

Annual Report 2015

In 2015, in conjunction with the Peruvian organisation “Asociación Porvenir Peru”, the Swiss foundation Porvenir Peru successfully completed two aid projects in the area of nutrition in two indigenous village communities located 4,000 metres above sea level in the Cusco region of the Andes.

Project no. 1: Building 18 family greenhouses for the indigenous village community of Pitukiska



Project no. 2: Purchase of 180 laying hens, 30 pick-axes and 30 shovels for the indigenous village community of Wallwaray



Project no. 1: Building of 18 greenhouses

Porvenir Peru has supported eighteen indigenous families living in the village community of Pitukiska in the province of Paucartambo (Cusco region) by building them each a greenhouse.

Background

The little village community of Pitukiska lies 4,100 metres above sea level. In these high regions of the Andes, the inhabitants can grow only potatoes. Other vegetables cannot be grown there as the soil is not suitable. In addition, the extreme weather conditions are not ideal for growing vegetables in the open (night frosts, strong UV radiation by day, etc.).

Potato fields at 4,000 metres above sea level



Evaluation period

The Chairman of the aid organisation Porvenir Peru, Ernesto Zulliger, visited the village of Pitukiska for the first time in November 2014 with our local project co-ordinator, Angel Callañaupa. In spite of the precarious living conditions that we found there, neither aid agencies nor the Peruvian government have been active there to date. The primary reason is that this village community of only 18 families is very small and extremely difficult to reach.

The poverty of the indigenous people is clearly evident



The villagers asked us to help build family greenhouses so that they are not dependent on growing potatoes but also have the opportunity to cultivate other vegetables in future. We agreed to this aid project because it involves a sustainable plan that will benefit the health of the families living there.

Our conditions



Our funding offer to the eighteen families was bound to the condition that they would build the foundation walls of their future greenhouses themselves. The families agreed to this condition immediately. The flat mountain stone found in this mountainous region was used to build the foundation walls. The cement was made locally from a mixture of earth, water, dried grasses, gravel and alpaca and/or llama dung.

From November 2014 to May 2015, the families completed the foundation walls for their greenhouses. This meant that they made an important and, above all, a physically demanding contribution towards this aid project.

Our contribution

Once the foundation walls of the eighteen greenhouses were erected, it was the turn of Porvenir Peru to make its contribution. We purchased the following materials to complete the greenhouses:

- 6 large rolls, each 50 metres, of a special foil to cover the greenhouses. We placed great emphasis on acquiring a good quality foil that was not only rip- and weather-resistant, but would also be resistant to the sun's UV rays which at this altitude are very strong and damaging.
- 4 rolls of rust-proof wire of 200 metres each and 20 kilogrammes of nails to fix the greenhouse foil to the roofs.
- 200 metres of hosing to ensure the greenhouses are supplied with spring water.

Transporting and installing the foil

In June 2015, Ernesto Zulliger and our colleague, Angel Callañaupa, transported the materials weighing almost 700 kilogrammes up to the village. We had to cover the last twelve kilometres on foot. Thanks to the support of the villagers we managed to transport the heavy materials to the settlement successfully.

The villagers took on assembling and fixing the foils to the roofs of the greenhouses themselves under the expert guidance of our colleague, Angel.

All the materials weighing almost 700 kg



Assembling and fixing the foil



View of the interior



All involved in the building work were very satisfied



The right soil for cultivation

A greenhouse needs suitable soil, of course, for vegetables to be cultivated successfully. The soil is produced by the families themselves. To do this, they mix the dung of the llamas and alpacas bred there with the existing soil, and also add in lime fertiliser from natural stone extraction.

Inaugurating the greenhouses

In November 2015, Ernesto Zulliger and Angel Callañaupa officially opened the eighteen greenhouses in the indigenous village community of Pitukiska. For the occasion, the families

decorated the entrance doors to their new greenhouses with wreaths of flowers. They also hung bottles of “chicha” (fermented maize beer) up on the doors. At the families’ request, Ernesto smashed the bottles with a hammer to ceremoniously inaugurate the eighteen greenhouses. Various speeches of gratitude from the families, dances and a traditional village meal were all part of this memorable day on which we finished our first successful project so satisfactorily.



