

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



News in brief

Construction of more greenhouses

At present, we are working in over a dozen different indigenous settlements at altitudes of between 3,800 and 4,250 metres above sea level. Since this Foundation was established five years ago, we have built over 160 greenhouses in these regions of the high Andes. As a result, the families living there no longer depend solely on cultivating potatoes, but now also have the opportunity to grow a wide variety of vegetables. Thanks to these greenhouses, more than 640 people, including many children, eat a healthier and more balanced diet.

Construction of guinea-pig sheds for breeding

In 2018, we launched a new aid project in a settlement at 4,100 metres above sea level to enable the families living there to breed guinea pigs efficiently and sustainably. Guinea pigs have been bred by Peru's indigenous people for decades and are an important source of food in their otherwise protein-poor, potato-based diet.

New pilot project - Construction of lavatory huts

In 2018, we started a new pilot project: the construction of lavatory huts linked to mountain watercourses. As a result, families' health will improve as these toilets are much more hygienic than the facilities currently in use, which are a source of pathogenic bacteria that multiply easily as a result of the lack of flushing water.

Purchase of a used 4 x 4 pickup truck for the Foundation

Thanks to a generous donation received in 2018, we have been able to buy our own used four-wheel drive Toyota pickup truck. Our trips to the remote mountainous settlements have now become much faster and safer than with our previously rented truck that was prone to breaking down.

Construction of greenhouses

“Only” twenty-seven family greenhouses were built in 2018 compared to the sixty-seven units built the previous year. This was because last year we carried out more checks on the greenhouses built so far. These checks ensure that the greenhouses are productive and used and planted out correctly by the local families.

As at 31 December 2018, 163 family greenhouses have been built in twelve different villages since the Foundation was established almost five years ago. We aim to limit this number to a maximum of 200 units over the next two years. If we allow rapid expansion without ensuring the necessary human resources for regular on-site inspections are in place, we will run the risk of jeopardising the sustainability of our projects.

In addition, in about four years’ time, we will have to carry out the first tranche of renovation work on the greenhouse roof covers. These covers consist of a UV-resistant polyethylene (PE) multi-year film. Due to the strong UV radiation and temperature fluctuations to which our greenhouses are exposed at around 4,000 metres above sea level, the PE films’ service life is limited to a maximum of seven to ten years. After this time, the films lose their capacity to maintain a warm and humid microclimate inside the greenhouses throughout the year.

We also intend to intensify our discussions with the regional authorities to find out if they would be willing to finance part of the renewal costs of the PE multi-year film in the future. Unfortunately, we have found so far that most authorities only respond to such constructive government contributions in favour of their compatriots if part of the figure is used to line their own pockets. It is clear that as an aid organisation we do not wish to respond to such unethical schemes and would rather continue to bear the future renewal costs ourselves.

A mother and son in her greenhouse. The picture shows our driver Faustino (left), our project manager Angel (centre) and Ernesto Zulliger (founder).



Up to eight types of vegetable are planted in each family greenhouse. Medicinal herbs are also grown in it.



Official opening of a greenhouse in a village school at 4,000 metres above sea level. The picture also shows the school's two teachers next to our founder.



A dance by the pupils was part of the opening ceremony (behind the new greenhouse).



The rocoto pepper (tree chilli) is very popular with the locals and is often planted in our greenhouses.



Official opening of another greenhouse, with musical accompaniment.



A happy grower who enjoys looking after her greenhouse. Next to her is a tall Peruvian tree-tomato plant.



Older couple with corn cobs from their own greenhouse.



Although the seedlings in the new greenhouse are still small, everyone's anticipation is already growing.



One of 160-plus greenhouses of standard dimensions of 10 x 5 m.



Good to know

The average size of a family greenhouse is at least 10 x 5 metres. The families undertake to build the foundation walls of the greenhouse themselves in order to receive our financial and specialist support. The walls are made of either clay blocks or slate (local material).

On average, up to eight different types of vegetable are grown in the greenhouse, such as sweetcorn, cauliflower, cabbage, onions, lettuce, courgettes, carrots, tomatoes, etc. Many medicinal herbs are also planted there.

