



- AMAZON -

MINGA LODGE
& SANCTUARY

MEDICAL BRIGADE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

*Bring healthcare to the heart of the Amazon.
Build skills. Lead change. Transform lives.*

ECUADOR · AMAZONIAN RAINFOREST

W H Y H E L P

MORE THAN A PLACEMENT

There is not a single doctor or psychologist serving the Amazonian region and communities we work in. Many communities have no access to trained medical or mental health professionals — and cultural stigma means depression, anxiety, and trauma often go unspoken and untreated.

Residency Program participants and volunteer of the Medical Brigade, help bring that care directly to the people who need it most — building clinical skills and cross-cultural leadership alongside doctors, dentists, and psychologists in one of the most underserved regions on earth.



13,800+

Patients treated by
Medical Brigades across
85 communities
annually – that you can
leave a lasting impact on

365

Days a year
— our program runs
every season

100%

Of your effort goes
directly to the people
in the communities
we serve

THE COMMUNITIES YOU WILL SERVE

REAL PEOPLE. REAL NEED. REAL IMPACT.



RURAL AMAZON COMMUNITIES

Napo & Orellana Provinces

Families in isolated villages with no access to medical facilities. Geographical isolation, poverty, and environmental stressors compound mental and physical health challenges.



INDIGENOUS WAORANI COMMUNITIES

Napo Province – Amazon Basin

Communities with the highest reported rates of self-harm and suicide in Ecuador. Cultural stigma means depression and trauma go unspoken — making trained, culturally sensitive volunteers especially critical.



SCHOOLS & FAMILIES

Napo & Orellana – 17+ Schools

Students, parents, and teachers receive mental health training, cervical cancer prevention education, and oral health workshops — in Spanish, Kichwa, and Wao Terero.

YOUR JOURNEY

HOW YOU WILL SPEND YOUR TIME

No two days in the field look the same. Your work spans four interconnected areas — each making care accessible to communities that need it most.



01 CLINICAL SERVICES

Provide dental care, medical consultations, vaccinations, and health screenings directly in community settings alongside experienced doctors and nurses.



02 MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION

Deliver workshops on emotions, depression, communication, and suicide prevention to students, parents, and teachers — including Waorani communities.



03 WOMEN'S HEALTH OUTREACH

Support women's health such as cervical cancer prevention campaigns using culturally adapted materials — in partnership with Ecuador's Ministry of Health.



04 PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Train alongside experienced physicians, psychologists, public health professionals. Develop cross-cultural leadership skills & field experience that few classrooms can offer.



Community health session — Napo Province, Ecuador

H A N D S . H E A R T S . H E A L T H .

A DAY IN BRIGADE LIFE

EARLY
MORNING

Travel to community — brigades often operate in remote locations requiring early departures.

MORNING

Clinical sessions: dental care, medical consultations, vaccinations, and health screenings.

MIDDAY

Community outreach: oral health workshops, nutrition talks, oral kit distribution.

AFTERNOON

School sessions: mental health education for students, parents, and teachers.

LATE
AFTERNOON

One-on-one consultations for higher-risk students; team debrief and documentation.

EVENING

Case review, preparation of culturally adapted materials for the next day.

ARE YOU THE RIGHT FIT?

Medical Brigade placements call for a genuine commitment to global health equity, cultural humility, and a readiness to serve in challenging field conditions.

01 ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

Current or aspiring student or recent graduate in medicine, dentistry, nursing, psychology, public health, social work, or a related field. Clinical placement hours or global health experience are an asset — but curiosity and commitment matter most.

02 LANGUAGES

Fluent English or Spanish required. Spanish is highly beneficial in the field — many volunteers improve rapidly during their placement. Knowledge of Kichwa or Wao Terero is a rare but valued bonus.

03 PERSONAL QUALITIES

Culturally sensitive, resilient, and team-oriented. Comfortable working in remote settings with limited resources. Ready to lead as well as follow — and genuinely curious about indigenous health, community care, and Amazonian culture.

04 WHAT YOU WILL GAIN

Field experience in global health that can't be learned in a classrooms. Cross-cultural clinical skills, leadership in resource-limited settings, a professional network of physicians and psychologists, and the knowledge that you work helped people with no other access to care.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

ELI BECK

*Medical Student Applicant
Medical Brigade Resident Program Participant 2026*

“Volunteering as part of Fundación Minga’s amazing team was a life changing opportunity for me! For six months, I joined Mouricio and local medical professionals on medical brigades throughout the Ecuadorian Amazon Basin. During this time, we worked to bring medical, dental, and mental health professionals to over eighty tribes and communities spread throughout rural Ecuador.”

Building relationships with Kichwa and Waoroni tribes, learning from talented local doctors, and exploring the Amazon are memories I will carry with me forever. I am very thankful for the opportunity to work with Fundación Minga, and the work that they are able to accomplish is truly hard to put into words.”



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

DAYANA CARVAJAL

*Clinical Psychologist · MSc Forensic Psychology
6+ Years in Family, Couples & Child Therapy*

2026 Q1, the Medical Brigade was joined by Dayana Carvajal — a clinical psychologist specializing in therapy for couples, families, and children, with a Master's degree in Forensic Psychology and Psychological Expertise and more than six years of experience. Dayana worked directly with students across schools in the region — including Waorani communities — delivering mental health workshops and conducting private, one-on-one consultations with students identified by teachers as being at higher risk.



Successful Mental Health Outreach · Community Medical Brigade

YOUR INVESTMENT

CHOOSE YOUR EXPERIENCE

1 MONTH

\$3,850 USD

An introduction to community health in the Amazon field setting.

2 MONTHS

\$7,500 USD

Develop clinical and cultural skills; take on greater responsibility.

3 MONTHS

\$10,500 USD

The complete experience — field medicine, mental health, outreach.

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Round-trip transport: Quito to field base
- Shared accommodation
- Hot water and 24/7 electricity
- Wi-Fi internet access
- Daily breakfast, lunch, and dinner
- Mentorship from medical professionals
- Ongoing support via WhatsApp, phone, email
- Full project placement coordination

READY TO APPLY?

Send your CV and cover letter telling us why you want to join Minga.
If the above options don't meet your desired timeline let us know we will
be happy to work with you to meet your desired

INFO@MINGALODGE.COM

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