

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Summary

A difficult year for the Foundation caused by Coronavirus

The year 2020 was not an easy year for our Foundation due to the pandemic. For the first time since its inception seven years ago, we were not permitted to travel to Peru to follow up and document our projects on site. Following the outbreak of the pandemic, all flights from Europe to Peru were cancelled (and at the end of February 2021, this is still the case).

Construction of a large community building for village activities

Despite the many movement restrictions in Peru caused by Coronavirus, we were able to start on a project to construct a community building. It is already 80% completed (at the end of February 2021).

Planned new building project for 2021-2022:

Construction of a water tank to irrigate agricultural land for smallholder farmers.

A large Swiss donor (legal entity) contacted us in 2020 and offered to finance its own aid project in full. This project involves constructing a large water tank to enable fifty smallholder families to irrigate their agricultural land all year round.

Effects of the pandemic in Peru

Overstretched public health system

Peru has been one of the countries in Latin America most affected by the pandemic. The state health system was, and continues to be, completely overwhelmed by more than a million people who have tested positive for Corona to date. Oxygen equipment in hospitals is in acute short supply, and families of hospitalised patients are obliged to procure oxygen tanks for their relatives themselves.

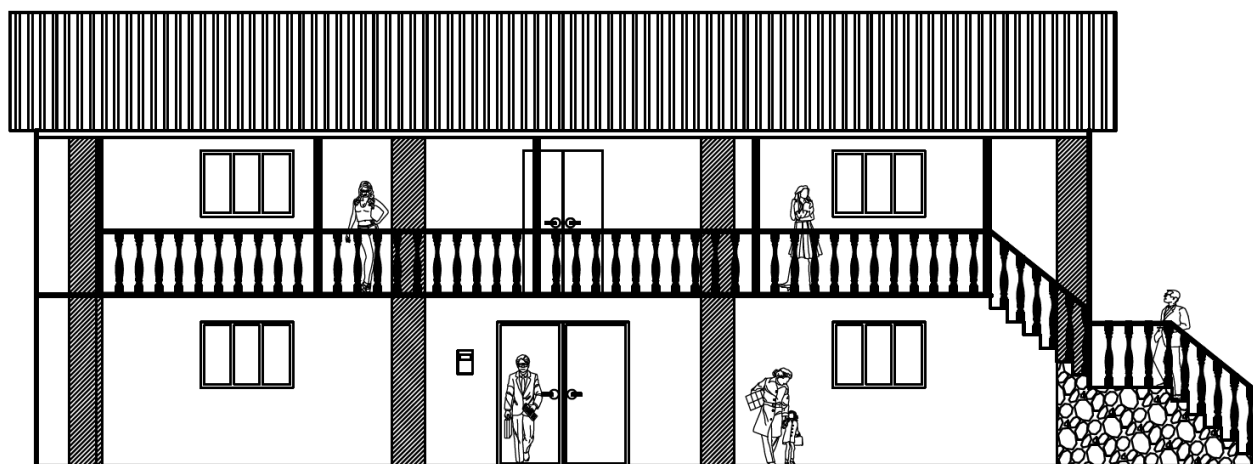
Faustino, our local member of staff (aged 41), was also infected with the virus in January 2021. Initially, it looked as if he would have to go to a hospital because he had problems with his breathing. The public hospitals in Peru are completely overwhelmed by the pandemic. This is especially true in the region around Cusco, where we as a Foundation are most active. Hundreds of people queue outside the regional hospitals every day to be treated for symptoms of the virus.

Patients are often obliged to wait almost a whole day before it is finally their turn to see a doctor. Obtaining a bed in the hospital in a serious emergency is not guaranteed. As mentioned above, oxygen tanks have to be obtained by the relatives themselves.

In view of these difficult circumstances, we offered to cover the cost of Faustino's treatment in a private, and not public, hospital in Cusco (located two hours away by car) if his breathing problems deteriorated. Fortunately, in the end, the situation was not serious enough to warrant this action and Faustino was able to recuperate at home. He is better now but continues to feel weak and tired.

Construction of a community building for a small village

Help to integrate people with health impairments



In 2020, Faustino, our member of staff, managed to drive forward the planned project to construct a community building. He achieved this despite the regular lockdowns ordered by the Peruvian government to contain the pandemic. As of February 2021, construction is about 80% complete and should be finished by the end of this year.

The two-storey community building is 14 metres long and 6 metres wide (84 square metres); the total area used is 170 square metres. It is located in the village of Mendosayoc (district of Lares, province of Calca) at 1800 metres above sea level where approximately 150 people live, mostly small farmers.