Once the greenhouses have been completed, we visit the settlements at regular intervals to ensure that the families are growing vegetables correctly and sustainably. If necessary, we support them with new vegetable seeds, watering cans and water hoses.

Detailed background information and the history of our greenhouse construction project can also be found in our previous annual reports (on our website under "Projects").

Construction of guinea-pig sheds for breeding

Two years ago, we decided to start a new project: constructing sheds for breeding guinea pigs. Many local families have been breeding and eating guinea pigs for generations. However, the animals are usually kept in families' living and sleeping quarters. The rodents run around freely on the floor, because there is simply no room for an additional animal enclosure in these small huts. This is very worrying on grounds of hygiene, especially as the children living in the huts come into contact with the animals' faeces and urine on the floor, which can cause diseases.

In the initial phase, we will build seven sheds measuring around 10 x 5 metres. Just as with the construction of greenhouses, families have to build the foundation walls themselves. We then finance the aluminium roofing to covering the barn, the fencing for the enclosures and the purchase of the animals. It will be possible to breed about 70 animals in each shed in optimal and, as far as local conditions are concerned, animal-friendly conditions.

A guinea-pig shed under construction. Light aluminium panels are used for the roofing.



The interior of the shed upon completion. The transparent PVC sheets warm up the interior when sunlight streams in.



Good to know

On average, a female guinea pig can produce up to twelve pups per year. This results in at least 600 new pups per year per barn or about 4,200 pups in the seven sheds. It is possible, therefore, to sell some of the animals at the local market, which will give the families a small and regular additional income.

New pilot project – Construction of lavatory huts

When we visit the people in these remote indigenous mountain settlements, one of the biggest problems we face is the existing unhygienic lavatory huts. Due to the lack of water, the faeces cannot drain properly into the pit below and then usually remain on the surface. The consequences are an unpleasant stench and numerous flies making it impossible to use these simple toilets after a time. It is especially unacceptable for the children to use such toilet huts as their feet, shod in simple open sandals, come into contact with the excrement on the toilet floor and then carry it into their living quarters.

Typical toilet hut seen from the outside. It is not possible to stand upright in it. The huts are also very unstable.

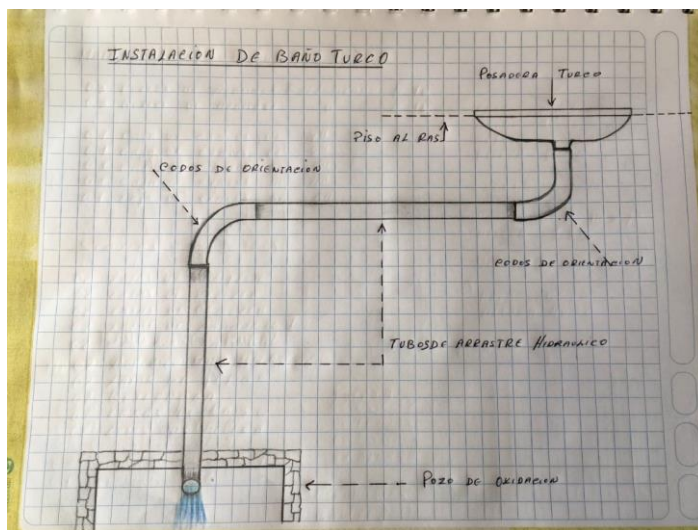


The inside usually looks very unhygienic. It is common to encounter a strong stench and numerous flies, because running water is not available.



Our new lavatory huts are simple ceramic squat toilets connected to running water. A mountain stream near the hut is tapped into using underground tubes or pipes to divert some of the flowing water towards the lavatory hut. This allows the faeces to flow more easily into the septic tank two metres below, where it oxidises by itself over time without the addition of chemicals.

Plans of a lavatory hut we have built (drawn by our project manager Angel, which is why the explanation is written in Spanish).



Good to see: the new lavatory hut next to a mountain stream (the living hut is on the left).



Official opening of the first lavatory hut we built.



Water connection from outside.



Water connection from inside, equipped with a simple tap (not yet completely finished).



In 2019, we will follow up this new project more intensively to check the sustainability of the lavatory huts used by the families living there.

