Life without education is not sustainable.
Aside from the new problems in health systems, we experience exceptional social, economic and educational difficulties. Schools closed for almost 1.6 billion pupils in more than 190 countries. Not only did this suddenly bring their learning to a halt, but among other consequences: many children could not eat their breakfast or their school lunch, domestic violence and harassment –especially against girls– increased, many boys and girls had to get to work to alleviate the lack of income caused by the pandemic, they might never go back to school.

At Entreculturas, we are aware that this “blackout” in education is extremely serious. Therefore, we have implemented an Emergency Program in 21 African and Latin American countries.

Through emergency education projects, it intends to provide special support to those populations that were the worst affected by COVID-19. Furthermore, our largest programs for education and apprenticeship –funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, ECHO, Accenture and Inditex– have been tailored to the current situation.

We have also responded to the situation in Spain, where we have donated tablets, laptop computers and mobile data to the sectors struggling the most to work or study online. We could make these donations thanks to the solidarity of our partner organisations and to the contributions of other social organisations within the Society of Jesus. We succeeded in meeting the needs of nearly 1,500 pupils and more than 100 educators through 7 different projects.

We have always aspired to prevent COVID-19 from further aggravating the existing inequality in education, so we created a political advocacy plan in order for the Spanish Cooperation to establish the right to education as one of the bedrock principles of the COVID Strategy.

We have also defended this principle through the #LaMejorLeccion (The Best Lesson) initiative by the Global Campaign for Education, as well as our “La vida sin educación no se sostiene” (Life without Education is not Sustainable) campaign. These campaigns aim to warn about the serious setback in the implementation of SDG 4 and 2030 Agenda due to the health crisis.
Closed borders, closed schools and suspended economic activities led to serious consequences for everyone. These consequences were specifically unbearable for those without a home—people who had no place to seclude themselves—and for those who relied on very small-scale sales to pay for day-to-day food.

In 2020, the number of displaced people around the world stood at **82.4 million**. Our action focuses particularly on assisting those in situations of forced mobility. We wanted to stay closer than ever to these extremely vulnerable people during such difficult times.

We sent humanitarian aid—food distribution, first-aid kits, installation of drinking water infrastructures—to the hardest-hit countries, such as Venezuela, Haiti, Chad, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We were assisted by Red Xavier (Jesuit NGO for the international development network) and we worked cooperatively with Fe y Alegría, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and the Jesuit Migrant Network. The rest of ordinary services had to be completed online: legal aid services, psychosocial support, online classes and direct economic support via transfer to enable the acquisition of food, medicines or basic needs.

In Spain, the song called “Aves Enjauladas”, (Cages Birds), dedicated to Entreculturas by the Spanish singer Rozalén, has helped us raise funds to support Jesuit Migrant Network’s social housing in Valencia, where several vulnerable families depend on us. The song reached more than 5 million views on YouTube in just one year.

Moreover, we promoted the 3rd edition of “Caminos de Hospitalidad” (Paths of Hospitality) along with the other organisations that belong to the Society of Jesus’ Social Sector. In this edition, “Caminos de Hospitalidad” encouraged people to place themselves in the shoes of those who were displaced when the pandemic broke out. Were it not for COVID-19, we would have had a walk altogether. Instead, we asked people to send their online messages supporting our demands for fair policies in favour of migrant and refugee populations. Social networks filled up with supportive and caring messages under the #SeguimosCaminando (We Keep Walking) hashtag.
PROMOTING SOCIAL-ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

THE YEAR 2020 MARKED THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAUDATO SI’ ENCYCLICAL.

In support of this, we have joined Pope Francis’ appeal to fight against the environmental crisis. We have offered educational resources and activities to schools in order for pupils to work on this subject. Additionally, young people and our delegations showed creativity and engagement with our Common Home on Earth Day (the 22nd of April).

As part of the Pan-Amazonian Ecclesiastical Network (REPAM), we have participated in the first Global Assembly for the Amazon. It took place in July as a virtual event. There were more than 300 participants from all over the world, activist organisations, defenders of Amazonian peoples and indigenous peoples. They condemned both the ecocide and the ethnocide in the Amazonian region. In accordance with our Corporate Social Responsibility policies, in 2020 we continued our participation in the Fiare Banca Ética cooperative. In fact, we contributed by supporting the financing of the social-and-solidarity-based economy, but most importantly, projects on education, environment, social assistance, employment opportunities and migrant reception.

In addition, 2020 marked the end of our four-year presidency of the Board of Directors at the Observatory on CSR (the reference civil society platform in Corporate Social Responsibility). During our presidency, the Spanish Law on non-Financial Information and Diversity was adopted. It urges big companies to improve their “due diligence” procedures and to analyse the risks and impacts derived from their activities.

