

Annual Report 2016

Key points in brief

Built 48 greenhouses for cultivating vegetables

In 2016, we built new greenhouses for 48 families in four different indigenous communities located at 4,000-plus metres above sea level. Thanks to their being able to grow vegetables, the families now have a more balanced diet and, as a result, are no longer solely dependent on growing potatoes.

Our indigenous theatre school has given its first performances

In 2016, our indigenous theatre school gave three performances in the town of Cusco in order to draw the audiences' attention to the current problems of water and hygiene in their poverty-stricken neighbourhoods. The performances were received enthusiastically by the audiences.

Greenhouses

A look back: why do we build greenhouses?

In the high regions of the Peruvian Andes, at over 4,000 metres altitude, there are still many remote and neglected indigenous village communities.

The mountain farmers ("Indios") who are established there face precarious living conditions. At these high altitudes, they are only able to cultivate potatoes. Often, however, whole potato plantations are annihilated by pests or climatic influences thus endangering the families' food security.

As a result, our aid projects concentrate on building greenhouses, allowing families to grow other vegetables which would otherwise not grow outdoors at such altitudes.

Who receives our support?

We support indigenous communities by building greenhouses if the following conditions are met:

- The community involved has not received any support to date, neither from another aid agency nor from the Peruvian government, and is therefore reliant on our involvement.
- We support only small communities with a maximum of 30 families so that we can help all families in the community with our limited financial funds equally and sustainably.
- Our focus is on supporting communities which cannot easily be reached and are located higher than 3,800 metres above sea level. Our experience has shown that the higher and more remote a community is, the more urgently needed our support is.
- The condition we put on each family, in order to support them with building their greenhouse, is that they themselves must build the foundation wall - that is the stonework - of their future greenhouse. Although this requires the families to invest a good deal in terms of physical effort and time, it is offset in the end by the assistance we provide.

Once the families have completed the brickwork ...



... we provide our contribution by completing the future greenhouse.



A good greenhouse film and non-corrosive wire, as well as ...



... water containers and vegetable seeds are part of the basic equipment provided by our aid project.



What did we achieve in 2016?

In 2016, we were active in four different indigenous communities in the regions of Paucartambo, Calca and Lares (all in the greater province of Cusco), where we built a total of 48 new family greenhouses (in contrast to 18 built in the previous year). These four small settlements are located in the remote high plains of the Andes at an altitude of between 3,800 and 4,100 metres, and cannot be reached by vehicle. To reach these communities, it is necessary to undertake a physically very demanding hike through the mountains lasting several hours. Sometimes, mountain summits at over 4,500 metres must be crossed in order to reach the settlement. This is also the reason why no other aid organisations to date have become involved with these settlements. This is why we can claim to be the only aid organisation to be regularly active in these high, remote regions of the Peruvian Andes, and claim to have implemented demonstrably successful aid projects.

Barren landscape. In the background are the summits of the mountains we crossed, which ...



... lie at over 4,500 metres above sea level. Up here, there is 40% less oxygen than at sea level.



Results: Thanks to building 48 family greenhouses in 2016, now approximately 200 people have a healthier and more balanced diet. This benefits the children in these communities above all, allowing them to develop better physically and mentally as a result. In addition, the families can use the vegetable scraps as suitable animal feed to raise guinea pigs successfully, which is the only animal protein in the indigenous families' diet.



Previously, only potatoes ...



... and now, healthy fresh vegetables



Preview of 2017 (greenhouses)

In 2017, we would like to support new indigenous communities by building greenhouses, because we believe that this is a sensible and sustainable method of support. As a result, we can ensure an adequate food supply for the families and reduce their dependence on potatoes. In addition, the overall costs of providing each greenhouse are relatively modest, particularly when compared to other types of aid project. The cost of each greenhouse is only around US\$ 350. Once each greenhouse is built, about five family members benefit in the long term from a healthy and secure diet, and the scheme is sustainable, too.

In 2017, we will continue ...



... with building greenhouses.



Theatre school

A look back: why have an indigenous theatre school?

It is a fact that many indigenous families leave their high-altitude, difficult-to-access communities to move into the cities, to Cusco, for example, to seek a better life for themselves and their children. Sadly, the opposite often happens. The indigenous families, who speak only the local language of Quechua, and hardly any Spanish, are often discriminated against and exploited in their jobs when living in cities. The “indio” children are also bullied in school by town children because they do not speak Spanish and cannot assert themselves. As a result, they find it hard to integrate on a social level and suffer from this.

In order to highlight the many problems faced by these families in the towns and cities, we launched a theatre project in 2016 in which indigenous families (including adults, but above all the children) took the leading roles. The play dealt with the difficulties these people experience during this “rural exodus” and the effect these issues have on their daily lives in an urban environment.

What did we achieve in 2016?

Our theatre group gave three performances in different theatre venues in the town of Cusco. The play is called “Queremos agua limpia”, or “We want clean water”. It highlights the huge problems these people face. They live in a poor area where there is not any clean water, the cause of serious health problems.

Thanks to the three performances, the theatre audience was made aware of the problems faced by the people involved.

The little drama group in a rehearsal room ...



... and in the theatre in Cusco.



Preview of 2017 (theatre project)

We budgeted US\$ 20,000 over two years for this theatre project. By the end of 2016, almost US\$ 8,000 had been spent. In 2017, we will make a further US\$ 2,000 available to this venture. Whether and when we will release the remaining US\$ 10,000 of the allocated budget to continue the theatre project depends on whether we find other major sponsors who wish to support this project with us. In any case, the play will be performed again in various theatres throughout 2017. We hope that in the future this theatre project will be self-supporting either through self-generated income deriving from the performances or from donated funds.

Financial matters

In 2016, we received donations totalling SFr 13,688.00, which corresponds to an increase of more than 200% compared to the previous year (SFr 6,451.00). Thanks to various film presentations on the subject of "Peru's indigenous mountain people - survival at 4,000 metres" which our founder and president, Ernesto Zulliger, gave at a range of organisations, such as old people's homes, clubs and associations, etc., we have managed to generate a considerably higher level of donations than in the previous year.

As at 31 December 2016, the Swiss foundation (SFr 33,866) and the Peruvian aid organisation of the same name (US\$ 4,006) still had a total of SFr 37,800 in financial means available to fund aid projects to benefit indigenous families.

As our donation income is subject to severe fluctuations every year, which makes annual planning over the long term difficult, we have decided from 2017 to cap our spending from our own founding capital at SFr 10,000 per year in the event that donations for our current and planned projects are insufficient.

**We would like to take this opportunity to warmly thank all our donors,
who have supported us to date.**

Thank you very much!

Muchas gracias!

Sulpayki! (in Quechua)



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