

**EMPOWER  
THE BARRIOS**

# Empower the Barrios

A humanitarian aid project focused on supporting those in need through food, education and job opportunities.



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## Our story so far

Set up in 2020 as a response to the humanitarian crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, Empower the Barrios is a 100% volunteer-led humanitarian aid project that focuses on helping the most vulnerable in the Antioquia region.

We believe in absolute transparency; that's why we're as open-source as they come. We're transparent about our financials, structure, decisions, and risks. Got a question? Just ask; we're an open book.

With 97,6% efficiency, out of every \$100, \$97.6 goes to the actual cause –thanks to our all-volunteer model that allows us to pass on donations nearly in full. Every donation is precious, and we'd rather not waste them on logistics or admin costs.

### What's our vision?

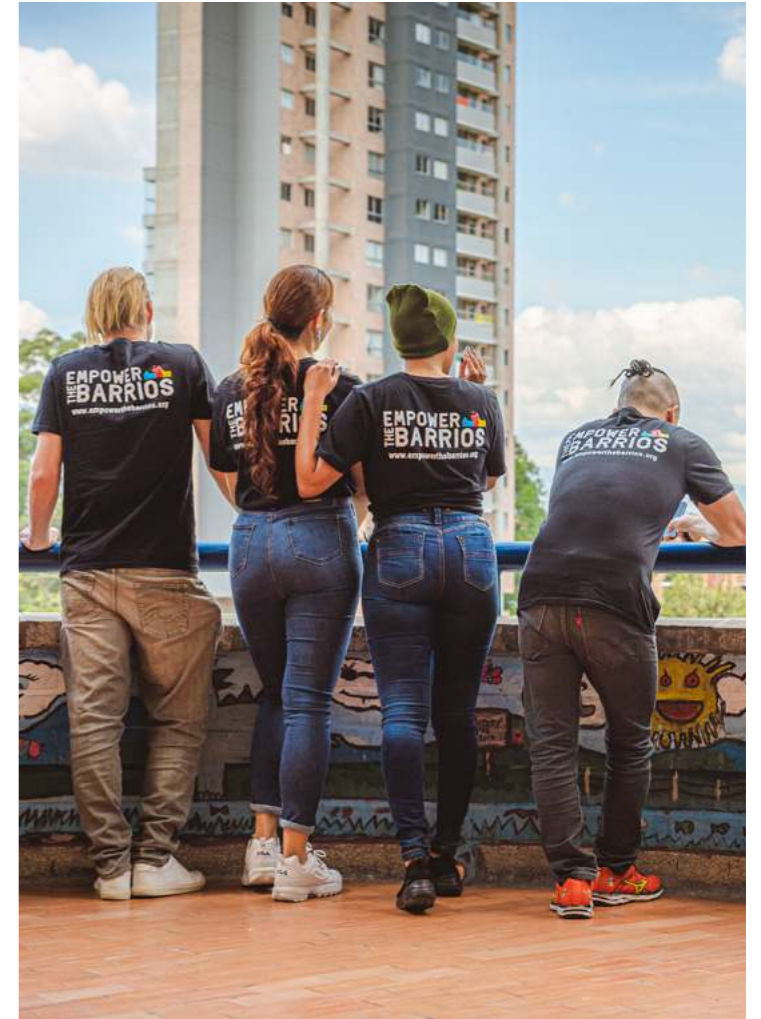
To use open-source knowledge, infrastructure and resources to unify humanitarian organisations so that we can achieve absolute efficiency in reaching our common goal – supporting vulnerable population.

### What are our results?

Since March 2020, we have been able to:

- deliver over 300,000 meals to people hit by the pandemic
- provide 49 students with six months of English education from teachers and native language learners
- distribute 1,100 menstrual cups to local charities working with women
- distribute 100 tablets amongst local charities working in education
- deliver emergency aid and supplies to two fire victims
- deliver 1,300 Christmas presents to children
- provide a prosthetic leg to a local street vendor
- donate an ambulance to Emergencias Apolo
- donate 600kg of clothing and bedding

**...and we're only getting started!**



## Feed the Barrios

As the humanitarian crisis caused by the pandemic caused the most vulnerable to get even closer to extreme poverty, the Feed the Barrios team was formed with aim of providing immediate aid comprising support with food, rent, debt, and medicines to the most vulnerable in Medellín.

Through forming a bond of trust between local partners and their beneficiaries, we were able to find families requiring help and in just over 2 years, we have supplied over 300,000 meals, which can be translated to nearly 64,508kg of food and we have worked with 42 NGOs, continuously supporting local communities.

Given our initial success, we were encouraged to develop our humanitarian project further, and not stop at just providing immediate support, but to help the communities we serve in getting out of poverty by also providing education and job opportunities.



## Medical Brigades

Medical Brigades is a joint project by Emergencias Apolo and Empower the Barrios, whereby pooling together their resources, the two charitable organisations can deliver care to those that need it the most.

By bringing doctors to patients directly, we can affect change in their neighbourhoods by providing free medical check-ups, referrals to specialists if needed, and transport assistance to medical centres via vouchers or day wage reimbursements.

Medical Brigades focus on three objectives:

1. Prevention through medical recommendations.
2. Internal treatment: Treatments through medicines and medical check-ups within the facilities of Apolo / Fundacion Semilla que Crece / Clinica de ex-soldados.
3. External treatment: Treatments in external clinics or through allied organizations. It is essential to have allies willing to provide free vaccinations, medicines, x-rays, laboratory diagnostics etc.



## Educate the Barrios

Educate the Barrios is another arm of our organisation, which focuses on helping the communities we serve by providing educational opportunities to children aged 13+.

By working with local schools such as Institución Educativa El Salado, we can support several 15 and 16-year-olds with after-school English programs that aim to get students to the B1 level. By providing such opportunities, we hope to address the long-term issues that the Barrios face.

Every week, children from Institución Educativa El Salado gather to improve their English. However, besides improving their language skills, they also learn about different cultures and get more comfortable using what they've learned in class in real-world scenarios. Such experiences provide our students with tools that allow them to be better equipped when faced with the challenges of today's world.





## Recode the Future

Working together with another exceptional organisation, Help Colombia, we deliver after-school coding classes that can be instrumental in moving people out of poverty.

Following Code for Life's program, we aim to train teens to code, which is one of the most pragmatic ways individuals can be upskilled in order to change their lives. Drawing on our own experiences of employment mobility, we appreciate the level of opportunity that such skills can provide.

With two of our students already finding employment opportunities, we're confident that we'll be able to provide a helping hand to more of our pupils so that they can realise their full potential and have opportunities that were maybe not available to them before attending our after-school coding program.


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## How can you help?

We believe in sustainable growth by providing food, education and job opportunities. We have no overheads or admin costs, which allows us to run efficiently, but it also means we're always on the lookout for an extra pair of hands or new ideas. If you have something to offer, whether it's a direct donation, time, or skills, get in touch – we'd love to hear from you today!

## Let's talk how you can help



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 **[mees@kindfootprint.org](mailto:mees@kindfootprint.org)**

*or*

## Click to donate and support our efforts



**[Our GoFundMe Page](#)**