



The Chijnaya Foundation

2021 Qqepa Animal Shed Report Salem UUC Microfinance Committee

General Information

Organization Name: The Chijnaya Foundation
Project Name: Construction of Animal Sheds in Qqepa
Contact Person: Kimmy Mazza (Kimberly.mazza@chijnaya.org)
Grant Award Amount: \$5,074
Project Location: Qqepa, Pucará, Lampa, Puno, Perú
Number of Beneficiaries: 7 families- 35 people

Project Description and Impact

Qqepa is a small community on the plains of the Peruvian altiplano and the main economic activities of the community are animal husbandry and milk production. The community began working with The Chijnaya Foundation in 2017 on a project to construct improved cook stoves inside homes to improve family health. This project was part of the Rotating Fund Program, meaning communities agreed to pay back the amount used for the project to a community fund and continue using the funding for productive projects. In the following years, the community used their fund to invest in oat seeds and the construction of drinking troughs with the goal of improving milk production in their cattle.

Many small-scale farmers in the Puno region lack the necessary infrastructure they need to create a thriving small business. Investing in infrastructure and projects to improve cattle nutrition help decrease animal mortality rates, increase milk production, and allow communities to raise breeds of cattle that produce larger amounts of milk, all of which lead to increasing family income. One of the most important projects for cattle herders is the construction of animal sheds. Thanks to the support of Salem UUC, the community of Qqepa was able to construct animal sheds on the properties of 7 families. The other half of the community plans to use this same project funding to build animal sheds on their property once the rotating fund is repaid.

Construction of the animal sheds was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and project implementation began in 2021. August is the most ideal time to begin construction projects on the altiplano because the freezing winter temperatures begin to warm up, there is little rain fall, and farmers have fewer responsibilities to attend to in their fields. The construction of animal sheds in Qqepa will be completed in time for the upcoming rainy season that begins around December/January. This is a crucial time for the sheds because calves are historically born during the rainy season and the extra protection of the sheds increases animal survival rates. These sheds are also crucial during the dry season because they keep animals warm which leads to an increase in milk production and also allows families to invest in breeds that have a higher yield of milk production, but are sensitive to the harsh climate of the altiplano. Additionally, these sheds allow farmers to maintain milk production during the dry season by



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making it possible to produce calves during this time of year, which is an essential part of producing milk. Without animal sheds, communities are unable to birth calves in the dry, winter months because it is too cold for them to survive. The dry season also makes it near impossible for cattle to graze, which is why alfalfa and oat production in addition to feeding and drinking troughs are important to maintain milk production throughout the year. These sheds in combination with other projects help families to sustain a steady milk production throughout the entire year and has increased family income by up to 40% in other communities.

The implementation of animal sheds is a major step to improving milk production and this project is expected to have a very positive impact on the family economy in the community of Qqepa. The first measurement of the project's impact will begin in May of 2022. We look forward to sharing the impact of your support and we can't thank you enough for making this project possible.