

Annual Report 2021



Summary of topics in this Annual Report

After a two-year travel hiatus caused by the pandemic, we were finally able to visit Peru again in 2021

Peru was one of the countries in Latin America worst affected by the Covid pandemic. We were finally permitted to fly there in autumn 2021, once the Peruvian government eased its entry restrictions for foreigners and tourists.

Our local member of staff, Faustino, had carried all our planned aid projects very reliably on his own in the intervening two years. Thus, despite the restrictions caused by the pandemic, three projects were completed successfully.

Building a two-storey community centre for village activities which had previously taken place in the open air

One of the projects that we were able to complete in the past two years and open officially in 2021 was a community centre in an outlying village, that can only be reached by trekking for two hours.

Thanks to the newly built community centre, the villagers can hold their meetings and celebrations, which previously took place outside, in a hall protected from the elements.

Construction of an irrigation system for farmland belonging to smallholders

In October 2021, as a result of support from a not-for-profit institution, we officially launched an irrigation system which allows fifty smallholders to irrigate their land throughout the year.

Renovation work on a village hostel

We renovated and refurnished a village hostel which was built seven years ago by the local government. The hostel had never been used because of construction defects. The village can now let out the four bedrooms with a total of eight beds to visitors and tourists and has, as a result, a small source of income.

Building a community centre

Our most expensive project to date

In October 2021, after 18 months of construction, we officially opened the two-storey community centre in the village of Mendosayoc. It is our largest and most expensive project to date.

The village where the community centre is located is in the province of Calca, situated at 2,200 metres above sea level, and has approximately 250 inhabitants, primarily smallholders and their families. Mendosayoc is inaccessible by motor vehicle as the nearest road is a two-hour trek away.

This two-storey community centre is 18 metres long and 8 metres wide. The ground floor consists of a large hall with seating where the villagers can now hold their meetings, celebrations, and other events. Previously, it was only possible to hold village gatherings in the open air as there was not a room large enough to accommodate up to 150 people. Inclement weather obliged the villagers to keep postponing events which resulted in fewer and fewer people willing to attend them.

In the upper storey of the centre, there are three large bedrooms which are available for visitors to the village and guests.

The greatest difficulty that we encountered with this project was transporting the heavy construction materials to the village for, as already mentioned, it is not accessible by road. In addition, we needed to negotiate the 550 metres elevation on a narrow path on foot. When the local government responsible for this region heard of our planned project, it stated it would be willing to undertake the total cost of transport (large truck, driver, and petrol). This welcome decision was completely unexpected and demonstrated that the local government supported our project. At the same time, the local government would not have had the financial means to bear the cost of the entire construction project alone for this small village. The total cost for building the community centre amounted to approximately US\$ 16,000. The villagers undertook most of the construction work themselves guided by a construction manager and architect paid for by the Foundation.

You can find more about the background of this construction project in our previous annual report reports (2019 and 2020) which can be found on our website under «Projects».



Exterior view of the two-storey community hall.



Interior view: More chairs and benches will be added later.



Official opening day.

Photo right: The plaque presented by the village to Ernesto Zulliger and our foundation in gratitude for building the community hall.



Construction of an irrigation system for small holders

Agricultural land can now be irrigated throughout the year

During our recent visit to Peru in October 2021, we officially launched our first irrigation system in the village of Belenpata (La Convención province). This village of smallholders is five hours by car from Cusco situated at an altitude of approximately 1,700 metres above sea level. Seventy families live in the village where they cultivate coffee, avocados, oranges, lemons, bananas, pitahayas («dragon fruit») and other subtropical fruits.

As mentioned in last year's annual report, the smallholders of this region suffer from a lack of water to irrigate the fields throughout the year. Thanks to the financial support of a not-for-profit institution in Switzerland, we have been able to construct an irrigation system there which currently irrigates 25 fields using sprinkler systems.

Each smallholder's area of agricultural land averages 5,000 m². There are three to four mobile sprinkler systems on each plot which have sufficient water pressure to irrigate the fields. The water comes from a crevice approximately three kilometres away, at 2,000 metres above sea level. The source water originates from the wet, tropical mountainous region far

away. Rainwater flows through subterranean caverns until it reappears above ground through various fissures in the rock.

We connected the water to the fields by using hoses and pipes that are kilometres long. Thanks to the 300-metre difference in height, there is enough pressure for the water to operate more than 80 sprinkler systems.

Twenty-five families are currently benefiting from the irrigation system. A further 15 families will be added to this number during 2022 as there are still sufficient materials available. The overall cost of this project was approximately US\$ 14,000.



In the background, somewhat inconspicuous, are the crevices in the rock from which the water for the irrigation system flows throughout the year.



Water chamber. From here, the water flows for approx. 3 km through hoses and pipes to the agricultural areas.



Close-up of the water chamber. There are three more of these to allow the water to flow to the main tank 3 km away.



All the materials purchased for the irrigation project.



Loading and transporting the material.



The 3 km-long water hoses were buried 30 cm deep in challenging terrain.



Group photo with some of the happy smallholders. In the background is the poster describing the project.



Stored in this main tank near to the agricultural areas are 9 cubic metres of water.



Two of 80 plus sprinkler systems irrigating 25 agricultural areas.

