

Peru: Children's Support Programme

Background

Although a thriving nation boasting vibrant culture, art, music and history, Peru suffers with many social problems such as human trafficking, high unemployment and extreme poverty. Nearly half the population live on the poverty line (income less than \$1 a day). Political and economic instability in the early 20th Century caused unprecedented poverty and violence in the rural towns forcing hundreds of thousands of peasants to migrate to Lima. Consequently one third of Peru's population now lives in the metropolitan area of Lima, many in shanty towns lacking basic amenities such as running water and electricity. It is in **Lima** where our scheme is based, as our ROPEholder, who runs a local mission group called "**Ministerio Agape**", has highlighted to us the plight of many desperately needy children in the area. These children come from impoverished and dysfunctional backgrounds, as their parents struggle with lack of employment and minimal social support. Often the fathers are unable or unwilling to help support the family due to poverty, alcoholism and crime, placing great burdens on the mothers.

Food provided for the children



The programme

The programme focuses on helping children and their families living in extreme poverty and with particular problems such as a child with learning difficulties. Its aim is to provide specific help and resources for a concentrated period of time to help the family gain self sufficiency and provide a better environment for their children. Assistance takes many forms, from providing basic needs such as food, clothing and healthcare to helping the parents find work or enabling them to start a trade by producing their own food to eat and sell. At any one time there are between 10 to 15 families (about 40-60 children) being supported by the programme. As families re-establish equilibrium, other families can be taken on. This scheme has been running for several years so already in that time the programme has positively benefited many hundreds of children.

The sponsorship scheme

It costs **£15 per month** to sponsor the program. This provides children and their families with food, everyday care, clothes, and renovations to their basic accommodation such as installing sanitary and cooking facilities. It also enables the children to receive medical attention, often caused by the appalling living conditions, and the chance to receive an education, with materials provided. ROPE will send an annual update of the scheme which will include the programme's general progress, specific stories of individuals in the scheme and photos of some of the people helped.

More families - grateful for the sponsorship support that comes through the ROPE programme