Costs

The overall costs for this project amounted to approximately US\$ 4,000. This sum includes also the fee payments to our freelance colleague, Angel Callañaupa, who as the project co-ordinator carried the responsibility for this project from the beginning to the end.

Results of the finished aid project



Thanks to the eighteen greenhouses, the families can now plant various types of vegetable, such as onions, courgettes, tomatoes, radishes, lettuce, carrots, cauliflower and herbs. As a result, they are no longer entirely dependent on the potato crop. Also, the families can sell their excess harvests in the markets in lower-lying villages and towns or exchange them for other food needed, such as maize. The vegetable “waste” such as the inedible leaves and stems is

used as fresh fodder for guinea-pigs that traditionally many indigenous families breed.

Project no. 2: 180 hens, 30 picks and 30 shovels

In 2015, Porvenir Peru supported thirty families living in the village community of Wallwaray (Calca province, Cusco region) by purchasing 180 hens, 30 picks and 30 shovels.

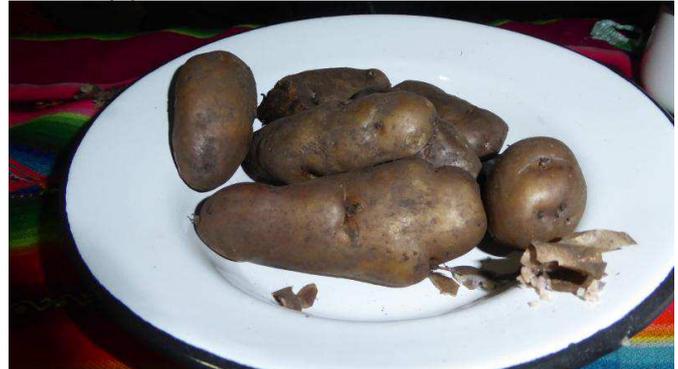
Background

In May 2015, we found out from a village schoolmistress that the children living in the indigenous village community of Wallwaray (located at 4,385 metres above sea level) were presenting an above-average rate of broken bones. Medical clarifications then established that these children were suffering from osteoporosis which can be caused by a lack of calcium in nutrition. During our first visit to the village in June 2015, we saw that the families living there had a very monotonous diet, based solely on potatoes. Calcium-rich foods, such as milk, fresh vegetables, cereals, legumes, etc. were not available. As the village is located 4,000 metres above sea level, it is not possible for the villagers to supply themselves with these foods.

A very barren landscape at an altitude of 4,385 metres



Only potatoes can be cultivated at this altitude



Evaluation period

We presented the problem of juvenile osteoporosis to the health authority responsible for the region in the hope that something could be done for the villagers. To no avail. The health authority concentrates its efforts on larger communities in which many families with children live, and not on small, isolated indigenous settlements that are scattered across the Peruvian Andes and are difficult to reach. For this reason, our Foundation decided to support the inhabitants of Wallwaray with a sustainable relief project to alleviate the lack of calcium in the children's diets. After consulting the families in the village in June 2015, we came to the joint decision that the best solution for preventing lack of calcium would be to purchase laying hens and to breed them. This would allow the children to have eggs in their daily diet.

Implementing the project

In November 2015, we – Ernesto Zulliger and our locally-based colleague, Angel Callañaupa – organised the purchase and transport of 180 hens, 50 kilogrammes of chicken feed, and 30 shovels and 30 picks to the village.

We had agreed with the families in advance that they would support us in transporting all the goods. The village can only be reached by a strenuous five-hour trek through the mountains. Our greatest concern was whether the 180 hens would survive the stress of the journey. Fortunately they did – and the weather was kind to us on that day, too.

