



32 YEARS BOOK



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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear friends,

This year, our 32nd Anniversary, coincides with my 3-year anniversary as Director of Children Change Colombia. These last years have been a beautiful adventure. Leading an organisation that has so much history and that has brought together efforts from thousands of people that care about Colombia's future generations has been an honour, and having the opportunity to meet most of you, a pleasure.

At Children Change Colombia, we have had a fantastic season and thought I would round it off by letting you know what we have achieved thanks to our collective work over the past 3 years.

- Our partners in Colombia have grown from five to eight.
- The number of children we support has grown from 1,408 to 2,022 (988 boys, 1,030 girls and 4 non-binary)
- We have conducted 11 workshops with our local partners in Colombia, online and in person, as part of our capacity-building programme
- We grew 26% financially (from £354,411 in 2020 to £445,702 in 2022)

2023 is a very exciting year for CCC as we have many new projects and activities planned, both in Colombia and the UK. This year, CCC is directly implementing an Education and Livelihoods project in la Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. We have a small office in the town, and our team there has grown to support this initiative. We also have our first project in the UK for Colombian children in the pipeline, with the aim of reconnecting them with their Colombian heritage through music, dance, and art.

In April, we have a series of advocacy events in London for which we are bringing Paola Forero to the UK. Paola wrote the chapter on children and young people, "No es un mal menor", for the Colombian Commission of Truth. These events will be in the Houses of Parliament, London School of Economics and the Colombian Consulate.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that we have been selected for the BBC Radio 4 Appeal this year, and we are very proud to announce that our section will be presented by Sir Michael Palin in August.

So as you can tell, 2023 is a very exciting year for CCC!

With the team, we have prepared this lovely yearbook that summarises the history of CCC and all the achievements we have been able to reach thanks to your amazing support.

Here's to many more years to come!



Ángela María Carreño Malaver
Executive Director

OUR IMPACT ACROSS COLOMBIA

In the last 32 years, we have helped
65,933 Children and **41,477 Adults**



DEPARTMENT NUMBER OF PROJECTS

Valle de Cauca	14
Chocó	4
Cundinamarca	18
Putumayo	1
Bolívar	6
Caldas	2
Antioquia	2
Santander	1
Sucre	1
Meta	2
Guajira	1
Magdalena	2
Huila	1

DIRECTORS AND BOARD MEMBERS

CHAIRS

P.Foster (1998 – 2000)

Ian Tegner (2001 – 2003)

David Maxwell Scott (2003 –2011)

Caroline Moser (2012 – 2018)

Carolina Giraldo (2019 – To date)

DIRECTORS

Donna Leigh-Kile

Richard Taylor

Pilar Arango (1999-2009)

Rachel Joseph (2009- 2014)

Duncan Millar (2014- 2020)

Ángela María Carreño Malaver (2020 – To date)

TREASURERS

Robert Smith (1991 – 1997)

Kate Foster/Saunders (1997 – 2016)

Ritchard Drean (2016 – To date)

TRUSTEES

R. Lacey (1992 – 1994)

J. McLean (1992 – 1995)

J.E Jaramillo (1992– 1996)

G. Murphy (1992 – 1996)

P.Foster (1992 – 1998)

D. Douglas (1994 – 2001)

James Brumwell (1998 – 2001)

Helen Morton (1998 – 2002)

Lady Simpson–Orlebar (1998 – 2003)

Geraldine Murphy (1998 – 2011)

Christopher Jackson (1999 – 2001)

Mark Lauber (1999 – 2013)

Ian Tegner (2000 – 2002)

Kate Foster (2000 – 2015)

Julio Davila (2000 – 2016)

James Oury (2002 – 2003)

Jeremy Throp (2002 – 2014)

Don Anderson (2003 – 2009)

David Maxwell Scott (2003 – 2011)

Christopher Hardwood Darton (2003 – 2011)

Jane Anne Thomas (2005 – 2007)

Andres Gomez De La Torre (2010 – 2013)

Cathy McIwaine (2010 – 2016)

Felipe Alviar Baquero (2010 – to date)

Julia Hayes (2011 – 2017)

Caroline Moser (2012 – 2018)

Victoria Lowry (2013 – 2017)

Janey Wall (2015 – 2020)

Richard Drean (2015 – to date)

Mauricio Rodriguez (2016 – 2017)

Carolina Giraldo (2017 –to date)

Kevin Mills (2017 – 2018)

Marilyn Thomson (2018 – to date)

Martin Diaz (2018 – 2019)

Eugenia Londoño (2020 – to date)

Alex Jones (2020 – to date)

