

Newsletter 2014

Planned Aid Projects for 2015-2016



Start-up Phase

The Swiss foundation, "Fundación Porvenir Perú", was founded in August 2013 by the Swiss Ernesto Zulliger. The Founder, who at the same time is also the President of this organization, spent in 2014 more than four months in the remote areas of the Peruvian Andes in the region of Cuzco visiting several indigenous communities living in poverty at over 4000 meters.

Through these trips, which were financed personally by the Founder, we wanted to identify some suitable aid projects, which "Porvenir Peru" could carry out to improve the lives of indigenous families living in communities secluded from civilizations.

One of the biggest problems we faced during the visits to these indigenous communities, was the fact, that the inhabitants of these communities speak only the indigenous language Quechua, which was the language used by the ancient Inca culture. There are virtually no similarities between Quechua and Spanish, which at first complicated the understanding between the indigenous families and us.

This made it quite clear to us that we needed a suitable project coordinator proficient in both Spanish and Quechua in order to successfully and independently proceed with our aid projects. This person should also know and understand the mentality, culture, traditions, the social background and, above all, the needs of these families.



In the person of Angel Callañaupa we have found a competent project coordinator, with excellent knowledge of the indigenous peoples. Angel has been supporting the Quechua-speaking communities for many years by himself. For more information about him, visit our website www.porvenirperu.org (=> About us => Our team).

The second hurdle that we had to overcome during our start-up phase was opening a bank account in Peru. Only organizations which are officially registered in Peru can open bank accounts in this country. Since “Porvenir Peru” was at its initial stage a Foundation registered only in Switzerland, we were not allowed to open a bank account in Peru.

For this reason, we established in Peru a subsidiary of our foundation with the name “Asociación Porvenir Perú”. This Association is registered in Peru as a non-governmental organization (NGO) and is recognized by the Peruvian tax office (SUNAT) as a charitable organization. Therefore, natural persons or legal entities in Peru with tax-liabilities can deduct their donations from their income taxes in Peru. This also applies to Swiss tax payers, who usually transfer their donations directly to the Swiss Foundation and therefore are also allowed to deduct their donation from their Swiss income tax.

The president and founder of this new Peruvian association is Ernesto Zulliger, who also fills these roles for our Swiss Foundation.

Hence, “Porvenir Peru” has two bank accounts, one with the Swiss bank Zurich Cantonal Bank in Zurich/Switzerland in the name of “Fundación Porvenir Perú – Swiss Foundation”, and another one in Peru at the bank BCP in the name of “Asociación Porvenir Perú”.

Which Projects Did We Support in 2014?

The Swiss Foundation was established in August 2013 and the Peruvian Association in July 2014, so that throughout 2014 we were still in the implementation and organizational phase. During this time, we received valuable support from the Peruvian-Dutch foundation “Por Eso” (www.poreso.org). This charitable organization has been active in Cusco for more than 6 years, specializing in the building of greenhouses and setting up vegetable gardens in indigenous communities in the high Andes of Peru.

Three employees of the NGO “Por Eso”.

From left to right: Lutgardo, Jolanda and Walter



Poster listing the projects in one community where “Por Eso” is active



Another of the strengths of “Por Eso” is the installation of improved clay ovens in the kitchens of indigenous family houses. Together with this NGO, we were able to visit various communities for several weeks, to see and learn how they work on-site. “Porvenir Peru” supported the valuable work of this Dutch organization with a donation of US\$ 5,000 in 2014.

Theater and Dance Courses for a Primary School Class

In 2014, we also had the opportunity to visit some projects of the “Asociación Educativa y Cultural Arte Sano” (www.elartesano40friends.com) in the town of Urubamba near Cuzco.

Arte Sano is a private association that supports cultural exchange and the education of school children from poor backgrounds by offering free classes in culture, music, dance, theater and physical education. This association was founded in 2008 by Elise van der Heijden, a Dutch woman, and currently receives an important part of its funding through donations. We had the opportunity to visit a primary school class, where students receive free dance and theater classes twice a week by a professional teacher, who is paid by the Association Arte Sano, since public schools do not have an academic program in dance, music and theater.