Unloading the goods transported by truck. Then everything had to be prepared for the trek on foot



180 hens were fed before we tackled the long walk



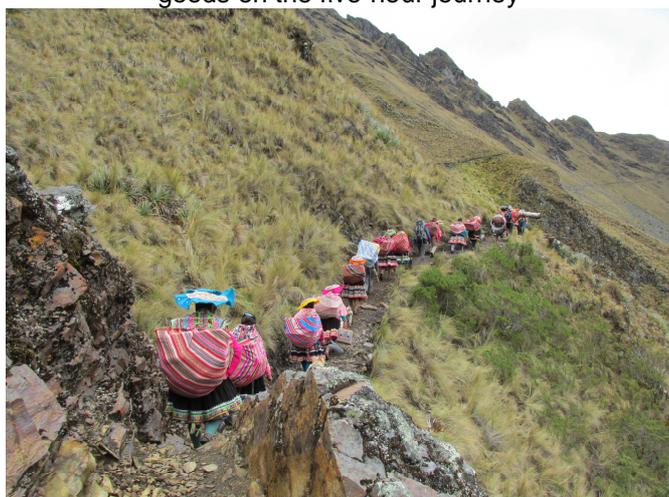
Six hens installed comfortably in each box



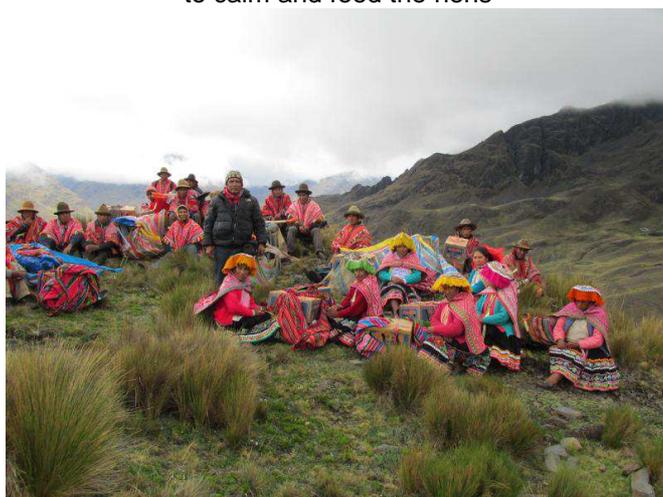
The picks and shovels were very heavy!



30 people helped transport the goods on the five-hour journey



Several breaks were scheduled to calm and feed the hens



Finally, we reached our destination!



The hens seemed to be very happy at their new home



Costs

The overall costs for this project ran to approximately US\$ 2,500. This sum also includes the fees paid to our freelance colleague, Angel Callañaupa, who bore responsibility for the entire project as the project co-ordinator.

Results of the completed relief project



Each family received from Porvenir Peru five laying hens and a cockerel (for breeding). In addition, each family received a shovel and a pick – tools, which in these remote regions where growing potatoes is the primary occupation, are very useful. One hen lays four eggs on average per week, which corresponds to a production of approximately twenty eggs per family per week.

Thanks to the chicken breeding programme, egg production will increase in the future. Then the families will also be able to consume chicken meat. This will have a long-term positive effect on the villagers' health and make a valuable contribution towards preventing osteoporosis.

Outlook: Projects for 2016 and 2017

Further support of indigenous villages in the area of nutrition

Our main focus continues to lie in supporting small, remote indigenous village communities in the Andes of Peru, situated at around 4,000 metres above sea level which are in urgent need of help. We have already identified various communities and would now like to support these in the area of nutrition.

Pioneering project: Indigenous theatre school (“Teatro Quechua”)

We would also like to launch a pioneering cultural project to demonstrate to the majority of the Peruvian population the problems and needs encountered by their compatriots in the mountainous regions of the Andes. Frequently, town dwellers do not know that hundreds of indigenous village communities exist in the Andes of Peru – their own country – where families live in isolated conditions in an extremely simple manner and have to wage a daily battle in order to survive.

It is a fact that many of these indigenous families leave their remote villages to move to towns such as Cusco, in order to make a better life for themselves and their children. Sadly, exactly the opposite happens. These families, who barely speak Spanish but rather the local language of Quechua, are often discriminated against in the towns and are exploited in their work. The indigenous children are bullied by the town's children in school because they do not speak Spanish and cannot assert themselves. As a result, they do not integrate socially and suffer from this.

In order to highlight the many problems that these families face in towns, we are going to launch a theatre project in 2016 and 2017, in which the indigenous children will take the leading roles. The play tackles the difficulties – primarily discrimination and exploitation – that the indigenous people find when they migrate to the cities, and it also looks at their needs and desires.