The village is located in a very remote region between the Andes mountain range and the Amazon region. It can only be reached by a two-hour walk from the nearest road, which made it very difficult to transport all the building materials.

The lower floor of the community building consists of a large hall of 84 square metres with raised wooden stage for cultural or music shows. When completed, the hall will seat about 100 people and can be used for the village's monthly meetings, which until now have been held outside. When it rained, only a small number of villagers turned up for the scheduled meetings, which often meant that they were not quorate. Thanks to the community hall, all village activities will soon be able to take place in a room protected from the rain.

The upper floor of the building consists of three separate rooms, which the village community will rent out as dormitories. In this region, there are many wholesalers who regularly travel to this area with their trucks to buy produce from the small farmers. These traders usually need a room to spend the night, or even for several days if the truck breaks down or the roads are impassable for a few days after heavy rainfall.

A remarkable aspect of this particular village is that many people who live there suffer from mental disabilities, possibly caused by inbreeding (but this is just my personal assumption). Other villagers exclude these people and prevent them from participating in many activities in the village.

Before committing to our aid project, we spoke to the villagers and explained that we would only support this building project if the disabled people could participate in all future village activities, which would then be held either in the new room or outside. The villagers promised us that this would happen.

You can find out more about the background to this construction project in our previous annual report which can be found on our website under the «Projects».

Constructing the community building, which was 80% finished by February 2021

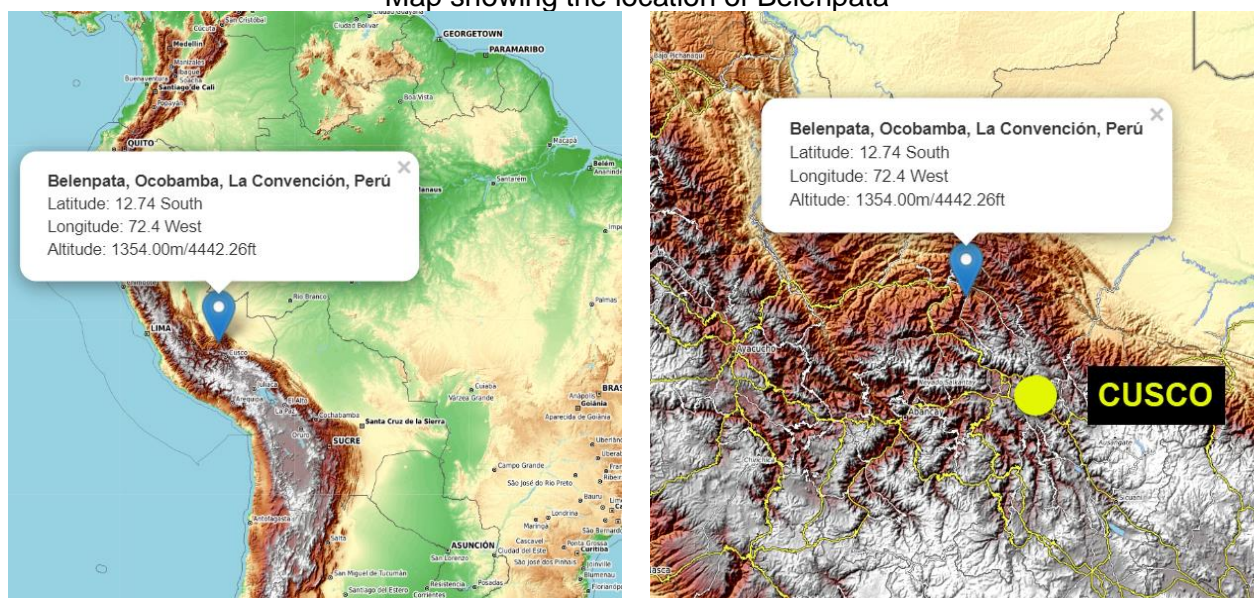


Building a water tank to support smallholder farmers

new construction project planned for 2021/2022

As soon as we can travel to Peru again, we would like to implement a new project to construct a water tank in the village of Belenpata (district of Ocobamba, province of La Convención). This settlement is about five hours by car from Cusco and lies at about 1,350 metres above sea level. At present, 50 families or about 200 people live in this village, many of them children.

Map showing the location of Belenpata



The farming families living in the village are heavily dependent on agriculture - even more so in the current pandemic as they can only just about cover their basic needs with their own agricultural produce due to travel restrictions.

