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**ANNUAL
REPORT
2016**



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Thank you for your support!

Message from the Clerks

In April 2016, there was a historic first-time meeting in La Paz of the three QBL board clerks—from the boards of Bolivia (FQBL), the United Kingdom (QBL-UK), and the United States of America (QBL-USA). Along with QBL staff, they visited three recent projects with the QBL staff. The village projects encompassed three signature efforts of the organization: llama breeding in Rosapata Yaribay, quinoa production in Tupal Tupa, and a potable water system in Yaribay.

This year, QBL-USA and QBL-UK authorized the funding for 15 reinforcement projects that will provide follow-up consultation and updates for villages who have benefited from past projects. QBL takes good care to follow up on its projects for the first two years after completion, with the option (as seen here) for villages to ask for expansion, support, or repairs after the two-year period has passed.

QBL is ready to serve even more villages and welcomes Friends' support through board service, invitations to speak at meetings, and financial contributions.

Thank you!

John Scardina

Richard Bloomfield

Alberto Zuelali



**John Scardina, QBL-USA (left); Alberto Mamani QBL-BOL (center)
and Richard Bloomfield, QBL-UK (right)**

About QBL

Quaker Bolivia Link (QBL) is an international non-sectarian organization guided by the Quaker principles of integrity, equality, community, simplicity, and peace. QBL was established in 1995 by a group of British Quakers who traveled to Bolivia and returned moved by both the culture of the indigenous Aymara people, and the extreme poverty they witnessed. Through sustainable practices and respected relationships with the Aymara people, QBL has grown steadily since its inception. Today, QBL operates through a dedicated local staff in La Paz, Bolivia, and three Boards, one each in Bolivia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

Bolivia's income inequality persists in spite of general human development improvements in the past decade. Still, 45% of the population lives below the poverty line. Bolivia has one of the highest indigenous (66.2%) and rural populations (31.5%) of the continent.^{1/} According to the World Food Project, 59% of rural populations have insufficient income to meet basic nutritional needs. Nearly 25% of households with children under age five lack access to clean water. This contributes to a high infant mortality rate: 43 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in Bolivia compared to 6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in the USA (CIA).

Quaker Bolivia Link honors the Quaker principles and that is why the QBL has a process that encourages sustainable development through investment, education, and public health infrastructure improvement. With community engagement and respected relationships across Bolivia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, QBL seeks funding to be able to continue working with the Aymara people to address the problems associated with extreme poverty in Bolivia.

QBL envisions a world where the Aymara people of the Altiplano have the water, food security, and economic means to maintain their culture and allow their children access to education and health. As a large indigenous group in the Plurinational State of Bolivia the Aymara have the opportunity to be a voice for growth, cultural integrity, and continued development in Bolivia once their basic needs for water, food, and sustainability have been met. The Aymara can be a strong voice for cultural diversity in the world while moving into the modern world with a sustainable lifestyle.



Our mission is to support locally-developed, sustainable projects that enable economic development, provide access to safe, clean water and establish viable agriculture practices for food security among indigenous communities in Bolivia.

^{1/} Source: The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, known as ECLAC, UNECLAC or in Spanish CEPAL

Type of Projects



Water Projects

Projects providing families from Aymara communities with access to fresh drinking water; micro-irrigation systems and also latrines.



Food Security

Projects providing food security to Aymara families through the cultivation of quinoa and construction of greenhouses to cultivate other local cereals like *haba*, *tarwi*, forage and vegetables.



Agriculture & Livestock Production

These projects include poultry, cattle, llama and pig farming, improving local flocks and herds and providing new opportunities to diversify production.



Economic Development

These projects include trout production and commercialization; weaving of Alpaca products and other economic development projects.

How QBL works

Quaker Bolivia Link has been successful and sustainable because of its unique structure and approach to development. While most development programs operate using a top-down structure, by which the funding entities determine the scope and nature of goods and services delivered to beneficiaries, QBL does the opposite. The indigenous communities, or beneficiaries, initiate a relationship with Quaker Bolivia Link by working with their local leaders and the Bolivian QBL staff in La Paz to design a project proposal based on their specific situation. This includes discussing community needs, and designing a detailed budget, a logistical plan to source materials, and an appropriate timeline. Once the project proposal is reviewed and approved by the QBL staff and Board in Bolivia, it is recommended to the Boards in the UK and USA for possible funding. Each community also shares the investment of the project by providing 10-30% of the overall funding.

