

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



News in brief

Sixty-seven greenhouses built in 2017 – as many as 133 units in just four years

In 2017, we built 67 greenhouses in four different indigenous communities. Since starting the greenhouse project just under four years ago, as many as 133 families in ten different communities have obtained their own greenhouse. As a result, these families are no longer dependent on growing only potatoes, but have a more balanced and healthy diet thanks to being able to cultivate various different kinds of vegetable in their greenhouses.

Our indigenous theatre school is still running, but we are seeking new sponsors

The theatre school we founded two years ago has produced various little productions on the outskirts of the town of Cusco in 2017. These involved a drama in which the players drew the attention of the audience to the precarious water and hygiene problems of the poorer areas. However, the theatre can only continue to operate in 2018 if we can find major sponsors who would like to support this project with us.

New project for 2018: building guinea-pig sheds for breeding

In 2017, the inhabitants of a remote indigenous village located at 4,100 metres above sea level asked us to support them in breeding guinea pigs. After a thorough evaluation by our project manager, Angel Callañaupa, we decided to implement this sustainable aid project in 2018.

Building greenhouses

Last year, 2017, was our most successful year in terms of the number of newly-built greenhouses: 67 units in just twelve months – a new record! Since we began working in Peru just over four years ago, as of 31 December 2017, we have managed to build a total of 133 greenhouses in ten different communities. All the communities are located in remote areas in the Department of Cusco at altitudes ranging between 3,800 and 4,250 metres above sea level.

The table below gives details of the communities in which we are currently working.

No.	Name of the Village	Region	District	Province	Number of greenhouses
1	Walipunku	Chacllabamba	Challabamba	Paucartambo	21
2	Pitukiska	Bombón	Challabamba	Paucartambo	15
3	Ruraq Turuyoq	Bombón	Challabamba	Paucartambo	16
4	Kinsa Qocha	Bombón	Challabamba	Paucartambo	11
5	Apaza	Parobamba	Challabamba	Paucartambo	3
6	Inka Kancha	Parobamba	Challabamba	Paucartambo	21
7	Acchahuata Alta	Acchahuata	Calca	Calca	17
8	Ancallachi	Ancallachi	Lares	Calca	16
9	Qoyllobamba	Choquecancha	Lares	Calca	4
10	Sauki	Sauki	Lares	Calca	9
				Total	133

Good to know

The average size of a family greenhouse is 10 x 5 metres. The families have to build the foundation walls of the greenhouse themselves to qualify for receiving financial and professional support from us. The walls are constructed from bricks made from either mud or slate. On average, up to eight different types of vegetable are cultivated in the greenhouse, e.g. sweetcorn, cauliflower, cabbage, onions, lettuce, courgettes, carrots, etc.

After completing the greenhouses, we visit the indigenous communities at regular intervals to ensure that the families are managing to cultivate their vegetables correctly and sustainably. If necessary, we help the families a little more by supplying new vegetable seeds, watering cans and hoses.

You can find detailed background information about our greenhouse construction project with pictures in previous annual reports (on our website under “Projects”).

In the photograph below, you can see all the materials required for constructing approximately 30 greenhouses (value of goods approx. US\$6,000).



Inauguration of two greenhouses with our project manager, Angel Callañaupa, and the founder of the organisation, Ernesto Zulliger.



Greenhouse from the outside...



...and from the inside.



Proud owner of a new greenhouse



Cabbage



Inauguration of a greenhouse in a small village school at 3,980 metres above sea level



Cauliflower ready to eat



Theatre school

The indigenous theatre school that we founded two years ago has faltered a little in 2017 because the wife of our theatre director, José Luis Castro, suddenly died of cancer in the middle of the year. Nevertheless, our drama group performed various small pieces to local audiences on the outskirts of the town of Cusco last year.

In discussions with a few donors, it became clear to us that most Swiss benefactors would prefer to support our sustainable projects, such as the construction of greenhouses - and the new project of constructing guinea-pig sheds, rather than the theatre project.

As a result, we decided to continue the theatre school once we had found a major sponsor (or several), who would like to take on the financial costs independently and fund the project with our support and the professional expertise of our theatre director. The financial funds required amount to US\$8,000 per year for a minimum period of three years. After this time, we believe that the theatre group will be able to finance its operating costs independently from the income gained from ticket sales.

For more information about the theatre school, please see the annual report for 2016 on our website under "Projects".

