first year of Tutoring project, we are now seeking a long-term funding partner for the programme.

5. TIMETABLE OF SESSIONS AND COMMUNITY OVERVIEW:

In 2023, we will continue to run Tutoring sessions in our four local communities: Buritaca, Las Cabanas, Villacuisa and Los Linderos.

The average numbers of children in each Community is below:

	Participants
Buritaca	19
Las Cabanas	17
Villacuisa	18
Los Linderos	17

Our timetable will also stay the same*:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Buritaca – 2.30 – 5.30	Las Cabanas: 2.30 – 5.30	Buritaca 2.30 – 5.30	Las Cabanas: 2.30 – 5.30	Los Linderos 2.30 – 5.30
	Villacuisa: 2.30 – 5.30	Los Linderos 2.30 – 5.30	Villacuisa: 2.30 – 5.30	

*During rainy season, we sometimes reduce the sessions to 2.30 - 4.30 to avoid the worst of the rain, but in that case we will always have an additional support teacher to keep the ratio of staff to pupils really high.

At each session we have one lead teacher, one or two support teachers and one volunteer teacher.

Children also often come to our current sessions hungry, so we always provide a healthy snack, water/juice and the occasional treat.

As a reward for children who have high attendance and good behaviour at Tutoring, we run half term trips every 3 months. This year we have been Tubing, visited a Gold Museum, attended a theme park and been on a Nature Tour. The trips have been extremely well attended and hugely enjoyed by all.

Through the programme, we now also have great relationships with parents and meet with them every 3 months to discuss how we can best tailor the programme for their children and their community.



6. MEASURES OF SUCCESS:

- Number of participants - 70+
- Regular attendance at Tutoring sessions - 80%+
- Number of hours of teaching - 24 hours per week (18+ during rainy season with 4 teachers)
- Improvement of all skills in all communities (please see above) - 10%+
- Enjoyment of sessions rating - 8/10 +
- Individual case studies - 1-2 per class

7. BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING NEEDED PER COMMUNITY:

- **Lead Academic Tutor** - £6 per session x 6 hours a week = £36
- **Academic Tutor 2** - £4 per session x 6 hours a week = £24
 - 40 weeks x £60 = £2,400
- **Academic Tutor liaising with individual class teachers** on average 1 hour a week.
 - 40 weeks x £5 = £200
- **Teaching and classroom materials**
 - Pens, paper - £25
 - Photocopies - £1.50 per week x 40 = £60
 - Total: £85
- **Transport for tutor** to and from classes:
 - 5 journeys x £1 = £5 per week
 - £5 (x 3 teachers - 2 Teachers and 1 volunteer) = £15 x 40 weeks = £600
- **Fruit, Water and snacks:**
 - £6 per session (35p per child) x 2 sessions per week = £12 x 40 weeks = £480
- **Parents evenings catering**
 - £15 x 1 = £15
- **End of half term trips** as reward for high attendance and commitment - £100 x 4 trips = £400
- **Project manager:** £400

Total per community = **£4,580**

Total for Academic Tutoring Programme for the year in 4 communities (Buritaca, Las Cabanas, Villacuisa and Los Linderos): 4 x £4,580 = £18,320