Juan Pablo Hernandez (2020 – to date)

Richard McColl (2020 – to date)

Fernando Caviedes (2022 – to date)

Cori Hollenbach (2022 – to date)

SOME PROJECTS THROUGH THE YEARS

1991 - 2023

1990s

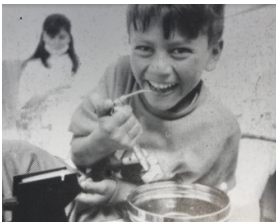
Children of the Andes (COTA), now known as Children Change Colombia (CCC), was born in 1991 following a documentary by Desmond Wilcox about homeless and at-risk children living in the sewers of Bogotá. This tragedy sparked an emotional response from many around the world, including in the United Kingdom. Children of the Andes was formed to fight against the most neglected issues facing the children of Colombia.



Jamie with children at the Cajica Center

One of the Children of the Andes's first trustees, Jamie Jaramillo, worked directly with the children of Colombia. In the first year, he rescued all children under the age of 8 from the sewers and brought 300 children under the foundation's care. Once COTA volunteers rescued them from the sewers, the children were brought to Cajica, a province just 39 km from Bogotá. In Cajica, COTA built a children's home where the children would live, attend school, and learn trades such as carpentry, weaving, baking, and leatherwork. The centre offered a complete education, trade training, health care, and recreational programmes.

STREET PATROLS



A boy demonstrates the new dental equipment provided by COTA

One of COTA's most influential initiatives, the street patrols, started in 1992. Every week, a team of doctors, dentists, social workers, and volunteers would take a foundation bus to help the children in the streets of Bogotá. The foundation's team provided the children with coffee, warm clothes, and medicines. The goal of these street patrols was to build relationships and gain the children's trust so they will voluntarily live at the foundation.

THE HOPE CENTRE

In 1993 in Subachoque, a country north of Bogotá, COTA purchased land from a successful advertising campaign in Colombia. They opened the Hope centre, a first-stage home for new arrivals capable of helping 70 children detox from drugs. Here, the children worked on the farm and learned trades that would be useful after rehabilitation. The site worked with children on repair (to home and family life) and detoxification (from solvent abuse) before going to Cajica.



A boy gets his haircut at Subachoque

FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

In the North West of Colombia COTA supported the Flying Doctor Service. The service fought against life-threatening diseases in children such as malaria and cholera. The flying doctors also provided surgeries to those with disabilities and implemented a Blindness Prevention Programme because children in this area were particularly vulnerable to diseases that affected their eyesight.



Flying Doctors with a Patient

MANIZALES



A boy collects trash in the river

In Manizales, Alberto Jaramillo ran a development programme in the municipal dump where entire families scratched a living from the municipal landfill, only earning 50 pesos a day. The development sought to help families learn various income-generating activities and thus not depend on the dump for income. Thanks to Children of the Andes, the nearest school was extended, and many children were fed there daily.

CIRCO PARA TODOS

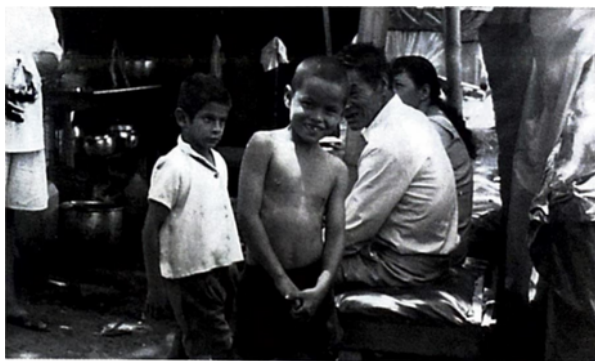
In 1998, COTA began supporting Circo para Todos, a professional circus school based in Cali. The school offered young people living on the street classes in clowning, dance, music, and developed their career opportunities. It was also in 1998 that Princess Anne visited Circo para Todos to support the children of Colombia.



Princess Margaret's visit to Circo Para Todos in 1998

1999 EARTHQUAKE

On January 25th, 1999 the most severe earthquake in Colombian history struck the province of Armenia. The two quakes brought down many buildings in the region of Quindío, killing 2,000 people and left 150,000 people homeless. 74% of school buildings were destroyed, and many children were left without a safe place to grow up. COTA collected many funds for this tragedy and successfully built a daycare centre. The centre provided therapy to help the children recover from the trauma. By 2000, the rural schools in Quintío COTA built were finished and 160 children attended daily.



