

Leadership in Action - Ecuador 2025

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Introduction

During our 6 weeks, we worked with indigenous communities in Ecuador, learning about their way of living as well as work with a non-profit, Pachaysana to learn their efforts on decolonization.



Problem

I learned the different problems Ecuador, and especially the indigenous community there, was facing. It ranged from the petroleum dump from Chevron during late 20th century to hardship of preserving the indigenous way of living.



Sustainability

Environmental issues in Ecuador persisted in many forms. We met different leaders who are fighting back, such as Donald who works to fight against Chevron, Maxi who planted trees in hopes of having an edible garden, and a lot more. There I joined in planting ~50 trees, learning about different methods of farming, and listening to their stories of resilience.



Education

The 6 weeks in Ecuador has reignited my passion for education. I have worked on the education committee in Mushullakta, building curriculums for the local kids.

Community

Minga, a concept of communal and collective labor for the benefit of everyone involved was well adopted in the Pintag and Mushullakta communities that we visited. I learned the importance of caring for the community and our collective goal, rather than focusing on my personal growth and gain.



Future paths

My aspiration to be a **physician** remains unchanged. However, the 6 weeks in Ecuador has taught me the weight of having such valuable skills and how I should use what I have for the collective good rather than for myself. I realize that global change does not come from anything big. It starts from an altruistic and action-taking mindset, which I hope to have in the future.