PERU

Climate change, illegal mining and the illicit drug trade are a triple threat to rural livelihoods in Peru. Facing poor crop yields and prices, the degradation of natural resources and persistent insecurity, many rural Peruvians find themselves struggling to make ends meet at home, and those who move to the cities often do not find better economic opportunities. In addition, over 1 million Venezuelans have fled to Peru after leaving behind the economic and political crisis which is crippling their country. They are trying to restart their lives despite lacking the resources to navigate Peru’s government agencies and cultural differences.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) has worked in Peru since 1979, partnering with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), governments, rural enterprises and farmers to promote climate resilient livelihoods and natural resource management, as well as to increase the effectiveness of public and private investments in rural development initiatives. A hallmark of LWR’s work in Latin America has been the development and use of digital platforms to reach more people more quickly with information and services that range from the best practices in cacao farming to practical tips on how to rebuild one’s life in a new country.

OUR GLOBAL APPROACHES

Agriculture
Lutheran World Relief helps rural communities develop productive, resilient and stable economies through a market systems enterprise development approach that engages the private sector at multiple levels, creating profitable partnerships that benefit families and promote rural livelihoods and agriculture value chains. We train farmers in climate smart agricultural practices, post-harvest processing and storage as well as in other value-adding skills. We strengthen the capacity of cooperatives and unions that serve these farmers through training in governance and financial management, facilitating joint negotiation of credit and other services, and boosting collective marketing and sales.

Climate Resilience
Lutheran World Relief works with rural communities to adapt to and mitigate the effects of a changing climate on their agriculture-based livelihoods. We emphasize environmental rehabilitation through the implementation of soil and water conservation works and watershed management on community land, as well as tree seeding production for community-led reforestation.

Humanitarian Assistance
Lutheran World Relief meets the immediate needs of households, IDPs, and refugees affected by conflict, natural disasters, and food and water crises through food, material resources, and cash assistance as well as shelter and WASH support. As immediate needs are met, we seamlessly transition to providing the knowledge and resources they need to start, diversify, and strengthen livelihoods and reduce their vulnerabilities in the future.
Project Examples

Maximizing Opportunities in Cacao and Coffee in the Americas (MOCCA)
LWR leads cacao programming for the USDA-funded Maximizing Opportunities in Coffee and Cacao in the Americas (MOCCA) project, helping farmers sell more at better prices, improving farmer production and enhancing sector coordination to drive competitiveness and growth. Peru is one of six countries that is part of the 5-year, $10.5 million project. Through MOCCA, LWR partners with the private sector to not only invest in improving cocoa quality and yields, but also in the systems that make those improvements possible for the future, such as higher prices, good genetic material for planting, and more direct, feasible and profitable supply chains for smallholder farmers. Cacao producers also utilize LWR’s Cacao Móvil, a digital tool that provides farmers access to a comprehensive guide to cocoa cultivation, covering subjects from planting and pruning, to grafting and treating plant diseases. With the dissemination of research from the Cocoa Research Center (CRC) and Bioversity, LWR is developing a regional platform for knowledge transfer to strengthen the cacao value chain.

VenInformado
With funding from the Center for Disaster Philanthropy and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, LWR established and continues to expand its digital platform VenInformado, which provides Venezuelan refugees and migrants with critical, accurate and up-to-date information and personalized virtual legal, psychosocial, COVID-19 and livelihoods assistance. LWR works in close collaboration with local partners Encuentros and Center for Psychosocial Care (CAPS) to provide free guidance on topics ranging from COVID-19 protection and regulations, legal requirements for refugee and residency status, managing mental health, resources for survivors of gender-based violence, and guidance for starting a small business. Through its one-on-one support portal, VenInformado staff have also responded to over 36,000 legal and psychosocial inquiries since its launch in 2018.

Women, Change-Makers in the VRAEM Region of Peru
In the VRAEM region of Peru, one the country’s poorest and the epicenter for coca leaf production for cocaine, LWR works with the women-led Q’ori Warmi cooperative in the management of its cacao crop, including post-harvest handling, fermentation practices and protocols, and business management. By strengthening the resilience and sustainability of the cooperative, LWR increases participating families’ agricultural productivity and environmental responsibility, improves post-harvest processes and strengthens entrepreneurial capacity and leadership within the cooperative, as well as promotes cacao as a legal and high-value crop alternative to coca.

Promoting COVID-19 Vaccines in Peru and Latin America
LWR provides consistent, accurate, and credible COVID-19 and vaccine information to combat misinformation, myths, fears and distrust related to the virus and vaccines among Venezuelan migrants and refugees, rural mining and smallholder farming communities in Peru, as well as rural cacao and coffee producers across Peru and Latin America. Through a twofold communications campaign, the project provides critical, lifesaving COVID-19 and vaccine information to 75,000 individuals in Peru and elsewhere in Latin America utilizing our existing digital platforms VenInformado and Cacao Móvil while also targeting members of rural Peruvian communities that take part in LWR’s current rural development projects.

Adapting Together: Strengthening Local Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation
Through joint funding from USAID and Gold Fields and in close collaboration with local leaders, LWR implemented this three-year project to strengthen local capacity to design and implement climate change adaptation plans and policies. The project successfully reduced community conflict over water rights in two target watersheds by establishing linkages between water users.

The Corus Effect
Lutheran World Relief is part of Corus International, an ensemble of global leaders in international development and humanitarian assistance. In addition to Lutheran World Relief, the Corus family of organizations includes global public health agency IMA World Health, U.K.-based technology for development company CGA Technologies, impact investing fund Ground Up Investing, and direct trade company Farmers Market Brands.

We operate as permanent partners, integrating expertise, disciplines, approaches and resources to overcome global health challenges, develop productive and stable economies, improve resilience in the face of climate change, and respond to natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

With the support of our family’s diverse set of partners and funding – from multi- and bilateral institutions and foundations to the private sector and individuals – we invest in solutions that are innovative, scalable, holistic and move the needle towards transformational change.