Good to know

We will build lavatory huts only in the communities where we have already built greenhouses. This will allow us to monitor both projects at the same time. Also, we will only support those families with lavatory huts who have managed their greenhouses to our satisfaction over the past three years. They must also be prepared to take over most of the construction and installation work for the lavatory huts themselves. This mainly involves constructing underground water pits to divert part of the mountain watercourse to the lavatory huts.

Indigenous Theatre School

The indigenous theatre school project, about which we wrote in detail in our annual reports 2016 and 2017, will not be pursued in the future. Unfortunately, we have not found a Peruvian partner who would like to carry this project forward with us. We also recognised that such a theatre project would take up a lot of our time.

After five years in Peru – we finally have our own working vehicle!

Thanks to a generous donation received in 2018, we have been able to buy a used Toyota four-wheel drive pickup worth about US\$ 24,000. Up until now, we have travelled to the communities in the mountains solely in the lorry belonging to our driver, Faustino. This was not ideal, because the vehicle was thirty years old and very prone to breaking down. In addition, the lorry did not have reliable safety belts and consumed a lot of fuel when driving up the difficult mountain roads to 4,000 metres.

Thanks to our new working vehicle, our journeys to remote mountain regions will now be much more comfortable, faster, more ecological, but above all - for us as passengers - much safer.

Before: Our driver's lorry, prone to breaking down, which we have used and rented for five years for our work trips.



After: Our new working vehicle (Toyota Hilux 4 x 4, year of manufacture 2012), Faustino, our driver and co-project manager, with Ernesto Zulliger.



We would like to take this opportunity to mention this generous donation which allowed us to make this important purchase and thank the donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, for agreeing that it be spent in this way.

Good to know

We will still have to use the truck to transport voluminous and heavy material. However, this will only be necessary if we have to transport heavy auxiliary and construction material up to the relevant settlement at the start of a new project. We will be able to use the pickup for most of the trips where we carry out on-site project inspections. This will be the case for about eighty per cent of our trips.

Financial

2018 was by far the best year for donations since the Foundation was established five years ago. We received just under CHF 68,000 in donations. In the previous three years the figures were much lower (2017: CHF 20,000 / 2016: CHF 14,000 / 2015: 6,000, all figures rounded).

At 31 December 2018, the Swiss Foundation Porvenir Peru (CHF 63,980) and its Peruvian aid association of the same name (US\$ 4,700) together had CHF 68,625 in liquid funds at their disposal to continue financing existing and planned aid projects.

Good to know

Our two freelancers, Angel Callañaupa (project manager) and Faustino Huahuasoncco (driver and co-project manager), are paid by us on a fee basis (about CHF 5,000 per year for both workers). In contrast to other aid organisations, we have no fixed personnel and office costs. For this reason, the majority of the donations is directed straight to aid projects.

Personal comment from Ernesto Zulliger, Founder of Porvenir Peru



When I set up the Foundation in 2013 with my own funds, I would not have believed that five years later we would have even more funds available than at the beginning. And this is in spite of the fact that we have already built a large number of greenhouses during this time and even bought our own vehicle!

Our Foundation is currently primarily involved in projects directly related to improving the quality of life of indigenous Peruvian families living in poverty in remote mountainous regions in the Andes at 4,000 metres-plus above sea level.

A new aid project, which is still close to my heart, is to support children living in orphanages and children's homes or who have a physical/mental disability. We are dependent on new donations for this new children's project, which is still in the evaluation phase. If you would like to support us in this work, then we would be very grateful for your donation, with the reference "Children's project".

I would like to thank all donors who have placed their trust in us with their financial support so far. It is thanks to you that we have successfully implemented all these aid projects and will be able to embark on further new projects in the future.

Thank you very much!

¡Muchas gracias!

Sulpayki! (in Quechua)



PORVENIR PERU

Swiss-Peruvian Aid Organisation
Langweidstrasse 4
8620 Wetzikon
Switzerland

ernesto@porvenirperu.org
www.porvenirperu.org

For donations, see our website for details:
www.porvenirperu.org => [Donations](#)



From left to right:

Faustino Huahuasoncco (driver and co-project manager)

Angel Callañaupa (project manager)

Ernesto Zulliger (Founder)