We donated US\$1,000 to Arte Sano so that the primary school class can continue enjoying the courses free of charge. The annual expenses for this course are around US\$1,500. Under the following link you can see a video of theater classes at this school: www.vimeo.com/108079977

If you would like to make a donation to promote courses in art, music, dance and theater in this primary class, you can indicate this by specifying as concept “Sponsorship primary class” when making your donation. We will ensure that your donation is dedicated to this purpose.



Children from a primary school class in the town of Urubamba.

Left: Carmen Santillán, theater and dance teacher. Right: Ernesto Zulliger from “Porvenir Peru”

Children's and Orphanage Home

Near the city of Cuzco, in the village of Oropesa, is located the children's and orphanage home “Azul Wasi” (www.azulwasi.org), which we have visited twice during 2014.

This home was founded in 2006 by Alcides Jordán (retired policeman) and his wife Alicia, using their own financial resources, to give orphans and street children in the region of Cuzco a home. This place

currently accommodates around 15 children from the ages of 6 to 18, all coming from impoverished backgrounds. The aim is to give children without families a home where the Christian faith, charity and respect for nature play a key role. The home does not receive any financial support from the Peruvian government since it is a very small and privately-run organization. It is partially supported through volunteer positions filled by foreigners who come to Peru to learn Spanish and simultaneously choose to perform social work at the children's home.

"Porvenir Peru" supported the home with a donation of US\$ 1,000 in 2014 to meet some urgent needs like buying food and kitchenware.

We are hoping to receive additional donations from donors in 2015 to support these children in the educational field and thus facilitate their entry into the labor market later.

If you want to support this particular children's home as a new donor, please indicate as concept "Sponsorship children's home" when making your donation. We will personally ensure on-site that your donation is fully devoted to educational programs for children of "Azul Wasi".



Children of "Azul Wasi" together with Alcides and his wife Alicia, both founders of the home (on the right). Shown on the left side is Ernesto Zulliger, President of "Porvenir Peru", with two volunteers from Germany (Saskia Haverig and Michael Corinth).

Our Planned Projects for 2015

The improvement of living conditions for indigenous families living in poverty continues to be our main focus. Most of these families live in small villages, consisting of only 25 to 50 families, at an elevation above 4,000 meters in the province of Lares (region of Cusco). The families who live in these remote areas of the Andes do not receive any support from the government or other organizations, because in order to reach these communities, you have to cross an arduous journey on foot for several hours through the mountains that, in turn, hinders very much the transportation of relief supplies for these people.

This is the challenge "Porvenir Peru" is prepared to assume, helping communities difficult to access and which are not receiving any support so far! By focusing our attention on small, remote villages, we can carry out sustainable and long-term helping projects, despite our limited funding resources currently available, which are much lower than those with other aid organizations.

During the first phase of our projects, we want to support the families in the area of nutrition and health. For this reason, in 2015 we will address the following projects (project costs of around US \$ 20,000):

Building Family Greenhouses and Vegetable Gardens

Potatoes are the only food that can be grown naturally and easily in the Andes region at an altitude above 4,000 meters. This is the main food source for indigenous families. Because of the insufficient vitamins provided by such a limited diet, the children suffer from poor physical, motor and intellectual development. This can be observed in their behavior.



Therefore, we consider building greenhouses and vegetable gardens in these small communities to be a long-term healthy investment. Greenhouses and vegetable gardens would allow families to plant other vegetables, such as corn and carrots, which would not otherwise grow at such altitudes. Since the region is prone to freezing temperatures at night, greenhouses would protect vegetables sensitive to cold temperatures, while cold-hardy vegetables (e.g. carrots) in the vegetable gardens outside are not damaged.

Step 1: The families build the walls of the greenhouses themselves.



Step 2: We help them purchase and install solid roof rack bars.



Step 3: Most importantly, a solid and translucent PVC cover.



Step 4: We educate the families in the biology of growing crops so that they become self-sufficient.



But to achieve a healthy and balanced nutrition, the body also needs the important proteins that are present in meat. The only animal that can reasonably be raised at these altitudes is the guinea pig. For this reason, many indigenous peoples eat guinea pigs, much like we consume chicken. This tradition dates back to the time of the Incas. The biggest challenge of raising guinea pigs as livestock is feeding them, since they only eat fresh grass or vegetables (but not potatoes!).

Friendly guinea pig livestock breeding at an indigenous family at 4,150 meters.



Fresh high grass is the cheapest and simplest food source for guinea pigs.



