



A Brighter Future for Street Children
UK Registered Charity No. 1127705

UBECI

UBECI was founded in Quito in 2005 and runs a project for socially disadvantaged children who live and work in and around Quito's markets. The project supports some 300 children, young people and their families. Many of these children will be working alongside their parents at their fruit and vegetable stands. UBECI support (social and psychological care and education) extends to the parents as well. UBECI recognizes the importance of supporting the whole family in order to effect lasting change for the children.

The aims of the programme:

1. Getting to know and understand the social and family environment of the children
2. Developing a plan of action to promote the wellbeing of children and their families
3. Providing workshops on issues such as children's rights, physical and sexual abuse, prevention, and basic first aid
4. Preventative work in areas such as disease prevention, alcohol and drug abuse, family planning etc.

UBECI staff work to gain the children's trust and build their self-esteem. They encourage the children to open up and talk about their problems. Through this process, UBECI are able to support the children access medical care as well as social and psychological support and assist them to enrol in school.

UBECI's Street Outreach Programme operates in the markets of Chillogallo, Guamaní and Sangolquí. Three social workers assisted by volunteers work with the market children and families. They provide assistance to the children and their families with health issues, sexual and physical abuse, as well as psychological support. Often children were not registered at birth, so staff can help with this process and subsequently assist with securing a school place for those children. UBECI also finds shelter for children who are homeless.

UBECI's activities include:

- Art workshops - to develop creativity, coordination and experience positive moments
- Talks on values – to foster good relationships and encourage children to contribute positively to society
- Talks on health matters – to emphasize the importance of preventative health measures, such as good nutrition and hygiene
- Recreational activities - to offer children time and space to play

In addition to the time spent in the markets, UBECI works directly with the families of the children, encouraging and helping them to fulfil their basic responsibilities as parents; sending the children to school, buying school materials and getting medical check-ups.

If you have further questions, please email us at info.vianinos@gmail.com