

Clean Water in Peru

*Providing Safe Water for nearly 250 Compassion-assisted Children
Prepared for Thorncreek Church*



Ensuring that children have access to clean water is an essential component of the effort to release them from poverty. Without permanent access to clean water, the children of Perlas de Gran Precio (Pearls of Great Price) Child Development Center in Piura, Peru suffered from chronic illness, stunted development, missed school and even malnutrition. Your support of a clean water project at this center has removed this barrier to overcoming poverty in the lives of 245 children.

In the neighborhood known as “Negritos,” there are frequent cases of diarrhea caused by parasites in the water. The children of this child development center suffered a higher rate of illnesses and malnutrition because of the lack of clean water. In addition, the water supply was unreliable, requiring the center staff to store water in open buckets and bottles. Meals and snacks for the children were often late because the kitchen at the center lacked a reliable supply of water. The center bathrooms were in poor condition and inoperable at times due to a lack of water. The children rarely observed healthy hygiene habits.

Preparations and Installation

With the support of Thorncreek Church, the Perlas de Gran Precio Child Development Center was able to install new plumbing, two water storage units with filters, a water pump system and a reservoir that is connected to the center’s kitchen and bathrooms.



Reinforced pillars and girders were installed outside and inside the building to support the weight of a water reservoir installed above the kitchen area.



Professional installers move one of two, 2,800-liter water storage tanks from the delivery truck to the church’s chapel area for installation.

In preparation for this large project, support pillars and beams were installed outside the walls of the church and internally in the kitchen and bathroom areas. The additional reinforcement was needed to support the weight of the reservoir, which was located at a high point in the building above the kitchen and bathrooms. An area under the chapel’s stage was excavated where the two water containers were installed.

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Before work began, the oversight committee spent extra time gathering bids, which resulted in cost savings on both construction materials and transportation costs. The initial preparation work was accomplished in September 2012. The installation of the water storage tanks, water pump, reservoir, plumbing, and kitchen and bathroom repairs were completed in October. The church celebrated completion of the construction and installation phases at a service on October 28.

In November, the Compassion-Peru office distributed training materials on proper hygiene and safe water handling practices to all children and center staff. The intervention was considered fully complete when the staff of the implementing church partner met with consultants to learn how to maintain the new water storage and distribution system.

Compassion-assisted child Jahaira Escobar Miranda has seen a major improvement since the installation of



Professional installers check the operation of the water pump and look for leaks in the water storage tanks and new plumbing.

the water storage and filtration systems. “There used to be a water shortage at the student center. The lunch was late because cooks didn’t have enough water to prepare it,” Jahaira says. “Now that we have water, we are able to use it for our personal hygiene every

time we come to the center and we especially use it to prepare our lunch.”

Meeting Objectives

The objectives of the intervention have been fully accomplished:

- Install new plumbing and water storage units on the premises of the child development center
- Train the staff and beneficiary children on the safe handling, use and conservation of water



Following installation of the water storage tanks and plumbing, carpenters built a wooden support structure and cover so the area can continue to be used as a stage in the church’s chapel.

Thanks to the new water storage system, 245 children and 19 staff members from the center have a reliable supply of pure water. The center director, Flor Curay Benites, sees multiple benefits resulting from the new systems. “We will have enough water to prepare the food and keep the bathrooms clean,” she says. “I also believe that families (of Compassion-assisted children) will see a reduction in their medical expenses (due to fewer illnesses).” In addition to church families, Flor says the community will benefit as well. “Surrounding families also will be favored because they also struggle with a lack of water, and sometimes come to the church asking for it.”

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Fiorella Alzamora Garcia, another child registered at the center, says that personal hygiene will be easier now at the center. “Bathrooms are clean all the time. Sometimes, we are able to use the showers because there is enough water for all of us.”

Giving Thanks

Thank you for partnering with Compassion to meet this critical need. Thanks to the generosity of your church, hundreds of children and their families will no longer have to struggle with the sickness and other consequences of drinking contaminated water. Project Director Flor Benites expresses the joy and renewed commitment felt by her church, “The congregation feels blessed for the support, and will work harder to improve the service we give to the children’s ministry.”

Amount Received: \$8,000