



Perú Fund: news

March 2022

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to let you know that during the challenging year of 2021 the Perú Fund raised a total of \$34,140 through your donations, making it the best year the Perú Fund has had since we started to support clean water projects in 1991. Thank you all so much for your continued support. The 2021 contributions were divided evenly between two clean water projects in the villages of Choccoro and Santa Luz de Maranquieri.

The Perú Fund supports the construction and upkeep of water projects through a partnership with the Canadian organization Wings of Hope and its Peruvian subsidiary Alas de Esperanza Perú.

From the start of the pandemic, as businesses closed and jobs were lost, many Peruvians left the big cities to return to their native villages. The ensuing growth has been revitalizing for the rural communities. Having ready access to clean water is key to developing more opportunities for growth and for encouraging the returned community members to find new ways to make a life for themselves in these rural areas. Residing on their land helps to prevent it from being taken over by special interest groups such as mining companies and logging operations. Some of these companies use practices that contribute to mudslides, water contamination and climate change.

The Perú Fund has a new website. Please visit us at www.perufund.org.



left: The new road being built from Choccoro to Milno to accommodate the trucks which will transport the supplies for the water project.

right: The villagers of Choccoro in a planning meeting with Alas de Esperanza Perú for the new water project.

Update from Choccoro

This village is located high in the Andes at 13,800 feet in the district of Ayacucho. The people of Choccoro make their living as herders of sheep and alpaca. The homes of the 90 families that live here are spread throughout a broad valley.

As there were no decent roads to Choccoro it became necessary to build a road adequate for trucking in the supplies required for the new water system. After several meetings over the last two years between the Choccoro community, the municipality of Millpo and *Alas de Esperanza Perú*, the municipality agreed to build the eight-mile road needed. They also agreed to donate the gravel and sand for the construction of the new water system.

The road was completed last November before the start of the rainy season. During that same time the Choccoro community finished building a storage shed for program supplies, along with a small house for the work managers from *Alas de Esperanza Perú* to stay in while the project is being constructed. The new road will also facilitate travel from Choccoro to Millpo, where the Choccoro children live during the week while attending school.

A water committee consisting of five women and men from Choccoro will organize the labor that the villagers are going to contribute to the project and will serve as liaison to the project managers from *Alas de Esperanza Perú*. In addition, two individuals chosen by the community will be trained as operators for the maintenance of the water system.

Once the project is completed, *Alas de Esperanza Perú* is going to explore the possibility of the villagers planting tree saplings near

their houses to help restore the shrinking tree canopy. One of the hurdles will be finding a way to prevent the alpaca and sheep from feeding on the young trees.

Construction of the new water system will start at the end of the rainy season in April. Last year the Perú Fund raised \$17,070 towards the new water project in Choccoro, and to date the only expenses have been \$2,000 for engineering fees. Both the balance from 2021 and the Perú Fund's 2022 contribution will help pay for the completion of the project.

The estimated cost of the project is \$121,344. The villagers will partner in the project by contributing the manual work of excavating for the reservoirs and water lines. That effort combined with the sand and gravel donated by the local municipality will lower the total cost of the project to \$93,477.



This valley is home to the Choccoro community and their flocks of alpaca and sheep. The combined length of the water lines to all the homes will run 6.4 miles.



left: Young girl inspecting the new sink at her home, to which running water will soon be added.

below: The supplies for the new water system in Santa Luz arriving by boat on the Ucayali River from Atalaya

Update from Santa Luz de Maranquiarí

This community, also supported by the Perú Fund in 2021, is located in the Peruvian Amazon two hours by boat north of the city of Atalaya, followed by a 45-minute walk inland from the Ucayali River. Santa Luz is home to 190 people. The population is composed of several ethnic groups, primarily *Ashéninka* and *Asháninka*. They make their living from fishing, hunting and small-scale agriculture and sell their surplus products at market in Atalaya.

The water project in Santa Luz came close to completion last year. The well has been dug, the elevated water tank built, and the majority of the water lines installed. The solar panels and solar pump to bring the water from the well to the water tower have been ordered from Lima and will be installed in April in order to wrap up the project. Upon completion, the water will gravity feed from the water tower directly to the spigots in the concrete sinks outside each home, at the school, and at the community center.

Nueva Galilea

A new water project the Perú Fund is supporting in 2022 is in the village of Nueva Galilea located right across the Ucayali River from Santa Luz de Maranquiarí. There are 66 families of the *Asháninka* ethnic group living in Nueva Galilea. They make their living from fishing and agriculture. About 60 children attend the village school.

In 2019 the provincial government agreed to build a community center and a drinking water system here. The community center was completed as planned, but much to the dismay and disappointment of the villagers only a shallow 13-foot-deep well was dug by the contractor, which did not produce the promised water. Upon learning that *Alas de Esperanza Perú* had been building a new water system across the river in Santa Luz, the villagers decided to ask them for help.



This difficult-to-reach and polluted inlet has been the main source of water for the community of Nueva Galilea.



The villagers of Nueva Galilea in front of the community center with Andre Franche (center) from Wings of Hope.

Alas de Esperanza Perú agreed to partner with Nueva Galilea in a water project with the usual understanding that the villagers provide the manual labor and maintain the system, while *Alas de Esperanza Perú* would contribute the technical expertise and the supplies needed. The proposed system involves digging a 40-foot-deep artesian well and building an elevated water reservoir. A solar

powered pump will deliver the water from the well to the tank. From there it will gravity feed to a distribution network of lines that will bring water to new concrete sinks at each home and at the community center in the village.

We are very excited about the prospect of helping to bring plentiful water to these two villages. More than ever, there is an urgent need for communities to have easy access to clean water to help protect themselves against Covid-19 and other diseases, and to help create new opportunities for these communities. Please join us in supporting this work, which encourages sustainable community growth in remote areas of Peru.

Gracias y con mucho cariño,
Evie and Dorthie



Young Peruvian-Americans: are you interested in offering some of your time to help support the health and well being of these Peruvian rainforest and mountain communities? Please contact us through our website for suggestions of ways to become involved! We would love your help.

Please make your tax-deductible donation payable to **Perú Fund** and send it to either of the addresses below, or donate through our website at www.perufund.org. You can contact us through the website with any questions about the Perú Fund or to receive this yearly newsletter by email.

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Donations to the Perú Fund are tax-exempt. As a 501(c)(3) public charity, the Perú Fund is also eligible to receive matching gift donations from your company or employer. We urge you to take advantage of this option if it is available to you.

**Total operating costs in 2021 for Wings of Hope were 7.49%.
All administrative expenses for the Perú Fund itself are paid for by its trustees.**