

2010 Ecuador Research Results

Results are taken from 35 surveys received from 4 different communities. Most participants were host families. Received 4 additional surveys from community leaders in 4 additional communities. **Total of 39 surveys, representing 8 different communities.** 1 interview with Anisa, Raul's wife.

1. Motivation: "If you participated in the decision to receive the students in the community, what was your motivation for wanting to do so?"

# of Responses - Category	Examples of Responses
18 - Learning/New experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I wanted to learn a lot from them and their leaders • To learn many things from them and they learn from us
14 - Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We received the young students with a lot of enthusiasm and joy because they came to help us with a project in the community • Because we were going to fulfill a dream that our community has wanted for a long time
11 - Cultural Exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to learn through them about diverse cultures, experiences, customs, and traditions • No other foreign people have ever come to this community and we wanted to have a visit from other people
6 - Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with the community • As good human beings, we must take in anyone that comes to visit, in this case even more so because they came from so far away. We have to act in solidarity.

2. Enjoyable parts of program: "If you enjoyed the experience with the students, explain how and why."

# of Responses - Category	Examples of Responses
10 - Sharing ideas/customs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being together, we could talk about religion and about their customs and our customs. • Personally I enjoyed it a lot but I don't think it was just me but also the whole community. We enjoyed working together, socializing, sharing experiences and sharing thoughts, culture, and traditions between countries. It was very pleasant having them as guests.
9 - Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liked teaching them Spanish • Above all the most important thing was that they taught us English
9 - Student behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes because they were excellent students, very creative and dynamic, they are especially great workers, we had a great time. • Yes, we enjoyed the experiences with the foreigners because they are very respectful and caring.

8 - Forming family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We enjoyed ourselves like we would with family, we offered them our humble and simple home and became like their parents. Being able to receive a new family was one of the most pleasant and marvelous experiences
8 - Activities, sports, and work together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing in the work, playing, sharing over lunchtime, swimming in the river. It was really marvelous to share with them. Working equally, swimming in the river, playing sports was great.
7 - Meals/food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taught them how to make food, enjoyed teaching them Students made our family a meal, kicked us out of the house to do it, they made the table very nice and pretty and cooked everything themselves.
6 - Learning/New experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes we enjoyed it because we could share mutual experiences with each other We learned a lot of things from them and they from us because we talked about a lot of things with them
5 - Laughter/joy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jokes and laughter all the time Yes because they made us laugh
2 - Community growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was a great joy having the GR students in our community, because of them we made a lot of advances in the community Personally, I don't have any negative experience, every event was very organized with the purpose of continuing the fight for this community to move forward and get ahead.

3a. Benefit to self: "Did you benefit from the experience? How?"

Yes: 30; No: 4

# of Responses - Category	Examples of Responses
13 - Shared customs, ideas, and opinions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I learned about the customs of the kids, it was very nice. We learned about what we didn't know I met people from another country different from ours
4 - Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning to pronounce a bit more of their language Learning English, their language
4 - Labor/project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes because through that time they taught us how to work as a unified community Acquiring values of union, comradeship, and a predisposition for work.
2 - No benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, the school wasn't completed There was no benefit because we are not using it, on the contrary we have more work to tear it down and to try to arrange for and make a school room from cement

3b. Benefit to family: “Did *your family* benefit from the experience? How?”

Yes: 32; No: 2

# of Responses - Category	Examples of Responses
8 - Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Especially the children learned a lot from the students • Meeting foreigners for the first time and hosting them in our homes and learning about the students’ values • We learned to live together with foreigners
7 - Developing relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing with the girls, making them feel that we respected and care for them as members of our family • During the time they were here with us we had good comradeship. We shared food and our home and this brought us together as if we were a family.
5 - Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because our children learned to speak some English • Our children enjoyed themselves learning their language and customs
5 - Labor/project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No benefit apart from the labor • Thanks to them we have a community center
1 - Gifts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They left behind friendly souvenirs like some material things for our children
1 - Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raul is in politics and it serves his political desires but not as much so that he becomes a great politician but instead to carry the message that there are still good people in this world that can come to help and give a hand without expecting a vote in exchange. When Raul wasn’t a politician, he worked with GR and now that he’s a politician he continues the work. It helps people realize that there are still people out there do this work without any other interest; GR doesn’t come because of political or religious motives. It’s the same for Raul, he works hard and demonstrates to people that the community can move forward and in one way or another today or tomorrow, the results will show. We work and show the people that together we can keep moving forward. We can do anything. (Anisa)

3c. Benefit to community: “Did *your community* benefit from the experience? How?”

