

Outreach Partnership Program Updates

MARCH 2022 | BOLIVIA

2021 challenged us all with some obstacles that were bigger than any of us could have expected. But rather than halting our progress, you still came through, making our victories even bigger than we could have imagined. We were all fatigued from uncertainty and isolation, from having to adjust to a new normal. And as volunteers and fundraisers, you had to rethink strategies to keep helping us do our work with your support. And you succeeded, as always, more impressively than ever.

So, thank you. Thank you for your perseverance, for advocating for our mission, for sharing our story in new and creative ways. Thank you for being our voice that allowed people everywhere to continue to make a positive difference during these unprecedented times.

We envision a world where communities work together to overcome the challenges of chronic poverty. Your partnership makes this a reality. The victories you have made possible are your victories, too.

We're proud to present you with this partnership update, so you can see a small example of the good that your generosity makes possible in the country you choose to support. And enclosed is your 2021 Giving Report, summarizing the contributions made toward your partnership last year.

We hope you enjoy and find inspiration in this edition of the Partnership Program Updates. If you need more resources to share with your group, please visit our website at outreach-international.org/resources. If you have specific questions or just want to say "Hello!", please contact Marsha Penrose at m.penrose@outreachmail.org



Fruits (and Vegetables) of Their Labor

The community of Sacha Sacha is located in the mountains, where the weather can be cold, and water isn't always plentiful. Because of this, they find it difficult to grow a variety of vegetables to diversify their diets for proper nutrition, relying primarily on carbohydrates for their steady supply of calories.

The Outreach-facilitated community group identified this as an issue they would try to solve, because if they wanted vegetables, they had to drive at least an hour to the market. Even then, the vegetables they were able to purchase were often of low quality and would not stay fresh very long.

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From Farm to Table

Their solution was to build 22 greenhouses, which Outreach supporters helped to fund back in 2018. These greenhouses allow them to provide themselves with a steady supply of fresh and nutritious vegetables, improving their diets and even giving them the opportunity to sell some vegetables for income.

Another difficulty they faced was finding the vegetable seeds and seedlings to put these greenhouses to proper use. After writing their request and presenting it to Global Humanitaria, an organization focused on organic gardening, community members accessed 3,328 vegetable seedlings during the first part of 2021. Later in the year, they accessed approximately 3,000 more. Over 200 people are benefiting from their hard work and success.

Sacha Sacha is just one of eight Outreach-facilitated communities in Bolivia that requested and received vegetable seedlings in 2021. And like Sacha Sacha, these other groups each prepared and presented a proposal, and mobilized to access these much-needed resources. They then planted their seedlings in greenhouses or traditional gardens. The varieties of vegetables were specially selected for their resistance to the cold climate of the region, so their production has been excellent! All together, these eight community groups received 14,200 vegetable seedlings, benefitting 142 families.

Each of these communities are now growing their own vegetables locally, and the families there are benefiting from all the extra calories and nutrition, especially the children! They're saving money and time by not having to travel to the market for inferior food, and they're even growing enough to be able to sell some of their bounty for extra income.

Marcelina, a 40-year-old mother of three, said, *"Here, due to the lack of water and the cold, we do not grow vegetables to eat. But now we have obtained and planted and we are eating. How different it is! Soft and fresh and the taste is different – it is richer than when we buy."*

Better nutrition, sustainable growth, and additional income – a real victory for both communities – and made possible because of your continued dedication to volunteering and fundraising. **This makes their victory your victory, too.**