



Community Development Volunteering – Dental Hygiene Education/Mobile Clinic with CRACYP for Progreso Verde (“Green Progress”)

2012

Introduction

This document should be read in conjunction with the Volunteer Information Pack available at www.progresoverde.org/volunteer_ecuador.html.

CRACYP works in numerous communities in the Cotopaxi, Bolivar, and Los Rios provinces of Ecuador, and dental hygiene education needs to take much higher priority in this area. Due to cultural practices and lack of education, lack of dental hygiene is a common problem in rural communities. Cleaning teeth is simply not part of the daily routine for many people. It is immediately noticeable that even small children often have broken and rotting teeth because of high consumption of sweetened beverages and lack of availability of both dentists and hygiene education.

Objectives

We need volunteers with experience in dental hygiene to implement relevant education programs in CRACYP communities. This may include, but is not limited to, the development and piloting of education programs through community workshops, farm visits, school lessons, or afterschool programs for both adults and children. In particular, lessons and workshops should focus on training and educating mothers, since they have a large influence on the hygiene of their families. You should also create simple, easy to follow lesson plans so that future volunteers can repeat the same lessons in other locations.

If your skill set and resources permit, CRACYP would also like to set up a mobile dental clinic during your stay so that people with more serious dental problems can have access to a dentist.

Location

You will be based in the picturesque little village of Jilimbi in Bolivar Province, close to the border with Cotopaxi Province. The nearest town you might find on a map is Moraspungo, about an hour's journey up into the mountains from the main road between Quevedo and Ventanas. You will work in various communities with a CRACYP presence near the border between the Bolivar and Cotopaxi provinces.

Requirements

Volunteers will need to either be fairly independent or else have access to advice by email from their university or other sources (e.g. health organization, former employer), if needed. CRACYP's Volunteer Coordinator has some experience with health education, and she can help with translation if needed. Spanish language skills are extremely relevant.

Anyone setting up the mobile clinic should be a licensed dentist in his/her country of origin. Because of limited resources in the local communities, all supplies (with the exception of general hygiene products like toothbrushes) will need to be brought in by the intern.

How to Apply

Read the Volunteer Information Pack for details of how to apply.

