



# Transforming LIVES

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## COLOMBIA



### EduFinance in Colombia

In Colombia, EduFinance is implementing the Education Quality Improvement program focusing on early childhood. We hope that education is the first place where the wounds left by 50 years of violence are healed and a new generation is born, the generation of peace.

*We move forward together*

### EDUFINANCE PROMOTES ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

In late 2016, the Colombia Education Quality Improvement program was inaugurated in Barranquilla with the formation of the first cluster. Eight schools, supported by professor Celia Trillos, get to know and transform their schools through environmental awareness, which is considered a component of responsible citizenship by the Government and is consequently mandatory in school programs. In 2017, eight new schools formed the second cluster in Barranquilla.



### LESS DUST AND MORE GREEN IN THE CLASSROOMS

Acknowledging the importance of the school environment has led children and their parents to study the local vegetation and to plant and take care of aromatic plants that change the arid color of dust for green while repelling insects. This way, a commitment to the environment makes people work together.

*"Why have you planted this flower?" we asked a little boy. "To give it to a kid from another school", he answered*



### WE ARE STARTING TO NARRATE NEW STORIES

The Barranquilla clusters are building trust and solidarity by awakening environmental awareness, but also strengthening research and literacy, which has been defined as the objective of the School Self-improvement methodology.

Each school has opened a blog where teachers narrate in diverse ways their transformative experience with EduFinance.



### TAKING CARE OF OUR CHILDREN

In Bogotá, the Educational Quality Improvement Program began in mid-2017 with a group of eight schools led by Professor Andrea Camacho, and it is focused exclusively on early childhood. These schools have joined other schools who are now Opportunity clients to attend a training program in School Leadership and Management, designed for the context of Colombia by an interdisciplinary group of experts in education. On August 26, the Neuroscience and Pedagogy workshop was held, which inaugurated a three-module seminar about the protection of the school population. Thirty seven teachers and school managers participated in this meeting, where they offered tools to advance the care of our children:

*We made the decision to expel from our school a four-year-old whose aggressive behavior was unmanageable. After this workshop we have changed our thinking, we are going to take that small forward, we know how to do it.*



### OUR EDUFINANCE SCHOLARS

Richard Julio Estarita, aged 9, and his brother Moisés, aged 11, are among the first group of 15 students to benefit from the EduFinance scholarship program in Colombia. Richard attends second and Moisés third grade. Their studies were interrupted for full three years, when their mother abandoned them and they had to wait in the street while their father worked in construction. With no stable home, every night they took shelter at an aunt's house. The Santa Marta School found them in the street and took them back to school. Their father started an independent business selling coffee in the streets of Barranquilla, and although initially he was able to afford only one uniform and one notebook for the two of them, Richard and Moisés are currently making progress in their education.



Children are reusing discarded materials to build containers to through waste away and to keep their school supplies

Our common purpose: to create awareness of the importance of healthy school environments.



Edu Finance promotes the participation and commitment of parents in education. Benefited students are becoming tutors of younger students.

## INDICATORS

### EDUCATION QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

3

Total clusters



Barranquilla

2



Bogotá

1

24

Participating schools

5.995

Benefited students

46%

Boys

54%

Girls

274

Benefited teachers

### SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

37

Trained teachers

19.774

Students benefited through loans

49

School Improvement Loans disbursed

893

Jobs