



Welcome to our Newsletter for 2024

Much has been happening! Our work has expanded into new and innovative areas and we've continued to fund community water and agricultural projects. Through the generosity of our grant funders, Quaker Meetings around the country and many individual supporters, Quaker Bolivia Link sent over £35,000 to Bolivia in 2023.

Funding for the Bolivian Programa de Alternativas a la Violencia has supported greenhouse projects with men and women deprived of their liberty in Potosí and Oruro. These projects promote a culture of non-violence and peace in a very direct and practical way. Building a greenhouse, planting and harvesting healthy food for all the prison population, the participants also develop skills in conflict resolution, teamwork and communication.

Our partnership with the Centro de Investigación y Promoción del Campesinado has funded a greenhouse for the production of vegetables in Sombrapata. The success of this project has led to Quaker Bolivia Link funding a follow-up project focussing on improving llama breeding.

Two projects have been completed with Fundación Quaker Bolivia Link, improving access to drinking water in Berenguela and Antarani. The community members are very happy with the "Agua Lindo" (beautiful water), especially the women and girls, who no longer have to walk such long distances to collect life's essentials.

Please help us do more



Greenhouses in Prisons



The *Programa de Alternativas a la Violencia (Alternatives to Violence Programme)* – PAV in Bolivia believes passionately that “We are what we eat”. This is the name they gave the Greenhouse Projects in Potosí and Oruro Rehabilitation Centres supported by Quaker Bolivia Link. The diet of the people deprived of their liberty was precarious, consisting almost completely of carbohydrates. But now there are greenhouses in both the men and women’s prisons which sell fresh vegetables to the kitchens.

The money received pays for seeds, manure and a small sum for the people who work in the greenhouses.

PAV now manages the working project from a distance together with a committee comprising the project participants, and education and social workers in the prison. It gives ongoing training in collaboration, team working and peaceful conflict resolution.

Joan Neary from Quaker Bolivia Link recently visited the project in the women’s prison in Oruro and, over lunch, one of the participants, Evi, told how the project is changing her life and how she will be using the horticultural skills she’s learning once she leaves prison with her small child. Evi was passionate about how the project had helped her and the hope it gave her for the future. AVP has gained the support of the Bolivian Ministry of Security and recently received an award from the Bolivian Ministry of Planning! Quaker Bolivia Link and PAV have recently begun a new Greenhouse Project with the mainly Aymara people in a prison in Uncia.



"It is an enormous privilege to be able to be the link between people deprived of their liberty, their needs and the love of Quakers around the world, specifically in the UK...Thank you infinitely for believing in our work and for helping us to make it possible".

Magaly Quispe. Country Representative, PAV – Bolivia

www.avppavbolivia.org

Agricultural projects with CIPCA



In 2023, Quaker Bolivia Link funded the *Centro de Investigación y Promoción del Campesinado (Centre for Research and Promotion of Small Farmers)* - CIPCA to deliver a project for the sustainable improvement of food security and nutrition for families and school students in Sombrapata, a community on the high Altiplano.

It began with training on the importance of vegetables for a healthy diet and how, given the impact of climate change, greenhouses can be a sustainable technology, enabling the communities to produce vegetables all the year round. Project participants were trained in the construction work needed and two greenhouses were built together with a drip water irrigation system, worm composting bins and a vegetable processing centre. Community members and students then learnt the different aspects of sustainable vegetable production and how they can be incorporated into their diet.

The project was so successful that the communities asked to work with CIPCA on a follow-up project, which will ease the impact of climate change on their llama stock.

An environmental governance plan has been designed with the communities which provides the decision-making framework for improved productivity. Infrastructure that strengthens resilience to climate change is being constructed: one water supply system with an elevated tank; three wells with manual pumps and drinking troughs; two llama sheds; two hectares of hydroponic and open-field forage planting with an irrigation system; one green house, and fencing for three hectares of pasture.



A community effort – the roof goes on the greenhouse

CIPCA provided technical training and follow-up assistance in the new techniques. 40 communities benefit from the project. 20 women, 20 men and 30 students were trained. The learning from the project feeds into the Centre for Genetic Improvement which, in turn, now supports other communities with similar challenges.



Learning about growing food



Plans for 2024 and 2025



There is more to do and Quaker Bolivia Link is now raising funds for new projects for the rest of 2024 and for 2025

Providing fresh drinking water to a village on the Altiplano - £20,000

More villages are waiting to benefit from a fresh water supply. With financial support from Quaker Bolivia Link and the local municipalities and expertise from our partners in Bolivia, the communities themselves will work hard laying pipes through rocky terrain, as well as constructing the pools, water tanks and the water intakes.

In Berenguela, the recent project provided clean water close at hand and community members were very happy, especially the women who no longer have to walk long distances to collect water from water holes, often shared with animals.

Domestic Violence Prevention - £5,000

The endemic levels of violence against women is a significant challenge in Bolivia, which has one of highest rates of femicide in South America. Following a successful pilot project, Quaker Bolivia Link hopes to fund a new project which aims to reduce the levels of domestic violence in the department of La Paz through training in the constructive management of conflict and peace-making. The project will build on PAV's successful Alternatives to Violence methodology and provide training workshops on non-violent, gender-sensitive approaches to conflict resolution for 250 boys and 250 girls in at least ten schools.

Prison Greenhouse - £10,000

Given the success of the Greenhouse Projects with the men and women deprived of their liberty in Potosí and Oruro, Quaker Bolivia Link plans to support a new Greenhouse Project in another penitentiary centre supported by follow up monitoring visits to Potosí, Oruro and Uncia.

Quaker Bolivia Link

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A Quaker response to poverty

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. All our work in the UK is done by volunteers. In Bolivia, we partner with local Bolivian charities and NGO's to deliver our projects.

If you would like to support our work, please donate through our website www.qbl.org, send a cheque to the address on the left or email for bank details. Gift Aid and Standing Order forms are available.