



Perú Fund

MARCH 2024

news

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

Visit us online at www.perufund.org

Dear Friends,

Hello! Spring is here and it's time for us to update you on the progress of the Perú Fund's projects over the past year, and to let you know what our plans are for 2024. But first we would like to thank all of you for your generous donations in 2023 and for your ongoing support. Your generosity made it possible for us to raise \$41,680 in the past year, an 18% increase over 2022, and the most we have ever raised in the 33 years since our founding. Your donations were used to support two clean-water projects in the communities of Condor Paqcha and Santa Clara.

Perú Fund news

News from our 2023 projects

Nueva Galilea and Santa Clara

The inauguration of these two projects took place in August 2023. Ángel Huamán Chuco from the *Alas de Esperanza* team was the engineer and community liaison. Ángel has proved himself to be highly skilled at connecting with the native Amazonian populations he works with, and at gaining their trust. This inspires the villagers to become increasingly motivated in their work and gain a strong sense of accomplishment and ownership in the project. The Perú Fund contributed \$17,128 to the Nueva Galilea project in 2022 and \$20,840 to the Santa Clara project in 2023.

"I am grateful on behalf of the native communities in the province of Atalaya. Thanks to the contribution that you make, many families of the Ashéninkas, Asháninkas, Shipibos, Conibos and Ynes ethnic groups have safe water in their homes. Before the new water project the women and children transported water to their homes from long distances, water that was often contaminated." —Email from Ángel Huamán Chuco to the Perú Fund on 12/26/2023.

Condor Paqcha

The water project for this Andean village was completed in December 2023, and inaugurated in January 2024. Visit the Perú Fund Facebook page to see a video of the work in progress at <https://www.facebook.com/PeruFund>.

The Perú Fund contributed \$20,840 to this project in 2023.

Getting access to clean water is a huge achievement for these small communities that are often overlooked by the surrounding world. As active partners with *Alas de Esperanza* in building the projects, community members can find that the experience is life-changing. The convenience of having clean and plentiful water right at home means no longer having to carry water long distances, a job often relegated to women and children. Readily available clean water also leads to better health and provides water for crops and livestock.



Santa Clara: from top: Having water in her own home will be life-changing for this young woman in the village of Santa Clara.

Janne Rodriguez Fasabi, who lives in Santa Clara with her four children, expresses her deep appreciation to André Franche, president of *Alas de Esperanza*.





Condor Paqcha: from top: The community is gathered around the frame that will support the solar collectors for powering the water pump. Fields have been cleared in the background, ready for planting.

Nueva Galilea: The completed water project in Nueva Galilea. The solar collectors in the foreground power the pump that sends the water up into the elevated reservoir.

Ángel Huamán Chuco (left) from the *Alas* team wears the traditional Ashéninka cushma tunic as a sign of respect for the community at the Nueva Galilea inauguration.

To celebrate such great accomplishments, *Alas* and each participating community put significant effort into the inaugurations of the new water systems. The festivities are attended by representatives from *Alas*, who are sometimes accompanied by donors from North America. Community members dressed in traditional costumes give thank you speeches and perform ceremonial dances before everyone sits down to a celebratory meal cooked by the villagers.



San Antonio de Montecucho: The water project will begin construction in this farming community in June 2024.

New projects for 2024

San Antonio de Montecucho

This village is located high in the Andes at an altitude of 12,000 feet and is 14 hours' drive from Lima. The community consists of 63 families that make their living from agriculture and small-scale live-stock farming. *Alas de Esperanza* prefers to give priority to farming communities that help feed Peru, such as this one.

Up to now, the villagers have gotten their water from an irrigation canal and a small stream. This water is not safe for drinking, as the canal and small stream are also utilized by livestock. The community approached *Alas* after learning that the neighboring village of Huancapuquio was partnering with *Alas* on a water project.

As required by *Alas*, the community of San Antonio de Montecucho agreed to provide the manual labor for digging the trenches for the water lines, beginning at the stream that will supply the water, then extending to a water holding tank and a raised reservoir, and finally arriving at the 63 homes and the school. This commitment represents several thousand hours of work and reduces the cost of building the water system substantially. The work is scheduled to begin in June 2024.

Shahuaya

The second project the Perú Fund will be supporting this year is in the village of Shahuaya, located 5 hours by motorboat from Atalaya, in the Peruvian Amazon. This is quite a bit farther north than most of the projects along the Ucayali River the Perú Fund has supported over the years. We asked André Franche, the president of *Alas de Esperanza*, how this community came to connect with *Alas*, and he explained that word about the other communities that *Alas* has collaborated with had travelled up the Ucayali River to Shahuaya. In addition, the village had a connection in Atalaya through which community members were able to contact two members of the *Alas* team.

(continued next page)



Shahuaya: *clockwise from above:* Bags of cement for the new water project in Shahuaya are being unloaded after the five-hour trip up the Ucayali River.

A member of the water committee speaks at a Shahuaya town meeting.

The concrete base for the elevated reservoir has been completed at the center of Shahuaya. Next the supporting columns will be cast.



Shahuaya sustains itself through fishing and farming. It is a comparatively large community of 146 families consisting of 584 people of the Shipibo-Conibo tribe.

Construction of the Shahuaya project started in the latter part of 2023 and is scheduled to be completed in December 2024. In partnership with *Alas*, the villagers are providing the manual labor required, and the local municipality has agreed to contribute the cost of transportation of all materials from Atalaya to Shahuaya as well as to provide sand and gravel from a nearby area for the project. *Alas* will supply the technical leadership to build the project as well as all additional materials needed. The cost to *Alas* is budgeted at \$198,207.

Please join us in supporting the Perú Fund's 2024 projects. Along with the benefits of clean water for human needs, irrigation and livestock, building a water project can foster a sense of community empowerment that can lead to ambitious new goals and further development. It allows the villagers to experience that they have the capability to improve their lives in truly important ways.

Gracias y con mucho cariño,

Dorthe, Elyse and Evie

We would like to welcome Elyse Segelken to the Perú Fund. Elyse lives in Delhi, NY. She has been a Perú Fund supporter since 1994 and has visited Peru four times. She and her husband adopted their daughter from Peru and their son from Guatemala. In addition to managing the Perú Fund Facebook page, Elyse is involved with the ongoing efforts of running the Perú Fund with Dorthe and Evie. We are so pleased that she has joined us.

Please make your tax-deductible donation payable to the **Perú Fund** and send it to any of the addresses below or donate through our website at www.perufund.org. Please feel free to contact us through the website with any questions or comments about the Perú Fund.

Dorthe Hviid
 210 East Street
 Lenox, MA 01240

Evie Reda
 PO Box 2722
 Amherst, MA 01004

Elyse Segelken
 3048 Bloomville Hill Rd
 Delhi, NY 13753

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 2023 operating costs for *Alas de Esperanza* were 8.77%. Operating expenses for the Perú Fund are always 0%, as they are paid for by its managers.