



# **ODP Jesuits of Peru**

## **Fight Hunger in the Name of Christ**

— Lima, Peru —



Happy are those who consider the poor; the Lord delivers them in the day of trouble.

PSALM 41:1



# Executive Summary

## Description

This project will provide hundreds of thousands of Vitafood meals to feed hungry families in an impoverished area of Peru. Vitafood is our name for a variety of dry food packets scientifically formulated to rehabilitate severely malnourished children. The meals provide the optimal balance of vitamins, minerals, protein, fiber, fat and carbohydrates, and they can be prepared with additional spices or ingredients to suit local tastes. Another benefit is that these meals can be cost-effectively shipped.

The ODP Jesuits of Peru will be overseeing this project and distributing aid from Cross Catholic Outreach to a network of seven institutions, with the majority of meals going to Heart of Jesus School, a Catholic pre-K through secondary school founded by a Jesuit priest to reach deeply impoverished children in Santa Maria de Huachipa Parish. In response to COVID-19, we also want to feed families hurt by the economic impact. Packets of Vitafood are included in emergency food kits that also contain locally procured groceries.

## Purpose

To prevent malnutrition and demonstrate Christ's love for the poor.

## Location

Lima, Peru.

## Cost

**\$30,000** is needed to ship two containers of donated Vitafood meals. One container can hold as many as 280,000 meals!

## Highlights

### NEED

- Peru experienced a steep economic decline during its strict COVID-19 response last year, with the employment rate down 20% and the ranks of the poor enlarged by 2 million people. (CIA World Factbook)
- The impact of lockdowns and other disasters is especially felt in poor communities, where good jobs were already scarce and the resources to weather hard times are hard to come by.
- Hemmed in by poverty, the poor struggle to earn enough income to feed their families.

### IMPACT

- Your support will satisfy the hunger of the poor through church/community outreaches, a school, a feeding center, and a support program for vulnerable women.
- The meals sent to the school in Jicamarca will empower the students to excel in their studies and advance to the next level as they work toward a brighter future.





*Families live in deep poverty in Jicamarca, Peru.*

## Trapped in a Dry and Weary Land

There is no shortage of bricks in Jicamarca, Peru. There's no shortage of dust either. This mountainous desert outskirts of Lima often seems to be dominated by its 80-foot-deep quarry, dug for the raw materials industries have needed to make bricks. Many such quarries are illegal and threaten the safety of local neighborhoods — but they still exist.

Tragically, Jicamarca's poverty is as deep as its quarry. Some families there are so poor, in fact, that they live in houses that look very much like the scarred land. Alongside these humble brick buildings are shanties of wood, tin and tarp that look more like toolsheds than homes.

This destitute community started as a squatter settlement, developed by families displaced by the Marxist revolutionary violence that terrorized the countryside. Many of these poor farmers came in search of safety and opportunity, but most only found slightly more bearable poverty.

Surely, God must grieve over this poverty — and for the children born in this wasteland.

When disasters strike Peru, they create unbearable hardships too. The COVID-19 pandemic is one such case. Bad storms add stresses that push families to a breaking point as well. For example, when an El Niño storm hit the country in 2017, many homes and bridges were washed away, cutting off communities from their sources of important supplies. This led to food prices skyrocketing in Jicamarca, making it even more difficult for struggling families to get by. The electrical grid also went down.

Similar stories of poverty and struggle can be found in many communities surrounding Lima. The desperate migrations, the slum settlements, the job shortages and the persistent lack of education, resources and opportunities form an all-too-common equation that always adds up to hunger. For these families, just finding enough food to avoid going to bed hungry is a constant struggle.

It's into these circumstances Christ calls his Church. **The ODP Jesuits of Peru are reaching out to these communities, but they need your help. Your generosity can stop the hunger pangs of the poor!**



## Relieve Their Hunger

Cross Catholic Outreach has gained access to a large quantity of donated Vitafood — but we need your help to move those meals to the people who need them most. Your generous gift will ship nutrient-rich Vitafood to the ODP Jesuits of Peru, who will in turn supply a local network of partners feeding the poor and vulnerable. Most of these meals will go to the students and families of Heart of Jesus School in Jicamarca, supplementing the critical nutrition component of this quality program that is bringing hope to disadvantaged children.



*Give now to prevent chronic malnutrition  
and shine the light of Christ!*

## Our Mission

We mobilize the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

## Good Stewardship

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach. These detailed accountability measures have earned us ongoing accreditation by the following organizations:



The Chronicle of Philanthropy  
*The nonprofit world's No. 1 news source*

## Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2022, the close of our ministry's fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.

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