



EL RIO COMMUNITY ENGLISH PROGRAMME 2023

EL RIO COMMUNITY ENGLISH PROGRAMME:

1. AIMS OF PROGRAMME:

- Improve the level of English (writing, reading, speaking, listening) in the local community we will focus on six specific groups:
 - Our hostel staff (funding provided by El Rio Hostel)
 - Community programme - school-aged children (outside of school)
 - Community programme - adults (working in local businesses)
 - School children (inside of school)
 - Indigenous programme - School-children
 - Indigenous programme - Local guides
- Deliver 60 + hours of English lessons each week
- Increase number of students improving level of English month by month

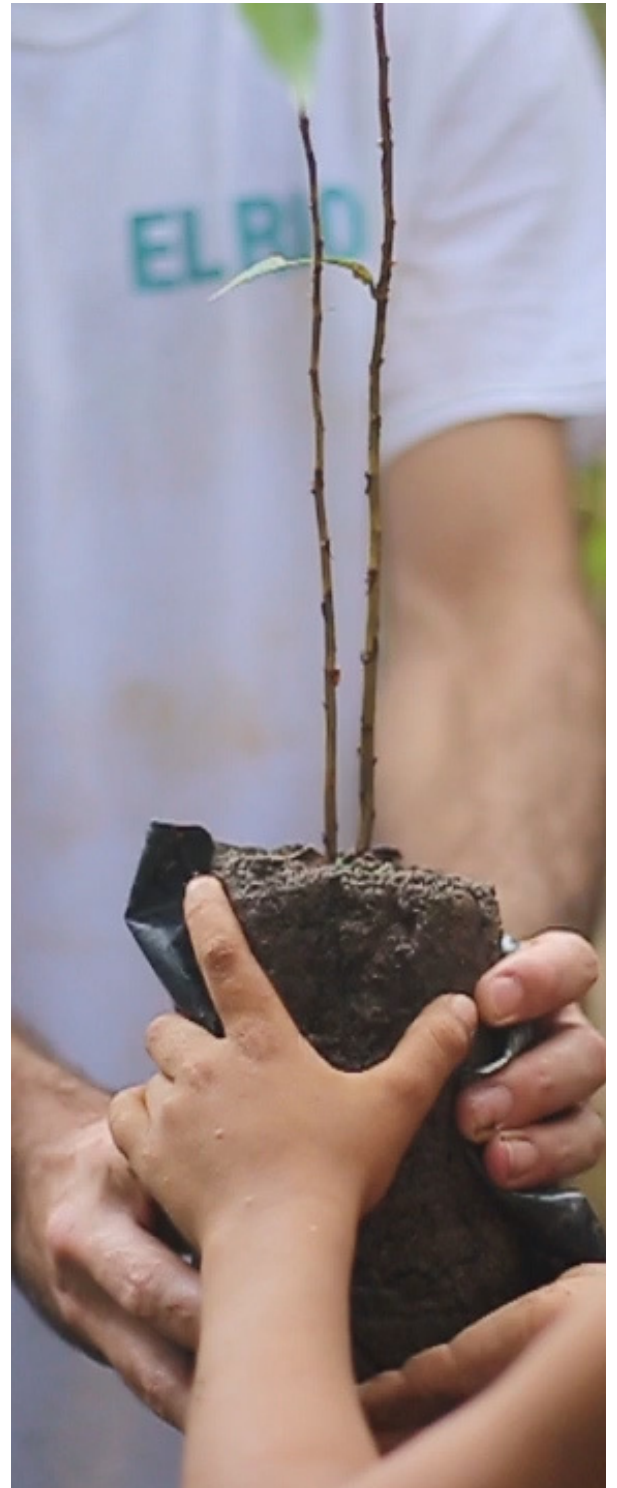
2. WHO ARE WE?

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 first community outreach programme which started prior to the hostel opening was our 30 hour a week Community English programme. We are now seeking funding to expand the impact of the programme in our local area.

