



Project Peru

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PROJECT PERU LIBRARY PROJECT FINAL REPORT

A report on the programme as implemented between November 2012 and May 2013 and onwards

Library project update

We confirm that the residual amount of the BfSS grant was spent on the salary of our librarian, as planned, between November 2012 and end of May 2013.

Of the £2,210.00 which was the second part of the BfSS grant we had already spent £921.00 of our own funds before receiving the grant and the residue was spent by May 2013, as planned, to provide the salary of our librarian.

This was as indicated in our '*PROJECT PERU LIBRARY PROJECT; a report on the programme as implemented between June 2012 and the end of October 2012*' as per the following extract from that report sent to BfSS on 02/11.2012.

Project Peru library project expenditure;

<u>CLAIM TO BfSS 2012</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Cumulative spending of BfSS funds so far in this period</u>	<u>source</u>
<u>Salary paid</u>			
<u>Veronika salary June-Oct 2012</u>	<u>£921.00</u>	<u>£921.00</u>	<u>bfss</u>
<u>5 months at 700 soles pm paid</u>			
<u>Salary due to be paid Nov 2012 to end May 2013 [7 months]</u>	<u>£1289.00</u>		<u>bfss</u>
<u>BfSS subtotal</u>	<u>£2,210.00</u>		

The work in the library has continued as planned and as was reported in our latest Newsletter in January 2014 and in our Annual Report for 2012 13 in both

of which we acknowledge the grant from BfSS.

As far as activities and use of the library is concerned we have continued as before, so our librarian has continued to encourage the use of the library facilities through a reading programme for the children, appropriate for their age, encouraging free access to the books, to the story telling and reading sessions that she organises. We have also introduced a programme of bed-time stories for the younger children. She has also been continuing to hold educational play sessions, including word puzzles and appropriate educational board games, as well as supervising the play room for our youngest children. We have enhanced this facility during the year with additional resources which have been sent in our cargo from UK, and during 2013 we have welcomed additional numbers of children to our refuge.

For the older children appropriate project based work using the library facilities has continue to include reflective reading sessions and discussions about adolescent issues and topical issues, continuing a press cuttings exercise to encourage awareness of current affairs, information sessions and project work based on key Peruvian historical events an international issues, and using the library resources to give 'out of school' attention especially in reading and writing, to some of our younger children with learning difficulties. The Peruvian education system can be very 'top-down' and repetitive and while supporting children through that we hope to encourage a more progressive way of learning.

The library facilities include a desk with three computers which are used by the children for investigation as well as for support for their homework, and a TV and a DVD player for use in the library. This is used for the younger children for stories and entertainment and for the adolescents for educational material, documentaries, and films with issues which can be a basis for discussion.

The children attend school on a rota basis, the younger ones in the morning and the older ones in the afternoons. In the afternoons there is educational support provided by the deputy head of the primary school who works on this in close collaboration with the librarian. The education system requires a considerable amount of homework which is done in the adjoining classrooms, so this happens next to the library. The youngest children can have access to the library at any other time under supervision of the librarian, and the average time for the older children for reading in the library has been three specifically allocated two hour sessions a week but with open access at most other times. In the summer months of school holidays this is more flexible and they can have more access to the recreational resources of the library. The library is a new experience and the children do still need considerable guidance which we are able to provide but the intention is to gradually encourage more free use of the facilities. That said with support from this grant we have been able to establish the library project

successfully as a mainstream activity in the midst of our principle role of running a children's home, with all the responsibilities that that requires.

We currently have approximately 1550 books in the library.

All the children resident in our children's refuge have been using the library regularly. The current number of children and young adults is 48; many of the staff members use the facilities too, so apart from those staffing the library, the number of users on a regular basis would be around 55.

We have the full range of ages of children and young adults between the ages of 3 and 20 but the education system is predicated on 'passing the year' and several of our children have missed out on school attendance before joining us, so the age of the children and their position in school is not always consistent. Our librarian has previously worked as a qualified primary teacher so that expertise is critical in ensuring that the library is a valuable tool for the children's educational achievement and enjoyment. Everyone in our refuge appreciates and takes advantage of the access to the books, reading and help with learning; the library itself is an integral part of the educational support we offer but *per se* it is not possible to identify which part of educational progress is due just to the library itself as a discrete project. It is at the core of our education centre, which includes a play room, audio visual room, class room, and our educational support room.

At times we have had input from UK volunteers with a library background but on the whole in 2013 we have not had volunteers attached to the library, though we have plans for this in 2014. We have also established and maintained contacts with a number of Peruvian professionals who continue to give support to the library from time to time.

On occasions the library facilities have been used by former residents and family members and visitors, and though in the longer term we would like to be able to open access to a wider public, it will always be a small project and we have to be aware of child protection issues in opening up access for the public to our buildings, due to the layout and structure of the premises. We work under the supervision of MIMDES [The Ministry for Women and Social Development] and work within their child protection guidelines. This is the only one of our initial aspirations that we have not been able to fulfil. Otherwise the project has entirely fulfilled its original objectives and is well set for the future. Particularly in the physical environment where we are situated we feel that this has been a considerable achievement and we are grateful to BfSS for their support.

Carole Hudson: Chair of Project Peru: February 2014