

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



News in brief

Regular maintenance work on the 160 greenhouses

In 2019, we carried out various maintenance works on the 160 family greenhouses we have built so far. The special film covering the greenhouses is subject to particularly heavy wear due to the intensive sunlight at 4,000 metres above sea level and the low frost temperatures at night. It has to be checked regularly for tears, and renewed if necessary.

New project: Construction of community halls

In 2020, we are going to start building some village community halls. Many communities organise their village activities (meetings, celebrations, etc.) outdoors because they do not have suitable, covered premises for such events. If the weather is inclement (rain, wind or low temperatures), these activities are cancelled or postponed at short notice – much to the villagers' disappointment. We intend to build halls in communities with above-average numbers of children with special needs and visually-impaired elderly people, so that these members of society can be better integrated into village activities and participate in them.

Change of team personnel in Peru

Sadly, our long-term freelance Peruvian project manager, Angel Callañaupa, has left us in order to pursue other projects. Angel worked for us in Peru for five years and, with his assistance, we have built 160 greenhouses. He has been replaced by our new project manager, Faustino Huahuasoncco, our long-time driver and Angel's former assistant. The new construction project of community rooms will be launched under Faustino's guidance.

Construction of greenhouses

Maintenance and renovation work to start

Since establishing the Foundation, we can congratulate ourselves on our achievement of constructing over 160 family greenhouses in twelve different indigenous villages in the high Andes of Peru over the past five years.

Thanks to these greenhouses, over 640 people, including many children, now eat a healthier and more balanced diet.

We owe this success largely to Angel, our freelance project manager. Since going our separate ways during 2019, we do not currently have anyone skilled in constructing greenhouses – which is why we have not built any new ones over the past year. To compensate for this, we have used our human resources to carry out various maintenance and inspection works on the existing greenhouses.

Thanks to our close collaboration with the Dutch foundation Por Eso, which has been active in Peru for nine years and which also specialises in constructing greenhouses, we have a strategic partner who is willing and able to support us in all technical matters in this area of construction.

The Por Eso Foundation is currently active in two villages where we have also built greenhouses, and it is training the farmers there to obtain the best results from their vegetable plots. Further information about our strategic partner is available on <https://www.poreso.org/en/>.

For the reasons mentioned above, we will not build any more greenhouses, but will continue to maintain and manage the 160 already-productive vegetable plots and, if necessary, have them re-covered with new special films. These translucent films have an average life of seven years before their thermal insulation capacity slowly decreases. The wear and tear is mainly caused by the strong sunlight to which the cover films are exposed at 4,000 metres above sea level.

The cost of maintenance and renewal amounts to approximately USD 10,000 per year.

Construction of community rooms

Helps people with health issues to be integrated into village life

Poverty does not only exist in the regions of Peru in the high Andes, where we have been working with our greenhouse project so far, but also in lower regions, which are close to the Peruvian jungle.

We visited three communities in these tropical regions in 2019. It was striking to note the high number of people living there with special intellectual needs, possibly caused by malnutrition during pregnancy or childhood. Also remarkable was the large number of elderly people suffering from significant visual impairment, possibly due to cataracts, and who are practically blind. The people affected spend most of their time isolated in their dwellings and have little contact with other villagers.

Unfortunately, as a small Swiss foundation with a limited budget, we are restricted in the ways in which we can contribute to the health of these people. If we were to support them by distributing medicine or by sending voluntary (mostly foreign) doctors to the villages, we would have to obtain the prior consent of the Peruvian Ministry of Health, which would be an enormous bureaucratic burden.

We participated in a village meeting in which the wish for a community hall was expressed. This would allow the people with disabilities to participate more actively in village activities in a "protected" space, and allow them to integrate more frequently with other villagers.

As a result, we have decided to focus on constructing community halls during the period 2020 to 2023.

Region of Hualla Suyo.
This is where we will build community halls in three villages.



Grandmother with two grand-daughters in front of their home, built out of bamboo. The smaller girl has special intellectual needs.



What are the advantages of building community halls?

In the tropical areas we visit, village activities - such as meetings, celebrations, weddings and birthday parties - always take place outdoors because there are no suitable premises in the village for these occasions. In the event of heavy rainfall, which often occurs in these tropical regions, such planned activities are often cancelled. In exceptional cases, the villagers may use the small church for their meetings, but not for festivals or other village celebrations. Music and dancing are not allowed in the church and the pews may not be moved, so the space is not particularly suitable.

Who will benefit from this project?

All villagers will benefit from having a community hall. The planned hall will not only be available for village meetings, but also for birthday parties and other local festivals. Thanks to a wooden stage, the hall is also suitable for musical performances and dances. The elderly and mentally handicapped especially will be able to participate more actively in village activities thanks to the community hall and thus have the opportunity to integrate better into community life in the village.

A village meeting taking place in the open air.
All is well, if it does not rain.
Pictured: Faustino, our project manager.



If it rains, the villagers try to continue proceedings in someone's house, but it cannot accommodate everyone.



In exceptional cases, the small village church may also be used for meetings, but the priest is not keen because many villagers are not church-goers (they believe in “mother earth god”).



Specific project

We are intending to build our first community hall in 2020 in the Mendozayoc settlement, a village of about 150 inhabitants.

