



ORGANIZATION

Prosegur, Spain
pledges to

**To combat school dropout through our
development cooperation programme,
Piecitos Colorados**

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Name:

Combat school drop-out rates through our development cooperation programme, Piccitos Colorados.

Description:

We firmly believe that education is the driving force of progress and as such plays a decisive role in the fight against child labour. Although all children have the right to an education, in the most vulnerable contexts – and especially in rural areas – there are various factors that increase the number of children who do not attend school (difficult access to school or insecurity; economic costs; lack of infrastructure and basic services in the centres; poorly trained teachers and educational materials, etc.).

Our Piccitos Colorados development cooperation programme, managed by Piccitos Colorados, focuses on many of these aspects and seeks to improve the education and quality of life of children from disadvantaged backgrounds in Latin America, starting with the school as the driving force for change. With a comprehensive intervention in phases (rehabilitation of infrastructures, nutritional training, improvements to education and promotion of sport) and based on joint responsibility between families, the educational community and enterprises, schools become dignified and safe spaces where children can develop and complete their schooling. This has a direct impact on lower school drop-out rates, and helps to reduce the situations in which these children may be pushed into child labour.

Our commitment for 2021 is to reinforce this support and assistance for the 37 schools in the programme (located in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay) and their more than 5,000 pupils, but adapting it to the current context of the pandemic, trying to mitigate the effects that school closures have generated in the most vulnerable communities.

Implementation plan:

One year after the start of the pandemic, most of the schools in the programme have not returned to face-to-face schooling but alternate between hybrid formats or continue to operate virtually. Given the connectivity problems in many of these rural areas and the lack of electronic devices in the most vulnerable families, this changing context creates the risk that more children will be left out of the system and, therefore, be increasingly exposed to child labour.

PROSEGUR, SPAIN

That is why this year our pledge to combat school dropout focuses on actions to reduce the digital divide so that it does not further increase the education gap and the cycle of poverty:

- refurbishment and provision of computers and tablets so that the most disadvantaged students can continue their education;
- delivery of school kits and school supplies to all students so that they have the materials they need to study;
- support for teaching staff through didactic content tailored to their needs and subjects, as well as training in digital tools;
- strengthening of the monitoring of scholarship students in secondary school and university, increasing contact with families;
- where technology is lacking, offer physical training booklets to pupils in cross-cutting subjects;
- strengthening networking with teachers and generating spaces for exchange and learning with the support of local educational partners.

Impact:

At such an uncertain time for schools in vulnerable contexts, Picitos Colorados's educational support aims to leave no pupil behind. The biggest challenge is sustaining the link with communities and raising awareness of the importance of training when classrooms have to close. This is also the lever for preventing more children from dropping out of the system and ending up working when they should be developing their potential. Support for teachers, as multipliers of improvement for pupils, and working together for an inclusive digital education, will be a hallmark our action.

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