Yes: 29; No: 6 (6 of the “no” was from Las Minas)

# of Responses - Category	Examples of Responses
9 - Project/Other material things	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We didn’t think that a project like this would come to our community and now we have it and are very happy. • Thanks to them, we received things that we didn’t have • Always, they always benefit. They’re always wondering and asking if they’ll return and waiting for more, always. Do you think the benefit is mostly the projects that the students build or the cultural exchange? It’s almost always the projects. The exchange is good but...the volunteers always have to leave. The communities are left behind but do really well with the projects. I think that the impact of the students, the volunteers is momentary

	because they are always going to wait for new faces, in a certain sense they are realistic and interested in those who come bringing something. So in the moment that Renee or Paula or Andrew, they are going to treat them all really well but they're going to wait, wondering, ok, what did you bring? They are foreigners who come to support them and if they come once, they give 3 or 4 times. That's how the community sees it. In the end they see them like politicians. Give me, give me, give me. Up to a point, I can't criticize them because they've been poor people in their communities, they've had a lot of problems, they've been fighting to survive, to see something new. When they see a group arrive they think, oh they're going to give something to us, and I think they want to take advantage of it to the maximum, taking everything that they can to do something for the community, for their pride, for the well-being of their children and everyone. It's good because in a sense the people's minds evolve a bit. From the students they do learn new things but I think that's where it ends because the community can't get out from where it is. It's likely that some of them want to leave but generally they don't do it. (Anisa)
6 - Leadership & Unity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becoming more united • Working on the projects has demonstrated that when there is a good leader and unity among people and ideas, you can complete any work with success
6 - No benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No because the project was not completed. • Yes it was a negative experience but we now have experience for the next opportunity
4 - Interactions w/ students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We benefited because of the good behavior of all the students • Yes by spending time and sharing the experience with the students.

3d. Benefit to students: “According to your perspective, did *the students* benefit from the experience? How?”

Yes: 30; No: 1

# of Responses - Category	Examples of Responses
15 - Learned new customs/experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning to be tolerant in a place that is not like your own and learning different customs • Some of them learned a little about everything, cooking, working, washing, dancing • It seems to me that instead of waiting for gratitude, the students leave very grateful themselves. They leave feeling like, wow, what good people. (Anisa)
5 - In their work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They put everything they had into donating the school for our community • We were able to see them working with 100% effort like it was their own work • Learning a lot of things in their work
3 - Happiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes because they were very happy and content
2 - Learned to be away from home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because they learned how to cope in a place that they had never been to before • These students can learn something to improve the way they live. But normally I see that the students who come have really good experiences, they spend a lot of time laughing at things that might be strange for them but normal to us. I think they will always have something that makes them laugh. At the beginning it's hard, things gross them out but after awhile they land and say, yes, this can be my environment. In general they take away a very good life

	experience and afterward, they thank their parents, their communities, some stay in touch, others want to return. When it's time to go, there are always so many tears, so much sadness and you can see that they can live like we do here. (Anisa)
2 - No benefit or unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They had a purely negative experience without any benefit • We don't know if they benefitted because we haven't been able to ask or communicate

3e. Equal benefit/Reciprocity: True or False: "The students, my community and I benefitted equally from the experience. Explain."