Boy receiving aid in Quindío after the earthquake

2000s

FE Y ALEGRÍA

In 1996, in Santa Librada, COTA funded the Fe y Alegría youth centre. The centre provided children with various educational and recreational activities. Fe y Alegría was a peace-building and youth initiative that sought to engage children in gangs in Usme in dance and music. The children practiced many different kinds of artwork, dance, and play to support a healthy lifestyle. By the 2000s, the center implemented rap and breakdance workshops with street gang members.



A young girl playing with a puppet
at Fe y Alegría

COLEGIO DEL CUERPO



A young dancer at Colegio del Cuerpo

In 2003, Children of the Andes began supporting Colegio del Cuerpo. This social dance project also used dance to help children recover from the trauma of witnessing war, increase their sense of self-worth, and cope with life as displaced young people. The organisation implemented a kind of “Body Education” that combined dance, movement, and education on anatomy, physiology, nutrition, sex, substance abuse, and conflict resolution. This type of education was to help disadvantaged children deal with issues affecting their development. Research showed the programme improved school attendance, behavior, academic performance, and the ability to deal with conflicts.

CEDAVIDA

COTA also continued to support children affected by war with the organisation Cedavida. The goal of this organisation was to help families displaced by conflict start a new life. In 1997, COTA dealt with Colombia's "Dirty War," where two left-wing guerrilla armies fought the Colombian government in Bogotá.



Children at Cedavida

COTA then funded and worked with families and children uprooted and torn apart by the escalating conflict. Through the "PeaceBuilding Community" set up in Apartadó, more than 7,700 people received direct therapeutic, nutritional, educational, and vocational help.

FUNDAMOR



Activities at the Fundamor Foundation

Children of the Andes began supporting the Fundamor Foundation in 2004. The organisation had provided support to orphaned and abandoned children with HIV/AIDS since 1992. They provided medical, educational, and emotional support to those children affected by the disease.

Fundamor organized Colombia's First National Convention on Children and Young People Affected by HIV and AIDS in 2009. 120 young people attended that convention as well as 34 NGOs and government agencies. This was a historic event given that for the first time, children and young people themselves were at the heart of the discussion and gave direct suggestions to the adults in charge of improving their services. After the convention, youth representatives then had permanent seats on Colombia's National Committee on Children and HIV/AIDS.

2010s

FUNDACION CARVAJAL

Fundacion Carvajal worked to help children develop the skills to protect themselves against violence by improving their educational performance. It addressed low attainment levels in five schools in Buenaventura by working with 500 children aged 6 to 11. The children engaged in educational reinforcement activities during their half-day outside of school. Sessions at the school promoted principles such as respect, teamwork, and critical thinking. Activities included creative writing, art, IT, maths, music, dance, drama, and environmental awareness, promoting local culture. This education made a tremendous difference in keeping children off the streets and making productive use of their free time.



A young girl at school with Fundacion Carvajal

RENACER FOUNDATION

In 2009, Children of the Andes started their work with the Renacer Foundation in Bogotá and Cartagena. In 1988, Renacer became a Colombian NGO addressing CSEC (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children) that worked to create an environment where CSEC was not accepted or acceptable. The foundation provided residential care, prevention programs for children at high risk, advocacy, training, and outreach support to victims. In Cartagena, COTA supported the organisation with a comprehensive prevention plan involving the tourist industry, local and national government, and law enforcement agencies. COTA gave Renacer further help to develop the largest CSEC prevention project ever run in Colombia. They reached thousands and brought together child victims, at-risk children, families, communities, schools, health services, law enforcement, the legal and local governments.

2016 NAME CHANGE TO CHILDREN CHANGE COLOMBIA

FUNDESCODES



Children of Fundescodes

In 2016, CCC supported Fundescodes in Buenaventura on Colombia's Pacific coast. Buenaventura was a critical strategic area for the armed actors in Colombia's conflict, and many children were exposed to the violence of the illegal armed groups. Thanks to the support for Children Change Colombia, Fundescodes worked in four of Buenaventura's worst-affected neighborhoods to protect children's rights within their communities and support the children suffering from the conflict. For example, Fundescodes helped one community set up a 'Chapel of Memory' with photographs of community members who have been killed or disappeared by armed groups. These displays of unity and remembrance were peaceful acts of defiance of the fear and hopelessness that has silenced these communities.



Children Changing Children

Additionally, during a month of city-wide demonstrations against government neglect, Fundescodes' youth leaders met with public officials to share their ideas and opinions about developments required by the city's youth. Children also led community clean-up campaigns, bringing over 600 children and adults together in one year to reclaim public football fields and playgrounds from neglect or appropriation by armed groups.

