

El Semillero, la escolita de Los Llanos Apure State, Venezuela

I. Contact details

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Recommended to me by: Monica Viloría Méndez, an attorney-at-law who studied in my same class at the UCV. Her children study at Colegio Francia.

Entity: Asociación Civil El Semillero composed by the Comunidad de Mata de Madera

Objective: The association runs a school in the middle of Los Llanos financially supported by Comunidad del Colegio Francia

Location of the school: Mata de Madera, Parroquia Mantecal, Apure State.



Location in Apure, Venezuela

II. Background information

In 2002, the school was composed of what you can see in the image below and counted 12 students, un 17 years-old teacher, and one single class.



The school in 2002

III. Recent developments

3.1. By October 2015, the school has been offered a new infrastructure as can be seen in the following two images. The school counts with covered class-rooms, one for kindergarten,

two for primary school, and one for secondary school, a kitchen, a Mensa, four toilets, one open sports field, and one area for cleaning.



New structure of the school

3.2. The school is offering today Kindergarden, Primary and Secondary School.





3.3. Children are offered a meal through a project called *Programa de Alimentacion Escolar (PAE)*.



3.4. Children are also offered to travel within the country to see new horizons, experience new things they have not done before, such as going to a cinema, eating ice cream, pizza,

travelling with the subway, walking on a montain or seeing the see. The trips have been financed by the students of Colegio Francia. The families of the Colegio Francia students have hosted the children of Los Llanos for the length of four days. These families have also offered the children of Los Llanos Chirstmas presents, school uniforms and new material for the school. Colegio Francia has collected bicycles, cloths, shoes, and musical instruments for the Los Llanos School.



3.5. The school is since recent times hosting a module of the internationally known Venezuelan children orchestra, therefore the children are taught a music, and how to play musical instruments, such as piano, violin, harp, *cuatro* or drums. The module has become a musical centre for the region.





3.6. Within the programme of the school, children are encouraged to safeguard and rediscover cultural traditions of Los Llanos and Venezuela, through dance and music. The children received the traditional clothes, the shoes, and the hats.



Joropo dance



Pesebre

3.7. The teachers are offered continuous training and capacity building.

IV. Beneficiaries

4.1. Direct beneficiaries: 100 students.



- 4.2. Indirect Beneficiaries: 45 families. 4 primary school teachers, 3 secondary school teachers. 4 music school teachers. 8 volunteers to the association.



V. Donors and sponsors

- Colegio Francia Foundation
- Parents Association of Colegio Francia
- Embassy of France in Caracas
- The Bruzual Education Zone
- The Ministry of Education (Salaries of teachers)
- Programa de Alimentacion Escolar (PAE)
- The Governor of Apure
- TOTAL
- El sistema de orquestas juveniles de Venezuela

VI. Potential Project Proposals

6.1. First priority: General project: To expand the scope of the school to offer full bachelorr studies, which means to increase the number of class-rooms, the number of students, the number of teachers, buy new furniture for the new class-rooms, etc. **Specific Project:** To build a new class-room and housing facilities for teachers, who take around two hours to reach the school and two hours to go back home on roads, which are on a such bad condition that is impossible to make it any faster. The working conditions of these professors would be improved with the housing facilities on the site of the school. The facilities will considerably reduce the percentage of abcenteism and will guarantee the continuous learning process at the school.

6.2. Second priority: To launch a cooperative of sewing women, which will require rooms for performing workshops but also rooms where these women could work. The rooms, spaces, and working elements will belong to the school and will be let to the mothers

wishing to become members of the sewing cooperative. The school will have to provide them with the sewing cotton yarn, which is imported nowadays.

6.2.1. To work on a micro-entrepreneurial training for sewing women. Women should be able to gain an income through hand-craft work.



6.2.2. To teach all children to sew hamacs (more precisely, chinchorros), which is cultural patrimony and can be sold to collect funds for the activities of the school.

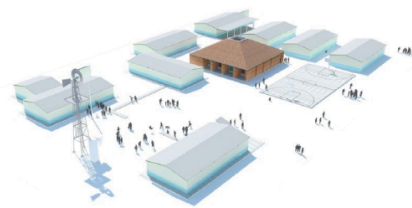


6.3. Third priority: The transportation of the music teachers shall be taken care of. So far, the association has to pay a transportation's weekly fee to the teachers. And every week, an adapted fee is given.

6.4. Fourth priority, only because it is expensive, but not because it is the least important, the school should build a rehearsal hall or room, a room that could be a multifunctions

room, which will become a Music-School, not only for the school but for other schools, and, more generally, the children and adults of the region. The project has been developed by young Venezuelan architects (ADJKM), and shall be executed using as much as possible, the local material in conjunction with modern techniques. The community cooperate with the construction of the building, not only to reduce costs, and make them feel part of the whole project, and make them feel that it is theirs, but also to transfer the know-how to the men and women willing to cooperate, hoping to improve the local habitat. The students of the UCV Faculty of Architecture are willing to volunteer during the execution of this project as part of the internship they should complete at the end of their studies.

Nuestro sueño para 2017 es empezar la construcción en tierra de una sala de música donde todos podrán ensayar juntos. El proyecto está bastante avanzado, gracias al bufete de arquitectos DJKM. Está previsto un convenio con la Escuela de Arquitectura de la UCV para que los estudiantes vayan a construirla con los miembros de esa pequeña comunidad rural.



Renders of the rehearsal or multifunctions space project

VII. Other projects not included on the previous list of priorities

7.1. To improve the potager, with the assistance of agronomists.



The vegetable garden or orchard

- 7.2. To replicate the school in other rural areas of Venezuela with the support of other schools, private companies and collecting funds through concerts.



- 7.3. To replicate the school in rural areas of other countries with the support of the Liceo Francés of each of those countries. The Venezuela model was successfully replicated in Uruguay with the support of the Liceo francés Montevideo.



Montevideo, Uruguay