

Llipin Yahuar-Todas las Sangres

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Who started the whole thing



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Short Introduction

In the last 10 years I worked as project manager in an international software company and before that as project manager as well with another software company and in a bank. It has been always my dream to work in an aid project but I was thinking more of feeding penguins in Patagonia. Due to substantial changes in the company in combination with a generous competitor clause I had the opportunity to make my dream come true. Wolfgang (my life companion) agreed that I could disappear from home for one year.



As I supported a child-aid-project in Urubamba (Cusco, Peru) since 2008, which we had visited in 2010, I asked the organization if they could use me; but based on my job less in the area of the children and more in the administration. They agreed immediately and so I could start the preparations for my one-year stay (November 2012 – October 2013).

The disillusion came quickly in the project on-site because there was a very big gap between the things that I had been told as donator in Germany and the reality in Peru. For understandable reasons I don't want to go more into the details as in the meantime these six months are history. With the mental separation between the organizations in Germany and Peru I had tried to finish the year in a good manner for me but from a certain point onwards it was simply impossible. At least I have learned how things are not done in connection with the people here in Peru as well the donators in Germany.

How the Project Started

Right from the start I lived in a big Peruvian family. At the beginning of the year 2013 Mercedes talked to me several times and she wanted to know if I wouldn't start a project of my own as I differ from the other gringos and would listen to and respect the Peruvians. Due 1.000 reasons (not enough time, back to Germany, etc.) I refused this idea flatly.

In parallel I had conversations with other Germans and Peruvians and especially Alipio. Before Christmas 2012 I was in Chaullaccocha, where the children of Chupani came as well, to distribute Christmas presents. It was really impressive to see the children and their mothers in this area. Alipio had worked for two years in the health centers in both villages. As he had to change his position within the organization we worked together since January 2013. Consequently I could get to know him, his ideals and way of working very well. In the past he had worked with MISEREOR in a project where they helped people based on training and long-term support.

Slowly some ideas and potential plans started to develop in my head and it came the day when I decided to test them to see if I could make them true. I didn't want to declare this

year in Peru as completely lost and therefore it was time to switch all of the stress into positive energy by my own initiative.

I talked to Alipio and offered three alternatives:

1. Not to do anything and terminate the whole idea
2. To help with the project description and to find someone to work in it
3. To write his own job description

Without any kind of hesitation he chose the third one and we started. The result was a cost estimation and a project description and I came to the conclusion that it should be feasible.

Alipio took the full risk and we handed in our notice on the same day. With that my best time in Peru started because working with the people in both communities is simply great. Of course it is necessary getting used to a lot of things as such a project has completely different pitfalls than the known software projects but it is great fun. At the beginning I wasn't really sure about which the people were happier, the project itself or the fact that they would get back their "Dr. Alipio". It doesn't matter as they started trusting me as well within relatively short time.

The following pictures should provide a small impression of our work together where I could be found more behind the camera and in front of the laptop:



Alipio corrects the hand-washing

The positive result was obvious immediately



Brushing ones teeth for the first time in 36 years was not that easy but it worked out quite well already

Afterwards we take a look together at the pictures which I had made





The Plans for My Future

Due to Wolfgang's support in the internet area and the continuation of the project as my intensive hobby there are no administration costs in Germany. MISEREOR took over the donation management and the corresponding tax information and consequently it is not necessary to build an organization in Germany. That in itself is an honor! With this I can focus on collecting donations and controlling in my free time and 100% of all donations go directly to Peru.

We have no plans of growth in the project because only when it is small I can guarantee that everything works as planned, that the set goals will be reached and that I can keep the control over it. For us quality is much more important than quantity.

Since January 1st 2014 I'm again fully employed and with that I ensure that I will continue as donator for my own project. Of course I want to go to Peru at least once a year on my own cost so that I don't lose the contact to the people. Due to email and Skype it is no problem to stay in touch with Alipio but a personal meeting is much better. The project is planned for 7 years (until July 2020) and then we have to decide how we want to continue.