

## VIDEO

*Composed of 21 countries and with a population of almost 600 000 000 inhabitants, Latin America is still one of the poorest and most unequal continents on the planet.*

*It is estimated there are approximately 5 000 000 blind people in the region.*

### FOAL

ONCE Foundation for Solidarity with Latin America

The ONCE Foundation for Latin America (FOAL) was set up in 1998 - an ambitious development co-operation project to promote equal opportunities and non-discrimination for blind people in the continent, particularly in the fields of inclusion in education, training and employment, but also to boost consolidation in the Latin American blind movement.

*FOAL's work reaches each and every country in Latin America.*

### EDUCATION

- A solid start -

*One of FOAL's key goals is to secure education for all blind boys and girls in Latin America. To achieve this FOAL is engaged in braille book production and supplying classroom material in adapted formats to suit the needs of each child, and provides training and guidance to professionals and families alike in order to realise the basic right of every child to go to school. This is an arduous and difficult task, particularly when working in rural areas and with indigenous populations, but it's also an immensely gratifying one when some of them manage to reach university.*

### ÁGORA

- A programme with a future -

*Eighty percent of all blind and severely low vision people in Latin America don't have a job and cannot access vocational training or job placement programmes in their countries.*

*Since having a job is a key factor in securing financial independence and enjoying full inclusion in the community, FOAL has been involved in employment from the very*

outset through its *Ágora* programme, which focuses on delivering training and career guidance to blind people through the use of information technologies and targeted training courses to enable them to find employment. In addition *Ágora* creates jobs – thanks to the programme a large number of blind people have set up their own businesses – while remaining sensitive to gender equality and the need to decentralise services from urban settings to rural areas.

Thanks to *Ágora* we have secured jobs for 1 000 people annually in Latin America.

## **REHABILITACIÓN INTEGRAL**

### COMPREHENSIVE REHABILITATION

- Tools for a full life -

*In partnership with the Latin American Union of the Blind, FOAL has developed a technical handbook on rehabilitation to guide professional practises in the field. The handbook, which was drawn up based on the differing experiences of many blind and severely visually impaired people, seeks to foster personal autonomy and independent living.*

*We all have something to share and say, and blind people from Latin America do so through [www.foal.es](http://www.foal.es), where they can exchange experiences, moments and information on new projects and also provide mutual support to each other.*

(Se elimina cabecera “Los Aniversarios de la ilusión”)

## **LOCUCIÓN FINAL**

*All these achievements stem from just one source of solidarity: the ONCE lottery...the lottery we’ve known every day for all our lives...the lottery that combines excitement with people’s solidarity, reaching Latin America through FOAL.*

## **TESTIMONIOS**

*“What you try to do is excel to be able to look forward to the future.”*

*“You need to fight hard and keep moving forward.”*

*“We’re capable of this and so much more.”*

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