Our actions on cooperation were also intended to keep improving the access that socially-excluded groups have to the labour market, and keep developing production methods that are not only innovative, but also diversity and environmentally-friendly. The first stage of the Work 4 Progress program finished in 2020. This program, supported by Fundación “la Caixa” enabled 5,862 indigenous women and girls in Peru to launch their professional projects.
PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

“I used to ask: why can’t we move up?”, explained Lidia Huayllas during the premiere of the ‘CHOLITAS’ documentary, directed by our partner Jaime Murciego. Two of the protagonists, her and Elena Quispe, were with us in Madrid during the premiere of the film in commemoration of the International Women’s Day on the 8th of March. They shared their experiences of liberation and empowerment in Bolivia, where gender inequality is very high.

When it comes to gender at Entreculturas, we must talk about La LUZ de las NIÑAS, (The LIGHT of the GIRLS). This is a cooperation program and a raise-awareness campaign by which we assisted 8,883 girls from 11 Latin American and African countries over the past year.

We seek to make them regain their self-esteem and defend their opportunities to access education and dignified life through psychosocial support, art workshops and health and menstrual hygiene lessons.

When the health crisis broke out, the workshops and classes were thereafter online or on the radio. Moreover, individual home visits increased to keep caring for girls in situations of significant vulnerability.

Nonetheless, as schools closed and all non-essential activity was stopped, many red flags rose in relation to the serious consequences of lockdown on girls: an increase in mistreatment, violence and abuse towards girls or women who were forced to stay at home.

For the International Day of the Girl Child (the 11th of October), the coalition ‘No Quiero’ (I Don’t Want To) –formed by Amnesty International, Entreculturas, Mundo Cooperante and Save the Children– raised the alarm about 13 million child marriages and 2 million female genital mutilation cases could happen during this decade as a result of the interruption of prevention programs.

We also reinforced our action in the educational field: good practices meetings, art festivals, exhibitions and service-learning projects were organised in the regions of Galicia, Castilla y León and Andalusia to teach about equality in women and girls’ rights.
In 2020, the pandemic reminded us that global problems need global inclusive solutions that leave no one behind. Inspired by this principle, the different work areas and Jesuit-related sectors in Spain decided to join forces to assist the worst affected people by exclusion in the midst of a social and economic crisis caused by COVID-19.

Thus, we created the #Seguimos, (We Continue) campaign, as we are convinced that working collaboratively and joining efforts are the best ways to face COVID and its consequences.

The 7th Global Meeting of our Youth Solidarity Network included a creative proposal to reflect on the importance of youth’s social participation and the urgent need to act for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This framework was implemented and maintained during the pandemic and involved didactic proposals for almost 700 schools which we kept in contact with.

We have adapted our educational program to the unprecedented current situation: teachers are trained to improve their emotional support to teenagers; we have also launched our youth-focused campaign called “Nuestro momento sigue siendo ahora” (Our Moment is Still Now).

The 20th Annual Meeting of Entreculturas presented a challenge in this COVID-19 crisis. Almost 350 people from all of our locations met online to reflect on what our response for the educational emergency should be. The olympic medalist Gemma Mengual backed the 9th edition of our “Corre por una causa” (Run for a Cause) charity run. More than 12,000 people participated in the eight locations where we were able to run “in person”, besides another 1,000 people in the online version.

In a year full of uncertainty and unsteadiness, it was more important than ever to keep taking care of each other –including ourselves– to keep our teams and our mission safe. By doing this, our activity did not stop, not even in our delegations, where our volunteers have been holding meetings and organising online events.

Finally, the members of our VOLPA Program have remained engaged in their destinations.
WE ARE A JESUIT NGO WITH MORE THAN 35 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE.

We work in Latin America, Africa, Europe and Asia defending the right to education as the key strategy towards social change.

Our action is focused on 5 Righteous Causes: guaranteeing quality education for everyone, defending the dignity of the lives of migrants and refugees, promoting social justice, gender equality and strengthening social participation and global citizenship.

In 2020, we worked in 38 countries and we promoted 178 projects, accompanying 341,487 individuals.

HUMAN TEAM

826 PEOPLE
86 EMPLOYEES
740 VOLUNTEERS AND COLLABORATORS

341,487 ACCOMPANIED PEOPLE
38 COUNTRIES AND 178 PROJECTS
27 DELEGATIONS

LATIN AMERICA
Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela

AFRICA
Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe

EUROPE
Spain

ASIA
Cambodia, Philippines, Lebanon and Nepal
Entreculturas received a total of €20,745,418 in 2020. Of this amount, 37.8% came from public sources and 62.2% from private sources. Regarding the use of the funds, 90.1% was allocated entirely to our mission.

Our accounts are audited annually by BDO Auditores, S.L.P. and we also have the “Accredited NGDO” label granted by the Fundación Lealtad and the “assessed NGDO” seal from the Spanish Development NGO Coordinator. Likewise, as part of Entreculturas’ commitment to quality and transparency, we perform audits of the projects we implement.

Specifically, we have audited 66% of the funds managed for projects in the last five years.

All financial information, as well as audit reports, are available at the Entreculturas Headquarters and on our website at www.entreculturas.org