All three Boards communicate with the Bolivian technical staff to determine funding allocations based on need, feasibility, and sustainability. Once funding is secured, the implementation of a project involves the entire community and beyond. Everyone within the benefitting area is trained to construct, operate, maintain, or care for the project assets. To further improve sustainable economic development among the indigenous people and in Bolivia in general, Quaker Bolivia Link and the project beneficiaries remain committed to sourcing materials locally and almost exclusively hiring local contractors. In this way, the reach of a project extends far beyond community lines. The QBL staff in Bolivia continues to monitor each project quarterly and each community contributes to a maintenance fund to ensure sustainability of the projects.

All QBL projects involve three way agreements between the community in need, the municipality in which the project is located and QBL Bolivia. This working relationship is formalized in a legal agreement. The community requesting the project establishes a committee which plans and manages the project both during its implementation and its operation. The local community also provides much of the manual labor involved. The municipality provides significant financial support and at times its professional staff offer their expertise. QBL makes a substantial financial contribution as well as providing technical and management assistance; it accompanies the community through the planning, implementation and follow up stages of the project.



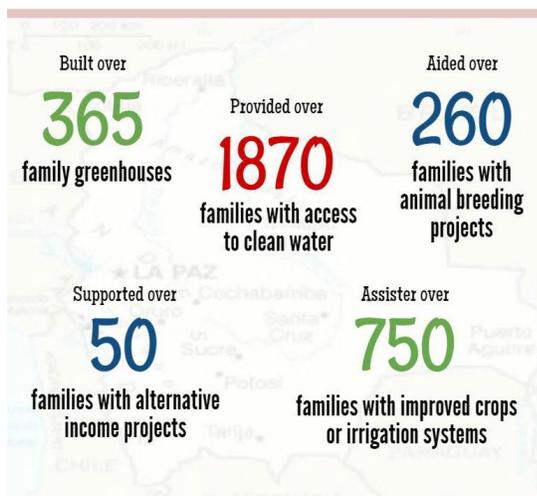
QBL Impact

Quaker Bolivia Link grew from the concern of individual Friends to improve the living conditions of some of the poorest people in Latin America: the Aymara of the Altiplano. Over the past 21 years, Quaker Bolivia Link has worked with the indigenous Aymara people to address these problems within their communities by supporting community-based projects in the areas of clean water and sustainable agriculture. To date, QBL has provided over 1,870 families with access to clean water, built over 365 family greenhouses for increased food security, aided over 260 families with animal breeding projects, supported over 50 families with alternative income projects, and assisted over 750 families with improved crops or irrigation systems.



Just over 20 years ago, a group of British Quakers visited Bolivia to meet and build links with the Quakers there. They most certainly did not realize it at the time, but they were making the initial steps of what has become a 20-year journey of responding to poverty.

In the past 20 years QBL has:

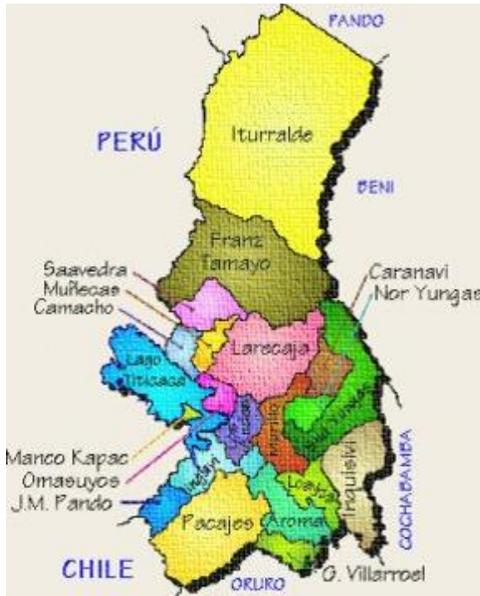


Sustainable Communities

In order to assure sustainability, QBL trains its beneficiaries with different skills so they can manage and administer their community-based projects.

Furthermore, local leaders learn how to develop proposal for new projects. They learn how to negotiate with their government representatives and communicate with the beneficiaries.

