



Greetings from Quaker Bolivia Link.

Dear Supporters,

We hope that you will enjoy this update on our work with communities on the Altiplano. Over the past year, the team in Bolivia has completed one quinoa and three water projects, with a fourth water project in its final stages - all funded from QBL UK. This has only been possible with the generous donations from our supporters.

These projects are located in the remote high Andes where harsh weather conditions can make daily living difficult. Places are hard to reach, being 3 to 4 hours from La Paz by bus and foot.

The **Thimpa Apacheta Water** project is now providing water for 20 families in a remote rural community. Most of the people are older as young people migrate to the city for work. Prior to this project, fetching water involved an hour-long walk across difficult terrain. As one resident said, "Thanks to you this is a dream that was fulfilled. It was very difficult to get water, more than anything, because if we got water it was dirty water. It had grass. It had bugs. We had to get a sieve and always filter it. Before drinking the water we had to boil it.... Now, we get the tap, open it and receive the water."



The **Putuni Concoroco Water** project benefits 35 families who can now access clean water. Some of the families live in isolated rural areas and others in the village itself. The village has a school and a health centre, which are now provided with safe clean water.



Typical Altiplano housing

The **Chojnoko Water** project is providing safe drinking water for 56 families in three rural and isolated neighbouring communities. They have worked together and established a joint water committee which supervised the implementation of the project.

The **Jayuma Water** project is in its final stages of development and will provide clean water to 17 families.

The **Playa Verde Quinoa** project is benefitting 28 families. They have planted new and better quality seeds and learnt improved ways of cultivating quinoa with support from a local agrarian development organisation.

These projects enhance and strengthen the communities in which they are based; people learn new technical and organisational skills, and they increase their understanding of health, hygiene and the environment.

New Projects in 2015

As we head towards the end of 2014 and into 2015, the team in Bolivia would like to run projects in four further communities who have requested their support.

Here in the UK, we hope to raise enough funds to enable the Bolivian team to go ahead with these exciting and essential water, quinoa and llama projects which will provide great benefits in these Andean communities.



The team in LaPaz: Nilda, Eduardo and Griselda

The **Chullunkani Water** project will provide 20 families with their own manual water pumps to access safe drinking water and reduce the incidence of illness in the community. At the moment the families are dispersed and can only access water through a communal well, which is also used by wild animals in the area. Without any health services or schools in the community, access to clean water will also help improve the general quality of life for the families, help improve agricultural output and reduce migration from the community to the urban areas.

The **Tupal Tupa Organic Quinoa** project will help improve the communities' current quinoa production by introducing new techniques and organic methods. Quinoa is recognized globally for its health benefits and nutritional value. This crop is well suited for growing on the Altiplano, as it is resistant to the harsh climate and efficient in its use of the area's scarce water. Helping 20 families to improve production and form an Association will help improve their nutrition, whilst also providing a surplus which can be sold in local markets, thereby strengthening the local economy.

The **Rosapata Yaribay Llama Breeding** project will help 52 families to increase their llama breeding from 50 llamas per family per year to 70. Llamas have played a central role in the culture of Andean communities for over 6,000 years. They are an essential part of everyday life

for families living in rural communities such as Rosapata Yaribay, providing transport, meat, manure for fertilizer and fuel, and wool for clothes and textiles. These products are not only essential to the community but can also provide a sustainable income if llama breeding and production is improved to make sure that it is hygienic and efficient. This project will introduce practical techniques and tools such as covered pens and water butts and methods of hygienically processing meat and wool for sale in local markets, improving the wellbeing of community members.

The **Khara Khota Trout** project was supported by QBL UK back in 2008 to develop the infrastructure for breeding young trout which are released into a large lake and then fished to provide the community with a source of protein and with income from any surplus fish. The project has been successful and the community would now like to make some improvements. Firstly they are interested in buying an electric mill, which would make it easier to prepare food for the fish, and, secondly, there is a need to replace the old storage crates used for transporting the trout to the markets.

We hope you can support us and help these communities.

In friendship,
QBL UK



Llamas and quinoa –staples of the Altiplano

To donate and help make these projects happen, please see below.

If you would you like to hear more about our work, we would love to come and tell you about it

Donations to Quaker Bolivia Link

Newsletter 2014

If you would like to support Quaker Bolivia Link's projects in the Bolivian Andes, please send us a donation.

You can donate online and find out more at www.qbl.org

Or, by bank transfer to our Co-operative Bank account:

Sort code **08 90 16**, account no. **50066942**.

Please email uk@qbl.org and tell us the amount and date of your transfer.

Or, I enclose a cheque/charity voucher for £.....

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