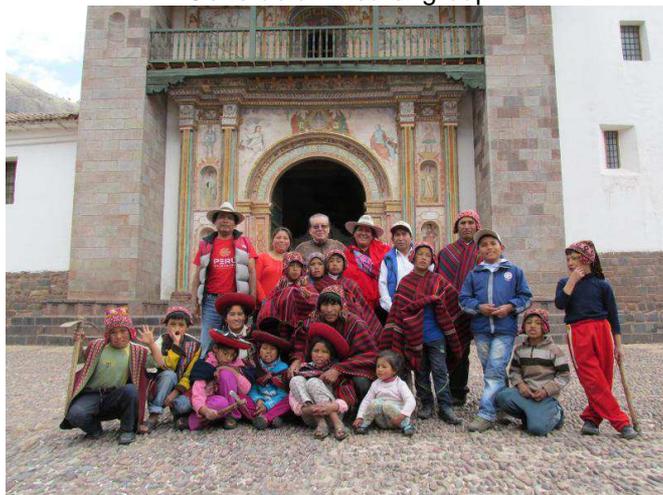
The theatre project was initiated by Porvenir Peru in August 2015 as a pilot project. We managed to identify three suburbs in the town of Cusco inhabited preponderantly by families who have left their village communities and now live a city life with all its problems and challenges. Each of the three suburbs will prepare a play and the participants will decide on the theme for their play themselves.

In finding José Luis Castro García, we have managed to secure the ideal person to direct this theatre project. José Luis is well-respected in the town of Cusco for his work in cultural matters. He has worked for nineteen years as a producer and presenter for various cultural programmes for a Peruvian TV channel. As a journalist, he has written many newspaper articles about culture and Peruvian history. In addition, he was a co-ordinator for cultural projects at the Cultural Ministry for the Cusco region. At the moment, he is the director of a cultural centre that organises various weekly cultural events in Cusco. He also speaks the indigenous language of Quechua, which is very important for directing this theatre project.

Choquepata theater group



Generación theater group



Taucca theater group



José Luis Castro and his daughter Tania Castro:
responsible for our three theatre groups



We are convinced that theatre is the best medium to draw the attention of the general public to the problems of the indigenous families and to make people aware of their needs. Participating in theatre will increase the indigenous people's feeling of self-worth as they are usually very shy and often feel to be second-class citizens in Peru.

We have a total budget of US\$ 20,000 for the period 2015 to 2017 for the theatre project. This will allow us to establish a solid basis for the initial phase of the three theatre groups. Our vision, however, is to launch further theatre groups in many other suburbs of Cusco, where other "migrated" indigenous families also live with their problems. As a result, we could implement and organise a theatre competition in the medium term in which "our" groups can perform in front of the local town audience and draw attention to their problems through drama and, in an ideal world, initiate a dialogue with the "townies". This may also kindle the interest of the press, which would be very beneficial for further donations.

In order to carry out our vision, we are dependent on the help of our donors who believe in our pioneer project and would like to support us in achieving it. The ideal situation would be if a large donor or company would help to support this theatre project together with us by acting as a main sponsor.

Financial Matters

The Porvenir Peru Foundation in Switzerland as well as its Peruvian sister organisation “Asociación Porvenir Peru”, were established by the current Chairman of both aid organisations, Ernesto Zulliger, who contributed the necessary foundation capital of CHF 50,000 (approx. US\$ 55'000) from his own financial means.

As at 31 December 2015, the Porvenir Peru aid organisation had approx. US\$ 43'000.- in financial funds available in hand to finance further aid projects for the benefit of indigenous families.

Conclusion

We are heavily dependent on donations to continue supporting the indigenous families in Peru in sustainable ways in the long term. If you would like to help us to do this, then please visit the English-language pages of our website www.porvenirperu.org (=> Donations), where you will find all the necessary information.

You can also support us by drawing attention to this report to your friends and acquaintances. The report is also available in on our website in German, Spanish and French. Only by increasing the level of awareness of our aid Organisation we will be able to attract further funding to allow us to plan long-term projects to benefit the indigenous families of Peru.

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

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



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