At the beginning of 2020, our staff member Faustino visited Belenpata for the first time. He was shocked to see the level of poverty there and to discover the increasing difficulties encountered by the resident families to irrigate their fields. As a result of global warming, fewer and fewer nearby streams are carrying sufficient water and this will become an existential threat to many families in the medium term.

The fields are mainly planted with subtropical fruits such as avocados, oranges, bananas, pitahaya (dragon fruit) and granadilla (passion fruit). The produce is mainly for the smallholders' own consumption, but also for sale. Once a month, large trucks from the city of Cusco travel to this region to buy up the farmers' surplus, which provides them with a regular income. But this is only possible if the farmers can keep their farmland fertile with enough water all year round.

To implement the project, an underground water source needs to be tapped from four kilometres away, which will conduct water all year round. The water will then be piped via two large water tanks and kilometre-long hoses to approximately 40 agricultural plots belonging to the smallholders. The water can be released in specific quantities through a tap at the end of the hose.

As ours is a small foundation, it was very important to secure the necessary financing for this relatively large project. Thanks to a generous donation by a legal entity in Switzerland received in January 2021 for this specific project, we are able to guarantee the necessary funds of approximately US\$ 15,000 for this new construction initiative.

As soon as the restrictions caused by the pandemic are lifted in Peru, we will travel there and begin to plan the project. Ideally, we would like it to be concluded by the end of 2022.

Building greenhouses has paid off ...particularly during the pandemic



In the past five years since the foundation was established, we have built over 160 family greenhouses in twelve separate villages. This achievement has paid off particularly now that we are experiencing a pandemic. Thanks to the greenhouses, the families have optimal conditions in which to grow their own vegetables and are no longer obliged to walk for several hours to the next village market to buy produce there. During the pandemic prices for agricultural products have risen enormously, meaning that shopping at a market has become expensive for many families without the means to provide themselves with their own grown vegetables.

As mentioned in our 2019 annual report, we are not going to build any more new greenhouses due to capacity constraints. Rather, we will continue to maintain the existing ones with skilled labour and, if necessary, have them re-covered with special films. These translucent films have an average lifespan of seven years before their thermal properties start to deteriorate. The wear-and-tear is mainly due to the severe fluctuations between temperatures experienced during the day and the night to which the outside of the cover foils are exposed all year round. In addition, the strong sunlight at 3,000-4,000 metres above sea level, where most of our greenhouses are located, shortens the life of the film.

We are currently in talks with various regional government representatives so that their local administration can take over the maintenance work on the greenhouses themselves in the future.

Financial matters

We continue to rely on your donations

Despite the problems caused by the Coronavirus in 2020, we had a pleasing donated income of almost US\$ 20,000 (2019: US\$ 11,000); half of this figure was donated by a single benefactor (legal entity).

At 31 December 2020, the Swiss Foundation Porvenir Peru and our Peruvian subsidiary of the same name had together liquid assets of US\$ 62,800 for implementing future aid projects.

Personal comment from the Founder

Ernesto Zulliger

Dear Donors

The Coronavirus year of 2020 was not an easy one for the Foundation - or for me as project manager. For the first time since the foundation was established seven years ago, I was unable to make my usual half-yearly trips to Peru.

Faustino, our local member of staff, performed magnificently last year. Above all, he organised and supervised the construction of the community building himself - for which I am very grateful. The photographs of the building under construction were taken by Faustino. He took them with his basic mobile phone and sent them to me via WhatsApp.



One of the photos shows two children, who Faustino encountered in a field while he was taking a rest from driving. For many of you, the image will look delightful. But behind these children's eyes is much suffering and poverty. The children simply accept their difficult living conditions because they haven't experienced anything different. Perhaps this is a good thing, because it would be very difficult for us to explain why other children in the world are less affected by fate than they are.

What does the future hold? I very much hope that I will be able to travel to Peru again after such a long time away. A trip is currently planned for November 2021 in the hope that the situation caused by the pandemic has improved considerably and everything is a little more like 'normal life'.

At this point, I would like to sincerely thank all our donors for your financial support, whether it be large or small. Thank you all for supporting our work so actively and for continuing to put your trust in us.

It is only thanks to you that we, as a small foundation, can carry out amazing aid projects. Rest assured, therefore, that your donations will always be used for aid projects that directly benefit disadvantaged and needy families in Peru.

Thank you very much! Muchas gracias! Sulpayki! (thank you in Quechua)



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For donations, see our website for details:
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