Building Improved Kitchen Ovens

Many indigenous families in these remote regions of the Andes still live in huts made of clay or stones with straw roofs. The clay ovens used for cooking in these huts are very primitive. Once they are fired up these ovens emit a lot of smoke that partly remains in the huts. This usually causes the inner walls of the huts to turn black and the smell of smoke is still very penetrant even when the ovens are not burning. The problem is created by the clay ovens built without exhaust pipes for the smoke since the necessary fire-proof materials do not "grow" in these high areas and families do not have the money to purchase exhaust pipes. This is unacceptable from the point of view of health for families with children living in these huts.

The children are sick in many ways including chronic coughs that never stop. This is why we want to support the families in building improved kitchen ovens. For this, a new clay oven needs to be built furnished with a cast iron pipe to lead the smoke outside through a chimney.

Primitive kitchen oven. Most of the smoke remains in the huts causing the walls to turn black.



Improved kitchen oven with chimney and cast iron pipes within the oven. The smoke is lead outside.





Also installing simple lockable cupboards is one of the projects that we want to accomplish in these communities. Thus, families could store cookware, cups and, most importantly, food in a clean, hygienic and dust free location.

With the construction of greenhouses, vegetable gardens, improved kitchen ovens and dust-free cupboards, we want to contribute significantly to achieve a well-balanced nutrition, which are key for disease prevention, in favor of families with children living in these communities.

Project to Establish a Theater Group with Participation from Indigenous Children

One project that we are considering and analyzing for its potential effectiveness is establishing a theater group in which the roles are played by indigenous families from the remote village communities. The play should above all portray the culture, tradition, music and importance of the indigenous Quechua language, which is threatened with extinction. In this way, we can help strengthen the cultural identity of the people of the Andes and increase self-esteem in these families.



The indigenous children would be ideal actors for the play.

“Porvenir Peru” will contribute US\$10,000 to the theater project. We are convinced that other organizations will also participate in this important cultural project. Our idea is to have the theater group appear in the city of Cuzco so that they can perform their play in a salon in front of a local audience. In doing so, we want to portray the needs and problems of the indigenous tribes in the remote villages to the general public and the local press. We hope that this will result in more new donations. For this theater project, we can count on receiving valuable collaboration from José Luis Castro García to support us in starting the theater group. José Luis has a lot of experience and connections thanks to his prior involvement as cultural coordinator of the Ministry of Culture for the region of Cuzco. For more information about José Luis visit our website www.porvenirperu.org (=> About us => Our team).



Donations for Individual Families and Persons in severe Needs

“Porvenir Peru” regularly receives email requests from individuals and parents requesting financial support. The majority of the requests involve helping with funding a child's medical expenses whose parents cannot afford to pay themselves. At least one time each year, we would like to make a contribution to provide relief for one of these cases. We will review all of the requests more closely to determine whether we can provide meaningful support with a substantial outlook. All of the cases in question will be reviewed personally by us on-site with the individuals or families concerned. Cash payments are not provided as a form of aid. Instead, we provide support with the purchasing of medical assistive equipment (e.g. wheel chairs) or paying for doctor visits, therapy or medicine expenses.

If a donor wishes to contribute specifically to change the fate of individuals or individual families, he can do so by indicating “Sponsorship individual cases” when making the donation. We will then use the donation specifically to help the person or family in question. Once a year we will inform extensively about the help provided.

One example of a request for helping a child in need which we received a short time ago by e-mail from his mother, concerns the 5 year old child on the picture, with the name Santiago. He suffers from cerebral palsy (a motor disorder) and cannot walk independently. He needs regular therapy to prevent further impairment of muscle functions, bones and joints during adolescence. Moreover, the child cannot go to a regular public school due to his disability, but must attend a specialized school institution instead. Raising her child alone and in poverty, the mother cannot cover alone the expenses for therapy and the tuition for a specialized school.

We would love to help this child, but we need the help of donors and sponsors. If you would like to receive more information about Santiago's case, please contact us. Thank you very much!



Education Problem for Indigenous Children – the Biggest Long-term Challenge

Many indigenous villages are so small and remote that the government does not see any priority to build schools there. Even if a school could be built there, finding a teacher willing to make daily strenuous treks up and down the mountain by foot or willing to live up there for a couple of days at a time would be another problem.