EL ORIGEN



El Origen provides access to education in the Northern Caribbean region. El Origen works with five schools to help teachers create fun and educational lessons for the children.

This project seeks to ensure that the most disadvantaged students affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and the on-going Venezuelan migration and refugee crisis can continue to receive the quality education they deserve. El Origen also strives to teach children life skills which will enable them to achieve their future ambitions.

The project pioneered an educational app which encourages independent learning, and help disadvantaged students. A year after O-lab's implementation, 80% of students strengthened their knowledge of – and interest in – STEAM subjects and were able to create innovative and creative projects that addressed challenges facing their communities. Students took part in a range of entrepreneurial projects , including eco-projects, jewelry production, provision of rural tourism and more. These projects motivated students to develop their entrepreneurial skills, a necessary step towards the professionalization of future generations.

WATCH THE VIDEO



CURRENT PROJECTS

TIEMPO DE JUEGO



Boys playing at Tiempo de Juego

Since 2013, Children Change Colombia has worked with Tiempo de Juego in Cazucá, Soacha, near Bogotá. Because most schools only operate on a half-day schedule, most children need positive activities to fulfill the rest of their day. That is why Tiempo de Juego runs a project to generate vital skills and positive role models for children through activities like football, dance, and a work creation programme. Today, Tiempo de Juego uses its activities to work against the recruitment of children to armed groups and keep young men and women from being involved in gangs. Their work has helped end the stigma of former child recruits and has helped reintegrate those children into society with the utmost opportunities to succeed.

WATCH THE VIDEO



ASOCIACIÓN CRISTIANA DE JÓVENES (ACJ)

Children Change Colombia became a supporter of Asociación Cristiana de Jóvenes (ACJ), located in Bogotá, in 2010 and continues to support them today. ACJ mainly focuses on ending the sexual exploitation of children.



The organisation works with families where the mothers or young women were affected by sex work. ACJ works to raise awareness with at-risk young women of other forms of income available to them. The organisation teaches women new life skills and aids them with decision-making. They help women identify risk, report violence, and know how to implement their rights.

CÍRCULO DE ESTUDIOS

In 2017 CCC began a partnership with Círculo de Estudios in Quibdó and also Cartagena from 2021, to reduce the risk of conflict-related sexual violence against children and young people. The project works in schools in marginalised neighbourhoods to raise awareness of CSEC and how to prevent it, as well as providing psycho-social support for child survivors of sexual violence and their families.



Healing through the arts

Their work with children is centred on healing through the arts and on the principle of a 'círculo' or 'circle', a workshop which combines psychosocial support and training in children's rights with dance, music and theatre.

CRAN

Children Change Colombia has worked with Fundación CRAN since 2015 to effectively reintegrate children and young people who have been part of illegal armed groups (including FARC) into civilian life.



CRAN activities over the holidays

CRAN helps children find foster homes and acquire their fundamental rights, such as giving them documentation (ID), access to education, health care, and recreational activities. CRAN also works in communities where children are at risk of recruitment to consolidate a healthy community with children and caretakers. Overall, the organisation works to eradicate the stigma of former child recruits and help them create a better future.

ACADESAN

Since 2019, CCC supported the promotion of a healthy education for the Afro-Colombian children of the pacific region. Located in an isolated area of Colombia, this project works in four schools, where 80 children participate in Acedesan's development of a new school curriculum that does away with traditional learning-by-rote teaching and instead makes lessons fun and participative.



Students of Acedesan

The curriculum integrates teaching about the children's Afro-Colombian culture and rights into regular school subjects. Acedesan focuses on developing children's social and emotional skills to contribute to creating a peaceful, collaborative environment within their schools.

MISSION GAIA

The Caribbean Coast of Colombia is characterised by high unemployment, low education levels and extreme poverty. By contrast, the area has become a tourist hotspot, but businesses tend to be run by foreigners or people from other parts of Colombia with a higher level of English, leaving local people trapped in a cycle of poverty.

The project provides teachers and school management with resources and training to support to adapt and re-plan the educational process, in order to improve the quality of education. They also provide extracurricular support to the students with tutoring in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) courses, as well as English lessons. The aim is to enhance overall school proficiency, as well as the children's critical thinking and communication skills.



The project also teaches young people vocational and entrepreneurial skills with an emphasis on eco-tourism and green jobs, so that locals can benefit from their biodiverse territory.

WATCH THE VIDEO





Text and Design by Parker Gioia



Children Change Colombia

www.childrenchangecolombia.org

Registered Charity Number: 1075037

5 Richbell Place, Holborn, London, WC1N 3LA



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Colombia



@childrenchange
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