New project for 2018: building sheds for breeding guinea-pigs professionally and with animal welfare in mind

Background

As we mentioned in our last annual report, the families who live higher than 3,800 metres above sea level can only cultivate potatoes in the open. As a result, they have a very imbalanced and one-dimensional form of nutrition, which does not allow the children healthy physical development.

This is why we support the families in constructing greenhouses. This allows them the opportunity to cultivate other vegetables which they could not otherwise grow in the open. The strong UV rays during the day, and the frost at night would damage the vegetables and their leaves if the plants are not grown in a protected space.

Some families breed and eat guinea-pigs so that they obtain additional protein from animal sources in their diet. The advantage of breeding guinea-pigs is that these animals multiply very quickly. In addition, their meat is very low in fat and supplies a lot of protein allowing the villagers to provide themselves with a more balanced diet.

Most families, however, carry out the breeding of these animals in a very primitive manner. The animals run around freely in the villagers' dwellings, a practice which has its hygiene implications, especially for the children who eat, play and sleep in the same huts as the animals, and therefore come into contact with the rodents' droppings.

Therefore, we have decided to launch a new pilot project in 2018 to support the families in one indigenous community to breed guinea-pigs professionally. As a result, the families will not only obtain regular, healthy animal protein in their diet, but they will also be able to sell the animals at market and use the proceeds to purchase other necessary items.

We will begin the project in the remote community of Upis (region of Ocongate, Quispicanchis province, Departement of Cusco), where fifteen families live at 4,100 metres above sea level.

The condition we put on each family to receive financial support and expertise from us is similar to the one for building their greenhouses. They must build the foundation walls - that is the brickwork - of their future guinea-pig shed themselves. 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.

The size of the shed will be approximately 5 x 10 metres. The foundation walls will be made of mud bricks (made by the families themselves from local earth). After finishing the foundations, we will support the families by purchasing wooden planks, corrugated aluminium sheeting (for the roof), nails and wire to finish building the sheds. In addition, each family will receive approximately twenty guinea-pigs as "starting capital", so that they can begin to breed the animals

The budgeted costs of the project to construct fifteen guinea-pig sheds will run to approximately US\$10,000 in 2018.

Beginning to build the first guinea-pig shed



The shed will look roughly like this once it is built (but a little smaller than on the photograph)



Projections for 2018 and 2019

Our annual project budget of approximately US\$10,000 will be used in 2018 for constructing approximately fifteen guinea-pig sheds.

In 2019, we will turn our focus back to constructing greenhouses. We have already identified a new indigenous community in which there are twenty families with many children, who need our help. We will invest our 2019 budget of US\$10,000 in this area.

Financial matters

In 2017, we received donations totalling SFr 20,226 (approx. US\$20,000), which corresponds to an increase of more than 46% compared to the previous year (US\$ 13,668). This was the first year since the Foundation was established approximately five years ago that the donations from legal entities (schools, retirement homes, associations, churches, etc.) were of greater value than the donations from private persons. This is very welcome news as it is a sign that legal entities are also persuaded of the advantages of the work that we do in these Peruvian communities.

As at 31 December 2017, the Swiss foundation and our Peruvian aid organisation of the same name had a total of approx. US\$41,000 in funds available to finance aid projects to benefit indigenous families.

As our donation income is subject to severe fluctuations every year, which makes long-term planning difficult, we have decided to cap our spending on aid projects at US\$10,000 per year for the time being. This will be the case if the average annual donation income for the three preceding years does not amount to a minimum of US\$15,000.

The fees for our project manager Angel Callañaupa are included in the above-mentioned budgeted sum. Angel works for us on a freelance basis, which means that in contrast to other aid organisations, we do not have to bear any fixed personnel costs or any office costs in Peru or in Switzerland.

The founder of the organisation, Ernesto Zulliger, travels to Peru twice a year to monitor and coordinate the projects in person. All travel and subsistence costs arising in Peru are paid by the founder himself. They are not financed by donated funds.

We would like to take this opportunity to warmly thank all our donors, who have enabled us to build 133 greenhouses. Currently, approximately 600 people (adults and children) are benefiting from a healthier and more balanced diet and are therefore no longer dependent solely on cultivating potatoes.

Thank you very much!

¡Muchas gracias!

Sulpayki! (in Quechua)



PORVENIR PERU
Swiss-Peruvian Aid Organisation
Langweidstrasse 4
8620 Wetzikon
Switzerland
Cel. +41 (0)79 822 76 91
ernesto@porvenirperu.org
www.porvenirperu.org

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Ernesto Zulliger
Founder

Angel Callañaupa
Project Co-ordinator