



Pachachaca creates light in these disruptive times

The situation in Peru keeps getting worse. The Cusco area remains under quarantine as the number of Covid-cases continue to rise. The economy is collapsing, over 6,5 million people are jobless, the hospitals cannot receive any new patients anymore and many people are hungry. Experts estimate that at the end of the year the gross domestic product (GDP) of Peru will be decreased by at least 30%.

In these disruptive times, Pachachaca provides support to the community and perspective for hope and new opportunities. The children of the family home are able to pursue their education from home through Internet and they get help from our teacher Tania. Additionally, the children have been working on their own theater, sport and music projects. Our new project Mujer Nueva had a fantastic start with 35 motivated women and great new ideas. Our ambulant assistance is growing and we are able to help 80 families with psychological and material support. We feel togetherness in these times, since the families work

closely together and also help Pachachaca out with whatever they can offer. We also feel togetherness thanks to all the support we get from organizations and people around us. To all of you we are very grateful!





Ofrenda Mujer Nueva

Our project Mujer Nueva has officially started! According to Andean traditions, we asked Mother Earth for her blessing via an 'ofrenda'; in this ritual the women thanked Mother Earth. They offered the best food they had and asked for blessings and success for their project. A beautiful start. Now, 35 women are working together in our vegetable garden, making bread in the oven, grow (medicinal) herbs and plants, breed trout and make homemade pasta.



The Pachachaca family

For the children, it can be difficult to stay home and not be able to go outside. Therefore, Pavel and Liesbeth organize games, take the kids hiking every now and then and offer them creative and sportive activities. For example, at this moment all the children participate in a weekly sport workshop, organized by one of the members of the families we supported with food packages. Also, three children take part in a music production workshop which involves children from all over Latin America, they're learning how to make instruments from recycled materials and the compositions of their own song by using modern technology. Both the younger



Ambulatory assistance and Mano campaign

Since the start of the lockdown in march this year, we have offered ambulatory assistance to 80 families at social risk; they receive food packages, medication and we offer them emotional and psychological support. All this support is based on Ayni, the Andean principle based on reciprocity; in return the families help us in the garden, by fixing the bikes, our shoes or with any other skills they have.

Since the crisis seems not to be ending soon, we have decided to continue the distribution of food packages for those

In this way, they have a great opportunity to become more independent. They can not only provide for their families, but also the families around us.

Last month we also started a program for the illiterate mothers of Mujer Nueva, in order to teach them how to read and write, essential for their independence! By working on these aspects we want to guide them towards their integral sovereignty!



children and the adolescents have been working on a theater play with professional theater makers from the village. You can find the amazing results on our own [YouTube channel](#).



families who are in most need. So far, we were very lucky to count on several funding organizations and private donations. In order to be able to continue our help to these families, our sister organization in The Netherlands called [Stichting Mano](#), started a special campaign to raise more awareness and money for Pachachaca. Since September 7th posters are visible in busses, trains and trams in Rotterdam and surroundings. Additionally, Mano published and spread its special newsletter '[Mano Messenger](#)' among all her contacts, in which you can read more about us, the situation in Peru and our emergency work.



Homeschooling

Since the start of the lockdown in March, schools have been closed in Peru. Children have been home since then, trying to continue their studies via Internet. Luckily the children of the family home have enough computers and mobile phones to be able to follow their online classes and make their homework. They also read on a daily basis since we created a library with plenty of nice books for each level.

In *Kusi Kawsay*, the school they attend, young students participated in a special campaign called: *Niñas, no Madres* (Girls, no Mothers). They wrote a rap song together to raise awareness around violence and sexual harassment against Peruvian indigenous girls. During the first two weeks of the lockdown, already 3500 cases of sexual abuse were reported, of which 700 aggressions against girls younger than 18 years old. Flor, one of the girls living in Pachachaca, wrote and rapped the chorus lines in Quechua, the traditional language of Cusco. She participated in debates on national radio and an article with her picture was published in one of the national newspapers. We are very proud of her! Please read the [article](#) and watch the video [here](#).



Community around us

Unfortunately, most children from the families we work with, live in very small rooms, sometimes without electricity and in all cases without Internet. Pachachaca provides three teachers who assist the children with their homework by calling them every day by mobile phone and sending them extra exercises and help through WhatsApp video messages. The social workers made a study of the learning needs of the children of 50 families and work closely together with the teachers. In some cases, Pachachaca provides mobile phones and materials for the families and helps them to recycle materials into shelves, tables and chairs. In exchange the families work extra hours in the communal vegetable garden. Also, we created a mobile library for the kids from the neighborhood, so that they can keep reading.





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