

Quaker Bolivia Link

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November 2009

**New to
QBL?
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According to a UN report apart from countries at war or suffering short term natural disasters, rural poverty in parts of Bolivia is among the most acute in the world.

QBL -

Has financed and administered over 160 development projects among the people of the High Andes

Works alongside the people, listening to their needs and hopes.

Works among rural communities to combat migration to the cities.

Works with groups and communities regardless of their religion.

Works especially with women as the most direct way to combat poverty.

Believes in small-scale projects which bring long-term measurable benefit. A community project budget is typically only \$10,000—\$12,000.

Movie star backing for QBL



Carla Ortiz, Bolivian actress and activist addressing the UN.

We are excited that internationally acclaimed Bolivian movie actress Carla Ortiz wants to use her high profile to promote QBL. She has seen our village projects in her home country and very much supports our work among the indigenous Andean people.

Carla has been working as spokesperson for the International Renewable Energy Organization which she has represented at the United Nations

At the beginning of October she went with a film crew to spend several hours in the village of Masaya. She heard about the changes brought to the community by the construction of the 23 QBL greenhouses, which are providing the people with fresh vegetables and even strawberries. The film of Carla's visit will soon be on our website www.qbl.org.

November target—water for Condoroca

Condoroca is a scattered village 120km (72 miles) from La Paz at an elevation of 12,600 feet. QBL plans to bring a drinking water supply to the 47 families in the community, and 20 families in the surrounding area.

The houses in Condoroca are of mud brick with straw roofs and dirt floors. There are no latrines and no health clinic. There is a high incidence of diarrhea, which is especially debilitating for both children and the elderly.

Currently water is brought to the village by donkey from a stream 5 miles away. It is contaminated with salts. This is the only water supply.

Life is particularly harsh for this community. It is cold. The soil is thin and crop yields low.

QBL will construct 14 stand pipes with taps around the village so that each family has access to safe water nearby. This can greatly improve the lives of well over 300 people.



QBL is making this project its priority target for the month of November.

The total cost of bringing drinking water to some 300 plus people is \$18,148. That's about \$55 for each person. Can you help us make our target before the end of the month?

If QBL receives more than this target, donations will be applied to a similar water supply project.

Water flows at Titicani Sehuencani

We're delighted to report that on August 12th we inaugurated the drinking water system at the village of Titicani Sehuencani.

43 families now have access to safe drinking water at their homes for the first time.

As with all our water supplies, we gave every family training workshops on health and hygiene. They were taught the need to wash thoroughly after using the toilet. Everyone received a toothbrush and tube of toothpaste as well as soap and a towel. Additionally there was training in the operation, administration and maintenance of their new water supply.

This was funded by our sister organization QBL in Britain.



Two years later—water still flowing?

There is an archaeology of failed projects in the developing world. Water supplies and irrigation systems have been installed with good will and the best intentions, but to keep costs down no provision was made for long term monitoring and evaluation. The result? Pipes silted up, pumps broken and rusting. No water flowing.

For several years QBL's policy has been to monitor our projects long term. As part of our regular development plans we're currently refining our policy. We want a village to have water flowing and greenhouses producing for many years to come. The communities deserve this, and our supporters should feel secure that their donations are not wasted.

Our current review is looking at -

Assigning a specific staff member to assess projects.

Working more closely with the project committees we set up at each village.

Contracting independent project auditors.

Looking at new ways to measure and quan-



Bolivia team leader Lourdes Tantani is in charge of long term project monitoring.

tify the effect of each project.

Dealing with projects that do develop problems.

Budgeting for the inevitable repairs and updates.

We're blessed to have a team of professionals in La Paz who continually strive to improve our effectiveness and efficiency.

Khara Kota Trout Farm

Those of you who have been on our QBL tours to Bolivia will remember how delicious fresh Andean trout is.

Our La Paz team reports that the Khara Kota trout farm is completed. Community members have been trained in trout farm management and accounting. The villagers will sell their trout in the markets of La Paz, and generate income for many years to come.

We expect that the project will soon be in full operation.

As always, thanks go to our supporters whose donations made this possible.



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A Quaker Approach to Poverty

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at
www.qbl.org

Llama and Alpaca Project

We have just completed a project to improve the genetic stock of the llama and alpaca herds of the 60 families in the remote village of Qhotia five hours from La Paz.

The iconic llamas and their cousins the alpacas are still the cornerstone of many Andean communities. They survive at an elevation beyond any other domesticated animal. Their meat is an important source of protein and they are still used as pack animals. The alpaca fleece is recognized worldwide for its softness and warmth.

Our program has added new and stronger animals to the existing herds. This will improve the weight and quality of the fleeces in Qhotia. It will produce larger and healthier animals with more of the young surviving the cold of the nights in the high Andes.

Each family in the village also received a training course which taught them how to control parasites and increase the fertility of the females.

A big thank you to our supporters in the US and UK.

Bolivia holds lithium trump card

Computers, digital cameras, hybrid cars, MP3 players and even cell phones rely on lithium batteries. Without lithium planes don't fly, armies don't move. Lithium has become a crucial resource and Bolivia holds over 60% of the world's deposits.

The lithium deposits lie in the remote and freezing Salar de Uyuni, the world's largest salt flat, and can be the key to future development in Bolivia.

Multinationals are lining up at Bolivia's door wanting in on the lithium action. President Evo Morales is saying that this time the multinationals are not going to simply extract a resource and export it as a raw material, as has happened to developing countries with oil, or diamonds, or natural gas. Morales is telling the world that they must build their battery facto-



Llama herds on the Salar de Uyuni

ries there in Bolivia if they want the priceless lithium. This is the opportunity to build a technology based Bolivian economy.