The planned community hall will be about 30 metres long and 15 metres wide and will provide space for at least 200 people. This size corresponds to an area of 450 square metres.

We have set aside a budget of about USD 15,000 for this project.

This sum will mainly cover the costs for the building and furnishing materials, such as cement, aluminium plates for the roof, wooden boards, chairs, benches, etc. The construction of a wooden stage is also planned so that musical performances or dances can be held.

The villagers will provide the land and carry out the construction work for this community hall, while we, as a Foundation, will be responsible for purchasing and transporting the building materials.

The construction of a second community hall in another settlement, where many people with health problems live, is planned for 2021. If the future income from donations allows, we would like to build a third hall in 2022, in yet another village. The cost per community hall, as mentioned above, is about USD 15,000.

People with special needs (except the smallest girl)



These people live alone in their homes and are not well integrated into village life



Elderly man with severe vision problems (possibly on account of cataracts). He cannot see anything anymore.



Cloudy eye lenses (cataracts). This elderly woman has severely limited vision.



Original pilot project: construction of WC huts.

Unfortunately, not a sustainable project

In 2018, we conducted a trial to construct a toilet hut with a mountain water connection in a settlement located at 4,000-plus metres above sea level (see Annual Report 2018 for more details on this project). We intended to continue this project after a trial period of twelve months, with the aim of possibly building a separate toilet hut for each family in the village.

Unfortunately, this project will only succeed if the water supply from the surrounding mountain streams used to flush the toilets can be guaranteed throughout the year. During the dry season, which lasts about 4 months a year, the small mountain streams do not carry enough water. The only solution would be to build a large water reservoir to collect the liquid. This would mean, however, then laying kilometres of water pipes to allow every family to have a water connection for their toilet hut. The chances of success and sustainability of this project, for which at least USD 20,000 would have to be budgeted, seem very low to us. We have therefore decided to discontinue the toilet project and to use the funds for other, more sustainable projects

Other projects achieved in 2019

School materials for two school classes

We distributed various school materials to two classes, including two large acrylic wall panels (2.40 x 1.20 m), two globes and various educational pictorial charts.

The teacher (left) with a few parents and pupils at the presentation of the school materials provided by the Foundation.



Two large acrylic wall panels (seen here still in their packaging) were presented to the school.



Small gifts

We gave a mattress to this frail, elderly woman. She had previously been sleeping on three blankets on the ground.



Little gifts such as wooden flutes are always welcomed by the children. In the background is the greenhouse after its inauguration.



Renovating a village hostel

Five years ago, in the village of Hualla, the government built a hostel with eight beds for travellers, with the good intention that the income from the overnight stays would be donated to village funds. The visitors are mostly travelling traders who buy agricultural products in this region and need a place to stay for the night. Unfortunately, the government did not ever finish building the hostel, so it has been in a very poor state of repair for five years and is not being used. We will do some renovation work on the building so that the five rooms can be rented again. This will allow the village to generate regular income for their village funds. The costs will amount to approximately USD 8,000 to pay for eight beds with mattresses, furniture, lamps, paint, cement, etc.

This hostel has stood empty for five years. It looks attractive from the outside, but ...



... inside there are cracks all over the walls, and many windows are broken.



Food distribution

In every quarter in 2019 we distributed food to about sixty people in two villages. The beneficiaries were mainly people caring for family members with disabilities and elderly people (70+) who are almost blind. We distributed a total of almost two tonnes of food, including oil and sugar, and dried goods to ensure a longer shelf-life such as rice, soy, lentils, beans and peas.

Distributing food supplies in the village of Juyhuay.



Our project manager Faustino with an elderly woman who received various sacks of food supplies from the Foundation.



Financial matters

We continue to depend on your donations

In 2019, we received donations amounting to USD 10,833. This means that last year's income from donations was in line with the usual annual average, although it was much lower than the income of the previous year (USD 68,000). In 2018, we were grateful to receive a sum of USD 60,000 from a single donor.

As at 31 December 2019, together the Swiss foundation Porvenir Peru (USD 53,400) and our Peruvian subsidiary of the same name (USD 8,400) had liquid assets of USD 61,800 at their disposal to be able to implement further aid projects

Personal remark by the founder of Porvenir Peru

Ernesto Zulliger



Dear donors

Vilma, the 14-year-old girl with me in this photograph, has a cheerful nature. Although she has some mental health issues, she retains a zest for life. She loves interacting socially with the other villagers. And her eyes light up especially when she listens to music, and she starts to dance. Unfortunately, most of her time is spent with her foster parents in their impoverished dwelling.

By building a community hall in her village, we can offer people like Vilma a meeting place - a space for regular meetings and joint activities.

One of Vilma's biggest dreams is to have a birthday party in a hall like the one we have planned, regardless of whether it rains outside. This is not possible at the moment because there are not enough large rooms in the village and all celebrations are held outside, leaving everyone at the mercy of the weather gods.

I am sure, therefore, that this new project of building community rooms will make an important social contribution to Vilma's village.

For this reason, I would be delighted if I could count on your financial support to provide a community room for the people concerned. Various activities can be organised for them in this space which will support their integration into the village community.

Thank you very much!

¡Muchas gracias!

Sulpayki! (in Quechua)



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www.porvenirperu.org => [Donations](#)



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