Where QBL is working



PACAJES PROVINCE IN LA PAZ BOLIVIA.
IT INCLUDES EIGHT (8) MUNICIPALITIES:

- SANTIAGO DE CALLAPA
- COROCORO
- TUMARAPI
- COMANCHE
- NAZACARA
- CALACOTO
- CHARAÑA
- CAQUIAVIRI



FACTS ABOUT PACAJES:

Capital: Coro Coro

Area: 10,584.00 Km (4,087 sq. mi)

Population (2012 census): 55,180

Projects 2016

Yaribay Water Project

The community of Yaribay is made up of three sub-communities: San Francisco de Yaribay, Centro Yaribay and Rosapata Yaribay. The community is situated at an altitude of approximately 13,000 feet above sea level, and is about 108 kilometers (3.5 hours by road) from the city of El Alto/La Paz. There is a school in the sub-community of Centro Yaribay with approximately 120 students from first grade through fourth year of secondary school. There is a small elementary school in each of the other two sub-communities with a total of about 80 students. The economy of Yaribay is based primarily on agriculture. Homes within the community are dispersed, and typically constructed with adobe bricks, straw and corrugated metal roofing. The community members speak Aymara and Spanish.

The Challenge: Families who live in this community have no access to safe and healthy water. In times of drought, the situation gets worse. They can only count on open wells with poor quality water and these are located at long distances from the majority of homes. Currently water is also obtained from water holes shared with animals and from the local river which is brackish and not clean. Children and women and have to walk great distances to bring water to their homes. Over the years, the Municipality was not able to fulfill the need for a clean water supply because of their insufficient funds.

The Impact: QBL have been working with the community for the construction of two new sources of water for the families who are spread out over many miles across the valley. The infrastructure is laid out to both meet the families' needs and optimize the use of water. The community has also strengthened its skills and expertise on the management, operation and administration of the water system. Furthermore, the community has acquired knowledge about health and hygiene standards, as well as the proper use of water resources.



35
families with access to clean water

Total Budget: US \$32,232.00
Funded by QBL-US: US \$11,322.00
Funded by Municipality: US \$15,071.00
Funded by Community: US \$5,839.00

Junuta Condoroca Water Project

The population of Junuta Condoroca is 130 people. It includes the villages of Chujchuni, Piedra Pata, Walunusu and Parcocota. These villages face many challenges but the most significant is the lack of water suitable for human consumption. The remoteness of sources of water means that people must walk large distances to collect water. The families are established in 'sayanas' (a group of a number of families) and sometimes use animals to transport the quantity of water they need.



The Challenge: The following problems existed for the community:

- ✓ Lack of sources of water suitable for human consumption;
- ✓ High incidence of diarrhea in the population under 5 years of age;
- ✓ Polluted water sources due to open air exposure and presence of other animals; and
- ✓ Remote water sources.

The Impact: QBL worked with the community to install new water systems. Three systems for pumping and 6 wells were installed to supply safe water. The community improved their knowledge in standards of health, hygiene and care for the environment, particularly the care for water. They applied the training and knowledge acquired in their daily lives. They perform regular maintenance of the system themselves and are responsible for the operation and administration of their new water system.

34

families with access to clean water

Total Budget: US \$30,211.00

Funded by QBL-UK: US \$14,458.00
Funded by Municipality: US \$12,454.00
Funded by Community: US \$3,298.00

Suriquina Trout Project

The Fishers Association of Khara Khota Lake come from the community of Suriquina, specifically the areas of Jichurasi, Pairumani and Estancia. Khara Khota Lake is at about 13,000ft surrounded by mountains and is around 20,000 hectares in size (equivalent to 20 km²). Their goal is to take advantage of this lake's resources by breeding and fattening Rainbow Trout (*Trucha Arco Iris*), raising and feeding fry (young fish) to release into the lake where they swim free until caught. One of the main concerns is the health and sanitary management of the fry (young fish) and of the fish in general. An earlier QBL project helped revive the fish cultivation here by providing new breeding sheds with running water and a new boat for use on the lake.



The Challenge: This community faces many challenges including the transportation of trout from the lake to the houses or markets, and the storage which does not meet necessary health standards. There is a need to improve the feeding of the fry to produce strong viable fish of the right size to release.