Renovation works on a village hostel

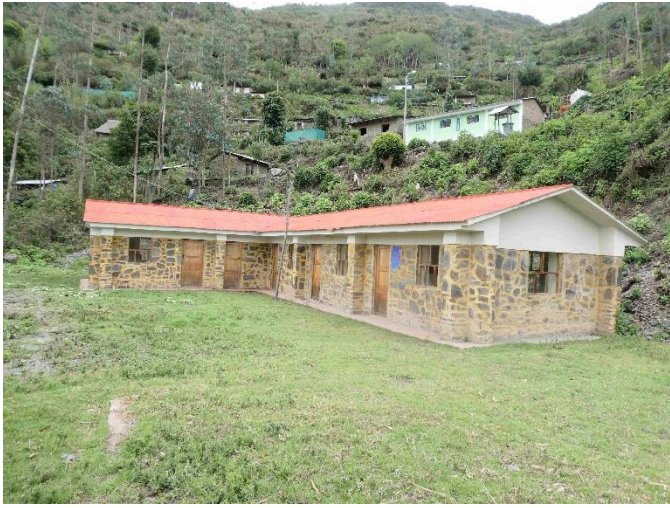
After seven years it can finally be used!

The four-room hostel was built in 2014 by the local government of the time. Following a change in government, the works were never completed meaning that the hostel was not habitable, until now.

Over the past two years, we have undertaken various renovation works on the interior and exterior walls and have given them a fresh coat of paint. We also furnished the empty rooms with a total of eight beds.

The village can now let the rooms to vegetable and fruit traders who regularly travel long distances to the village to buy the smallholders' produce. The traders often need accommodation for a night before continuing their journey. Tourists can also use the hostel, which will increase the village's funds.

The overall costs of the renovation work, including furnishings, amounted to US\$ 5,000.



Exterior view of the newly renovated village hostel.



Some of the villagers and Ernesto Zulliger assembled on the official opening day.



Two of the four bedrooms with a total of eight beds.



Condition of the interior walls before renovation.



The exterior walls had severe cracks and looked unsafe.

Constructing greenhouses

Regular maintenance work is now required

As we mentioned in our two previous annual reports, we will not be building any new greenhouses due to a lack of capacity. However, we will continue to maintain the family greenhouses we have already financed; there are over 160 in twelve different villages at altitudes ranging from 3,700 to 4,200 metres above sea level.

To this end, we will be working more closely with the Dutch foundation Por Eso (www.poreso.org) which has been building greenhouses in the Peruvian Andes for several years and is officially registered in the country as an aid organisation. We made an initial payment of US\$ 5,000 to this foundation in 2021. It will use the funds to undertake urgent maintenance work on twenty damaged greenhouses which will primarily involve replacing the weathered, light-permeable roofing film.



Exterior view of one of the greenhouses we built. The UV-resistant roof film has a service life of approx. seven years.



Interior view of the greenhouse. The vegetables can flourish in there even at an altitude of 4,000 metres above sea level.

Projects planned for 2022/23

We are planning to complete a second irrigation project in 2022. Thanks to the support given by one sponsor, the entire cost of the project will be financed in full. This sponsor is the same not-for-profit organisation that made our first irrigation project possible (see above in this report).

The second irrigation project is located about five kilometres from the first in Piquimayo. Approximately 60 families of smallholders live there. We will be connecting to a different source of water from the one providing water to the first project.

The costs for this project are estimated to be between US\$ 15,000 and US\$ 18,000. We will begin work in April 2022 and expect to be finished by April 2023.

In addition, we have two further small projects in our sights for the year 2022/23. We are currently in the evaluation phase and wish to verify the sustainability of the projects in greater detail. We will happily impart further information as soon as the projects are ready to go ahead.

Financial matters

We continue to rely on your donations

We are pleased to report that in 2021 we received donations of US\$ 22,000 (2020: US\$ 20'000, 2019 US\$ 11'000); of this sum, US\$ 15,000 was donated by one not-for-profit organisation, which financed the first irrigation project.

As of 31 December 2021, the Swiss foundation Porvenir Peru and our Peruvian affiliate of the same name had liquid funds of US\$ 51,000 available to implement future aid projects.

Personal comment by the founder of the Foundation

Ernesto Zulliger

Following a travel ban lasting two years on account of the pandemic, I was finally allowed to travel back to Peru in October 2021. I stayed for a total of five weeks to officially open on behalf of the Foundation the three projects that had been completed during those past two years by my local colleague, Faustino. I would like to thank Faustino most warmly for his hard work!

We are planning to implement a second irrigation project for smallholders in 2022. Thanks to the donation which we received in January 2022 from a not-for-profit organisation, we have secured the necessary US\$ 18,000 in funding.

We are sure that the irrigation systems are sensible and sustainable projects to help smallholders and we would like to continue to support these in the future. A stable water supply is an ongoing issue for many smallholders as harvests fail in drought conditions endangering their livelihoods.

If the pandemic situation permits, I intend to travel to Peru again in the spring and autumn of 2022.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all donors for their financial support, be it large or small, on behalf of the villagers in Peru.

Thank you for supporting our work so actively and for continuing to place your trust in us.

It is only thanks to your help that we, as a small foundation, can implement such effective aid projects.

Thank you very much!

Muchas gracias!

Sulpayki! (thank you in Quechua)



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