We could see by ourselves how the children have to spend two hours making the strenuous journey to the nearest village school, or four hours round-trip. The children usually make this trip in groups but unaccompanied by an adult. Moreover, the children wear the typical open leather sandals which are not suitable for walking on mountainous grounds. Many parents choose not to send their children to school simply because the walk is too long and dangerous.



Children living at an elevation of 4,200 meters. The nearest school is about two hours away by foot from this community. Too far for a walk of four hours round trip each day. For this reason, these children do not attend school.

According to our own analysis, the only way to ensure that children living in these remote regions attend school on a regular and safe basis, would be to build a home residence for children near an existing public school. The children could live, eat and sleep at the residence from Monday through Thursday/Friday and go to school during the day. They would then return home to their parents on weekends. This would make it easier for the children to attend school, so that they would only have to make the long and dangerous journey once each week instead of daily. However, “Porvenir Peru” doesn’t have the necessary funding to put this pioneer project into action. Should an important donor like to make a major contribution to ensure that this home is built, then we can reconsider this project in favor of the education of indigenous children. We think that an investment of around US\$ 100,000 would be necessary to build a home residence for 20 to 25 children. Once the home is built, the annual running costs would be around US\$ 30,000 to US\$ 50,000 (incl. food, salary for the cook, school and home supplies, etc.). It is likely that we could count on the support and participation in running costs by other public and private agencies, once the residence has started its operations.



Children who regularly attend a public village school

Supporting the Indigenous Weaving Tradition

Many indigenous women still master the centuries-old tradition of producing, dyeing and processing textiles, most of which are made from alpaca wool. All textiles are the result of laborious work of craftsmanship, made exclusively by hand. Even the dyes for the wool are made from natural raw materials. Unfortunately, these women from the remote villages don't have any opportunities to sell their beautiful textiles at a fair price: the nearest tourist market lies hours away and these artisans do not speak Spanish, making it almost impossible to sell at a good price their products to a tourist.

We were able to observe in situ the work it takes to make, for example, a decorative table runner (150 x 30 cm): weaving the perfect motifs and designs into fabric by hand is a process that takes several weeks!

We want to provide the weavers with a better market to sell their amazing textiles at a fair price so that they can continue their ancient tradition. With the support of our project manager, Angel Callañaupa, we will develop a project to support the sales of indigenous women's textiles in tourist destinations in Peru and possibly also in Switzerland and Europe.

Laborious craftsmanship, all made by hand



The weavers proudly show us their beautiful articles



Personal Comment from the Founder of “Porvenir Peru” (Ernesto Zulliger)



In 2014, I had the opportunity to visit during four months several indigenous communities located above 4000 meters in the Peruvian Andes and spend some time living with the families in such remote areas. This allowed me to see how the families live at such unimaginable altitudes and what kind of needs they have.

I decided to extend my professional time-off that I began in 2014 for an indefinite amount of time to be able to focus on the charitable projects of “Porvenir Peru”. Therefore, I will be back in Peru from April until June 2015 as well as from October to November 2015. After this, I will travel to Peru at least twice each year to monitor and supervise in person, along with the team we have in Peru, all the projects. For me, as Founder and President of “Porvenir Peru”, it is a major

concern to quickly and carefully advance the helping projects and to apply the donations purposefully and cost-effectively.

I also want to emphasize that my active travel and my stays in Peru are personally funded and thus aren't covered by donations. I even cover the majority of the organization's administration and management costs by myself. Moreover, I can therefore ensure our donors that around 90% of their contributions go directly to projects in favor of indigenous families. Compared to other charitable organizations, this percentage is very high and is achieved through our lean structure and our minimal administration costs.

At the same time, we are strongly dependent on new donations to carry out our projects. Would you like to support us? You can visit our website at www.porvenirperu.org (=> Donations), where you can find all the necessary information.

You, dear reader, can even support us by sharing our newsletter with you interested friends. The newsletter is available on our website in English, German, Spanish and French. Only raising awareness of our organization can help us gain more donations that will allow us to plan long-term projects for the indigenous families.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all donors who have supported us so far.

Thank you very much!
Yusulpayki (= thanks in Quechua)



Ernesto Zulliger
Founder / President

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PORVENIR PERU
Swiss-Peruvian Aid Organization
Langweidstrasse 4 - 8620 Wetzikon - Switzerland
ernesto@porvenirperu.org / www.porvenirperu.org