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



3. CURRENT SITUATION:

Unfortunately there is a real lack of funding in Colombian education and often our community English teacher has to fill in for teachers at the local primary and secondary schools. There are very large classes and the quality of English teaching is very mixed. The Magdalena region has also been fairly isolated from the rest of Colombia until recently due to the conflict and so has missed out on international influence that has benefitted other areas of the country. The standard of English in the local adult population is therefore extremely low. The economy prior to the peace deal was mainly based on illegal activities, whereas there is now a huge opportunity for eco-tourism to improve the economy across the region. There is therefore a huge desire especially from young people to learn English.

We are very proud of our volunteer led Community English programme to date, however to meet increasing demand and maintain high standards and consistency of teaching, we are looking for external funding to help widen and deepen the impact of the programme.

In 2020 and again after the Covid Pandemic, we were approached by the Indigenous community leaders from Quebrada del Sol who asked if they could get involved in all our Community Programmes. They have over 200 children and no English teacher. They also have a big opportunity with eco-tourism, but unfortunately no one in their community can speak English. To read more about our El Rio Indigenous Community Programme, please click [HERE](#).

4. CASE STUDY: PATRICIA LOZANO

Patricia began at El Rio in the cleaning and laundry area just after we opened in 2016, and as with all our staff she was immediately enrolled in the Community English programme. With some one-on-one help, plus daily practice with the guests her level improved rapidly and she was promoted to bar manager 12 months later. Her level quickly became so advanced that she was able to move to the reception team, dealing with check ins & checkouts, emails and bookings from day one.

Due to the conflict, Patricia hadn't actually been to school regularly until she was 13, yet with only a month of intensive lessons of written English and Spanish, she was quickly able to keep up with the rest of the reception team, most of whom have been learning English for at least a decade.

Patricia is now our Head Receptionist.



5. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY ENGLISH PROGRAMME:

From our experience, we have found it very important to organise students according to their abilities, level and needs, we have therefore six strands to our programme:

- **Our hostel staff - 28 staff:** 9 (kitchen), 10 (laundry cleaning and gardening team), 5 (reception team), 4 (bar team)
 - We will provide 20 hours of teaching each week.
 - Basic job specific language: 13 staff members
 - Full programme towards fluent English: 15 staff members
 - **Funding kindly provided by El Rio Hostel**
- **Community programme - 100+ children**
 - We provide 30 - 60 minutes of English teaching at each of our Academic Tutoring sessions in the communities of Buritaca, Las Cabanas, Villacuisa and Los Linderos. To see a short video about the programme, please click [HERE](#) - **Funding will be kindly provided by the sponsor of Academic Tutoring Programme.**
 - However, we would like to expand our Community English teaching to include the communities of Q.Maria (10 kids) - Mondays and Fridays - 2.30 - 3.30
- **Community Programme - Adults - 15+ adults**
 - We provide adult sessions for beginners and beginner intermediates for 8 hours a week:
 - 4.30 - 5.30 - Monday and Wednesdays - Buritaca (5)
 - 4.30 - 3.30 - Tuesdays and Thursdays - Las Cabanas (5)
 - 4.30 - 5.30 - Mondays and Fridays - Q.Maria (5)
 - 6.30 - 7.30 - Monday to Friday - Hostel open session (5 - maybe some of the same students as the other sessions)
- **School children - (in curriculum time) - 100+ children**
 - We would like to support the teaching of English in schools:
 - 08.30 - 10.00 (KS1) and 10.30 - 12.00 (KS2) - Q.Valencia School - Tuesdays
 - 08.30 - 10.00 (KS1) and 10.30 - 12.00 (KS2) - Guachaca School - Wednesdays
 - 08.30 - 10.00 (KS1) and 10.30 - 12.00 (KS2) - Los Linderos school - Thursdays
- **Indigenous Community programme - 200+ children**
 - Provide a full-time member of staff to teach:
 - 10 hours a week - 120 students in 3 primary schools.
 - 7 hours a week - 90 students in Secondary school
- **Indigenous Community programme - 4+ adults**
 - 4+ hours a week - Intermediate English with 4+ local young adults and adults in the Community.



6. MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- Number of students regularly attending Community English programmes - 400+ children and 40+ adults
- Number of students improving level of English month by month - 300+ children and 30 adults
- Number of students enjoying classes - Average enjoyment rating 7+/10
- Individual case studies - 1-2 from all programmes

Table of expected numbers of students in each programme:

Programme	Number of students	Number of Hours a week
Hostel Staff	25+	20
Community - children	100+	4 – 6
Community - adults	12+	11
School-children in school	100+	9
Indigenous children	200+	17
Indigenous adults	4+	4
TOTALS	440+	60+ hours

With additional funding, we would be able to have 3 Community English teachers and increase the numbers of students and hours of teaching.

7. MATERIALS

We are currently trialling a number of different materials to ensure we use the most appropriate resources for each group. Our current conclusions are below, but we welcome feedback on other TEFL resources to consider.

- Hostel staff
 - Hotel and Hospitality English: A1-A2 (Collins English for Work), additional didactic material: Conversational cubes, KS2 grammar, punctuation and spelling SATs cards. Cambridge fun for starters and English for Everyone: English grammar guide.
- School children inside and outside of school:
 - Curriculum – School resources ('Guía básica de aprendizaje del inglés'), English for Everyone: English grammar guide. Didactic material: same as above, plus Sentence building, Scrabble, Bingo, Guess who and large variety of flashcards,
- Community programme - Adults
 - Cambridge Fun for starters. English for Everyone: English grammar guide. English for Everyone: Practice. Plus didactic materials listed above.
- Indigenous programme:
 - Children - Let's Go – (for children who cannot read yet), plus materials detailed above.
 - Adults – Same material as 'Community Programme - Adults'.



8. OVERVIEW OF FUNDING REQUIRED:

- **Hostel Staff** - Funding kindly provided by Rio Hostel, Buritaca.
- **Community Programme - kids**
 - 4 - 8 hours English teaching at Tutoring - funding provided by funder for Tutoring programme
 - Q.Maria - £5 per session x 2 = £10 X 40 = £400
 - Teaching materials - £100
 - Total: **£500**
- **Community Programme - Adults**
 - 6 hours (2 x Buritaca, 2 x Las Cabanas and 2 x Q.Maria) x £5 = £30 x 40 = £1,200
 - Teaching materials - £100
 - Total: **£1,300**
- **School Children - in curriculum time**
 - 3 hours x 3 schools = 9 x £5 per hour = £45 x 40 weeks = £1,800
 - Teaching materials - £100
 - **Total: £1,900**
- **Indigenous Community Programme** - Funding most likely provided by Indigenous Community programme sponsor
 - Teacher wages - £250 x 10 months = £2,500
 - Food and accommodation for Community English teacher: £120 x 10 = £1,200
 - Monthly transport for Community English teacher:
 - £4- return journey to Q.del Sol - x 3 a week = £12
 - Return journey to Melezy - £8
 - Return journey to Casa Tabla - £10
 - Total = £30 a week x 4 = £120 a month
 - £12 x 2 return journey to El Rio - £24 a month
 - £144 per month x 10 = £1,440
 - Tailored Teaching materials for (including for those who cannot read and write) - £200
 - Programme Co-ordinator - £500
 - **Total: £5,840**

Programme	Number of students	Number of Hours a week	Programme cost per year
Hostel Staff	25+	20	Rio Hostel
Community - children	100+	4 – 6	£500
Community - adults	12+	11	£1,300
School-children in school	100+	9	£1,900
TOTAL (without Indigenous Programme)	235+	44+	£3,700
Indigenous Programme	200+	21	£5,840
GRAND TOTAL	440+	60+	£9,540

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

We would like to say a huge thank you to Margaret Hebblethwaite, who has run an extremely successful Community English programme in Paraguay for the last 20 years, for her advice and guidance on how to improve and deepen the impact of our programme.

10. CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you are interested in sponsoring the programme or would like to find out more about this or any other El Rio Foundation Projects, please contact Felix Sullivan at foundation@elriohostel.com or call +447956863661 or +573105005412.