The Impact: The Association has been provided with a gasoline powered mill to grind and prepare feed for the fry. The project also includes storage and packaging systems as well as training for marketing and also awareness of health issues related to Rainbow Trout (*Trucha Arco Iris*). The community will have an improved food supply and a means of getting their produce to market.



20

families with new fish farming systems

Total Budget: US \$3,956.00

Funded by QBL-UK: US \$3,372.00
Funded by Community: US \$584.00

Chullunkani Water Project

The Challenge: Many rural communities in Bolivia like Chullunkani have sparse populations living in rural poverty and experiencing inadequate access to sanitation and struggling to access water. The quantity and quality of water in these areas has declined significantly due to climate change. As of 2015, only 76% have access to improved water sources and QBL is addressing this problem and giving communities that basic human right that we sometimes take for granted.

The Impact: This project had previously provided a water supply for the community and has now been extended to include service for toilets and for water troughs for the sheep and llamas. A drainage system has been planned and developed so that gray water can be reused for irrigation purposes. Water supply and sanitation projects like this one have significant impacts on people’s lives, extending far beyond expected improvements to health and reduction in time spent collecting water.



One of the wells at Chullunkani being installed, ring by concrete ring.

Women from Chullunkani using the well and getting clean drinking water!



34
families with access to clean water

Total Budget: US \$3,956.00
Funded by QBL-UK: US \$3,372.00
Funded by Community: US \$584.00

Tupal Tupa Quinoa Project



The Challenge: The Tupal Tupa community, as well as the surrounding communities of the canton of Collana, are characterized by high levels of serious poverty, where

agricultural and livestock production are limited by the small amount of suitable land available and by poor soil. While there are small plots of land for the production of potato and cereals such as wheat and quinoa, these crops are subject to the variability of the climatic conditions and the produce obtained during each crop cycle is only for consumption of the local families. For this reason, it is necessary to improve agricultural production in general and in particular the production of quinoa which is well suited to the arid conditions in the area.

The Impact: The 21 families of Tupal Tupa have been provided with new seed for the organic production of quinoa and with new tools and with training. Sickles are now used to harvest the crop, leaving the roots and stalks to return to the soil and improve its quality. A simple threshing machine and winnowing machine have improved productivity dramatically.

In April of 2016, the threshing and winnowing of the quinoa in Tupal Tupa was ready to begin. Visitors from QBL-US and QBL-UK, with the team from QBL-BO, witnessed the use of the new Bolivian-made machine that is saving a lot of time for the villagers. They demonstrated both the old and new ways of doing these tasks and made the point that a job that previously took weeks will now take hours.

This process not only saves a lot of tedious labor but also vitally enables more quinoa to be grown, because more can be processed. The community will have improved food security and, they hope, a small surplus to trade.



21
Families producing quinoa

Total Budget: US \$13,265.00
Funded by QBL-UK: US \$9,290.00
Funded by Community: US \$3,975.00

Tiji Chucapaca Water Project

The Challenge: With a population of 65 inhabitants, Tiji Chucapaca is another community with no ready access to water for human consumption. The water in this location is saline and so it can only be used occasionally for animal consumption only, not for human consumption. To subsist, families need to dig deep wells to have access to water or, most of the time, they need to walk large distances in order to get water for consumption. Another challenge is the structure of the land which it makes hard to build the wells.

The Impact: This project is just beginning and next year will provide wells and access to clean water for the 26 families greatly improving their lives and their health and hygiene. They will also learn how to perform the maintenance of these water systems.



26

Families with access to clean water

Total Budget: US \$19,325.00

Funded by QBL-UK: US \$15,072.00

Funded by Community: US \$1,123.00

Funded by Municipality: US \$3,130.00

Working Together to Implement Reinforcement Projects

QBL-USA and QBL-UK Boards have approved funding for fifteen reinforcement projects. These projects – all involving water systems – allow villages to update, repair, and expand upon systems that were originally built by QBL-BO 7 to 10 years ago. A good example is the project in Villa Puchini, a village in Santiago de Callapa municipality. Their initial water system – built in 2007 by QBL-BO with additional funding from the villagers and the municipality – was designed to serve 30 families with 30 children. Since that time there is a need to update and improve our original project in the following ways:

- ✚ improve the water intake system and reposition several of the pipes;
 - ✚ clean and reinforce the main water tank;
 - ✚ conduct regular water testing (pH, turbidity, coliform, and chlorine levels)
 - ✚ update and repair the water accessibility of nineteen families;
 - ✚ educate the villagers on health and environmental issues, include good dental care.
-
- ✓ Both the infrastructure – tank and pipes and home access faucets – and the consciousness of the village – how can we lead healthier and more sustainable lives? – are improved here.