# of Responses - Category	Examples of Responses
26 - True	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We all benefitted from something • We all benefitted in different ways • We learned from them and they learned from us. • In reality, yes we had experiences just as much as they did because we were part of one family • Yes, it's always the law of compensation, if you give you receive. Eye for eye, tooth for tooth. In those 15 days, everyone is very involved in what they are doing and what needs to be done with the work. The time flies and everyone gets something positive out of it. (Anisa)
4 - False	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community didn't because it stayed the same as before • The students worked a lot and nothing was finished and the project is breaking down • So much sacrifice without any benefit • Unequal because each one has his own way of being. Also, the community lacked agreements and participation.

4. Effect on your community: "How did the program affect *your community*?"

# of Responses - Category	Examples of Responses
10 - Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They left us several projects in our community • Because it's a project that benefits all the members of the community without excluding anyone. • By building the room, they left us a beautiful souvenir • Thanks to this program we have a new project and the students came to invest in our humble community. • Positively because this community needed someone to come to give the support necessary to improve and give a new image to our village
6 - No effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everything was normal and there weren't any inconveniences • There was no affect because it served us well
4 - New people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The arrival of new members to the community

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We had a bond with them that we've never experienced before
3 - Positively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone was in agreement and very happy I think that it didn't affect the community, instead we were very happy and thankful for the unconditional support from the students and leaders
2 - Negatively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project wasn't finished and this didn't sit well with the community Negatively because the school wasn't finished because of the complicated design and now it doesn't function and the children continue walking 4 km to the closest school
1 - Unity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There's always something really good left behind for the community and the people. For me the biggest impact is on the community, there's comradeship, unity. We see the "minga" work and this is very positive for the community. The whole community participates, the men and women and even sometimes the children help with smaller things, the whole community is sharing the work and afterwards sharing the work that they have done.
1 - Desire for more development/progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally, the students leave very happy, and the impact on the community from what I can tell is a lot of gratitude but also a lot of hope for more. What else? For example, when the girls were here with us, they always worked in place nearby. Once they finished one project, they wanted another. Now we have this bathroom, now lets do a room, ok now we have the room, let's do something else. People often think well if they already gave me this, why can't they give me this other thing. There's always the idea, I want more. The people start to wish for them to return and the impact of this is that they want to progress. Some communities really look for people to give to them, hoping for things to be given directly to them. The people evolve, they want to continue, and there is always a hope that they will return. This hope is created and there's faith that everything is possible, that even if it's not right here and now with this group it's in their mind that some other situation will allow them to do it all again, to work together again. Tabanal Chico is a community where GR has been twice, 12 years ago they were there for the first time. You can see the progress there. It's like a moment when people wake up and start acting positively. I don't think this hope existed before. The first experience that we had here was in Campo Bello about 13-14 years ago. Raul said there's a group coming from the U.S. and they are going to work on building a school so take down the old school that you have and prepare the space. The people didn't believe they would come. Raul had to go one day before the group arrived and knock down the roof because the people didn't believe. (Anisa) Do you think this impact (desire for progress) is positive or negative? Very positive. We have gone to places very far away to look for communities and the people are so thankful that they even cry with gratitude because it's so far away and the people are so closed off so when you approach them about participating, they don't believe you because politicians don't even go there because the roads are so steep or destroyed. It's horrible, some of the communities are very cold. So the people are very happy, very grateful. So I think it's something very good for GR and for us as coordinators. (Anisa)

5. Community Unity: "Was the community more united or divided after the program?"

# of Responses - Category	Examples of Responses
20 - United	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because today the members of the community participate in social events together

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have a place to meet to celebrate both cultural and sports-related events In the future we hope to stay united because that is the only way that we will be able to move forward and make a better Ecuador
7 - Remained the same	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of the community is benefitting from the project. Yes, we get together for meetings in support of things but we don't end up doing anything. Thanks to God that in this community unity has always reigned and we continue in that way Afterward it went back to being the same
6 - Divided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Divided because they were disappointed that the project wasn't completed as planned A little divided because of the lack of understanding and knowledge, because they weren't prepared. It is the same as before: divided Because after you all left the community divided

6a. Contact with students: "Are you still in touch with a leader or student from the group?"