 - ✓ Education about maintaining the system, checking the water quality, and the health value of clean water all are included in this project update. The benefits of fluoridation are also discussed – a valuable addition to the community health program.

 - ✓ The villagers provided the majority of the labor in 2007 when the system was created. This time they will also help with the labor of repositioning pipes, as well as learning how to clean and maintain the tank. Community members and local health officials from the municipality will join QBL-BO staff for the health education trainings.

Reinforcement Projects

Community	Municipality	Budget	Number families beneficiaries
Chichaque	Sorata	US \$ 1,427.45	18
Chiquiruni	Sorata	US \$ 1,315.62	15
Villa Concepcion	Sorata	US \$ 1,422.19	50
Condorpata	Sorata	US \$ 1,630.82	52
Ancoma Norte	Sorata	US \$ 1,453.58	25
Ancoma Sur	Sorata	US \$ 1,517.08	15
Chuchulaya	Sorata	US \$ 1,582.04	60
Choquecoa	Sorata	US \$ 1,297.23	42
Titicani Sehuencani	Jesus de Machaca, Province Ingavi	US \$ 1,573.87	52
Villa Puchuni	Santiago de Callapa, Province Pacajes	US \$ 1,429.34	32
Condo Chejhuaya	Santiago de Callapa, Province Pacajes	US \$ 1,341.90	50
Huarina Choro	Sorata	US \$ 1,621.46	25
Calari	Corocoro, Province Pacajes	US \$ 1,134.54	33
Chojnoco	Corocoro, Province Pacajes	US \$ 1,630.80	56
Collpacanta	Santiago de Callapa, Province Pacajes	US \$ 2,864.98	18
TOTAL		\$ 23,242.90	543

2016 Visit to Bolivia



Resources & Financial Management

QBL-US

Total Revenue/Donations 2016 = \$30,260.00

Allocation of Expenses

Program Expenses FQBL = 60%

Support Services QLB = 20%

Fundraising = 20%

QBL-UK

Total Revenue/Donations 2016 = £35,000.00

Allocation of Expenses

Program Expenses FQBL = 93%

Administration = 3%

Fundraising = 4%

Note: Board members subsidize all expenses for travel, hotels, and fundraisers. They work 100% as volunteers and are committed that donations should largely be for the Andean people they serve.

Leadership & Team

QBL-US

John Scardina
Lucille Rivin
Jackie Helpens
Tom Stilwell
Jenny Reddick
Steve Solosky
Rene Molina
Rob Rogers
Ed Dunlop
Gladys Dunlop

Clerk
Projects/Outreach Committee
Grants/Outreach Committee
Projects/ Committee
Outreach/Fundraising Committee
Treasurer
Marketing/Finance Committee
Grants/Finance Committee
Finance Committee
Outreach/Fundraising Committee

QBL-UK

Richard Bloomfield
Paddy Watkins
David McHugh
Joan Neary
Lucille Pannell
Martin Lloyd

Clerk
Outreach
Treasurer
Projects/Fundraising
Projects/Fundraising
Outreach

QBL-BOL

Alberto Quelali Mamani
David Ramirez Condori
Sabino Chipana
Ana Margarita Tola Quispe

President
Treasurer
Vocal
Secretary

🇺🇸 *All board members are volunteers.*

STAFF IN BOLIVIA

Eduardo Mamani
Efrain Cotjiri
Nilda Condori

Supervisor / Technician
Technician
Secretary

CONSULTING DIRECTOR

Ximena Murillo

QBL appreciates your support!

Quaker Bolivia Link grew from the concern of individual Friends to improve the living conditions of some of the poorest people in Latin America: the Aymara of the Altiplano.

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