# of Responses - Category	Examples of Responses
34 - No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are not in touch because we don't understand their language We haven't had any contact since the day that they left
5 - Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the Internet (email) Very infrequently by cell phone

6b. Contact with students: "Would you like to be in touch more with the students or leaders?"

# of Responses - Category	Examples of Responses
39 - Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They should come back here Yes, I would like to communicate with them but I don't know how to do it. Yes we would like to because they left us good memories and so they can finish the project In the first place to say hello and to know how they are doing living in a country that is very developed We would like to be in contact with the leaders to see if there is another opportunity with a small budget to construct a solid building To know what has happened in their lives, so that they will visit us.
0 - No	

7. Suggestions to improve GR programs

# of Responses - Category	Examples of Responses
14 - Keep helping others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My suggestion for the people at GR is to continue supporting the communities who need it most • Knowing that education is the center of human progress, this program should start helping all the educational institutions since many of them are abandoned by the appropriate authorities.
11 - Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire a better maestro or make sure GR leaders know something about construction. • My suggestion would be that they leave the projects completed in each community. In our community, they didn't finish the work. • The leaders should finish the project because the men in charge in this region cannot manage money • That they leave the project finished, that there is an agreement between the community and the students, that the model of the project is to the liking of the community
6 - Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the people at GR are not misled by the leader and that they make the decisions themselves • Make sure the students and leaders have good coordination
5 - Requests for more help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring programs to improve our community, whether they are educational, social, or cultural. • Yes to finish the school and form other new projects with the organization GR
1 - Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One suggestion is that all the students eat vegetarian, that it is a rule while they're here because that way the students and you all feel more comfortable because we used to have a lot of sick students. The students are used to the different meat parts that we eat and in this area, in these communities, people kill sick animals. They kill them in a bad way and so the stress from the animals ends up on the plate. So my suggestion is to have more rules regarding food, force everyone to eat vegetarian, even up until the time they leave because last time they left here healthy and then they got sick in Banos. It's a big problem, for you as a business. (Anisa)

8. Complaints

# of Responses - Category	Examples of Responses
4 - Foreman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We had some difficulties with the foremen because they didn't build it the way they should have • The foreman. There were 3 foreman and they didn't build the project very well
4 - Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What bothered us a bit is that the work on the cabin wasn't finished and was incomplete. We want the coordinator to help us finish the work so that it is completely done. • I don't know what happened, if the coordinator was to blame, but the school was not completed so we don't use it at all and it is totally destroyed. We couldn't make our community's dream come true. • The experience that I had to live was negative and a disappointment for the community. We didn't understand the

	material that we were going to use on the project.
4 - Raul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We don't have any complaints about the foreign girls. We do have a complaint about the Engineer Cabrera because he made the school based on the model that he liked and this is why the project wasn't finished • After the students left, the Engineer did not finish the project. He has not come here again. He is here today because of this meeting organized by you
2 - Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Troubles with the food because they don't eat all types of food. • The majority of the students don't eat everything that they are served on the table. I tell them, don't worry about it, if they don't eat, it's not your problem. Put it on the table, and that's it. But for the local people it's very strange that this happens. I've taught them and we've tried to change the strategy of the food so that everything is very healthy and there are a lot of bananas and oranges because this is enough to sustain a person for a month, and water, with this you can survive for a month without losing weight. So I look for a way that the people won't feel bad and the students won't die of hunger. I mentioned that a lot of community members mentioned that it was interesting to receive vegetarians in their homes and learn how to cook for them. This might be the biggest impact on the communities but I don't see a problem, I simply give them a course on how to use carrots, bananas, papaya, oranges and whatever they have in their homes. They don't have to go to the market to buy more. We teach them because they are worried about the cost. We tell them that there is plenty in their homes, we live out in the country, there's food everywhere. (Anisa)
1 - Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well it would be great if everyone could speak Spanish but I don't feel like learning English either so it's not a strict rule. In one word only, it has been very positive and really what I feel is a lot of gratitude. I wish they spoke Spanish but I hope one day I could speak English too. That's it. (Anisa)