

## TO LET ONESELF BE TOUCHED

### A globalized solidarity is not only a question of love but a question of justice

We live in a globalized world. Nowadays distances have become shorter and it seems that all can be lived in a moment. The word "globalization" is already part of the culture, at least of the western culture: we talk about global economy, global climate...and it seems that even some people dare to talk about global solidarity. We also want to dare to dream in a better world where solidarity is globalized.

It is obvious that a person can not save the world but not for this reason we have to live from behind it, specially from behind the more unpleasant realities. It is evident that we have the liberty to live as if nothing happened with the environment, wars, social injustices, with those who are alone, sick or short of liberty, with the suffering of so many people who do not have the minimum to live or with those who even do not have the opportunity to be born. But it is also evident that all these realities "politically not correct", no matter if they come from our immediate environment or if they are in another part of the planet, can be integrated in our life.

We want our small NGO to be an instrument so that we do not live unaware of the suffering and the unfairness that many

## editorial

of our contemporaries live. The project of Southafrica that still lives in us, the year that Annette and Andreas have spent in Kirgistan, the year of voluntary work of Paz in Madrid, the six months of Stephanie in Peru, the year of voluntary work of Laura in Africa, the volunteers of the project "Sostre" in Barcelona... and many other daily experiences should help us to live with a wider horizon, with a heart that since now makes up all those who have not had the same opportunities as many of us.

In order to make come true the dream of humanizing and improving the world, I have to change my way of life and my way of understanding the reality that surround me and the reality that I do not see but I can not ignore. This change in myself is only possible if I let being touched by those who do not have anything and I integrate their destiny in my life. Only if I let myself be touched and I accept some renunciations in my life, even in the necessary, a globalized solidarity will be possible. It is not only a question of love but a question of justice.

In this edition of the bulletin we focus on Peru. José presents the NGO "CIESCU" and Stephanie, in the first of her two articles tells us about the project "La Mansión". Thanks for giving us the opportunity of letting us be touched.

The Council

## INTRODUCING CIESCU

**The main goal of CIESCU is to contribute to reducing poverty in the long term by effectively using different and available resources**

CIESCU stands for "Centro de Investigación y Estudios Económicos, Educativos, Sociales y Culturales". Meaning in English: "Center for research and training in Economics, Education, the social and cultural sectors". CIESCU is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in the developmental aid sector. Established in 1988 CIESCU was registered in the "Agencia Peruana de Cooperación Internacional" (APCI; Peruvian agency for international cooperation) in 1991. The recognition as a non-profit association by the ministries of economics, finance and education enables CIESCU to legally receive donations.

CIESCU first started in Arequipa (Peru). In Spain an affiliated organisation exists since 2004. Goal of our work is to contribute to reducing poverty in the long term by effectively using different and available resources. CIESCU assists people to develop their abilities, to regain their cultural identity and to get access to higher education. The organisation focuses on women and children because they are a socially disadvantaged group and suffer from inequality of educational opportunities.

In the past 19 years CIESCU worked on different projects: i.e. building horticultural areas on rural school grounds, doing research about the living situation of small sections of the population, bringing back Quechua (the native language) into the kindergarten and first grade classrooms of bilingual provinces to help the process of learning, establishing drinking water supply and in some marginalized slums also sewage disposal, showing how to breed guinea pigs (*Cavia porcelus*) and rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)



## thoughts

as a second source of income, building a women's shelter as a way of fighting social exclusion of women, educating teachers about HIV and AIDS, etc. Donations from public and private organizations of the international cooperation made the realization of these projects possible. Our work with women who suffer from inequality of educational opportunities was not only given credit for by the parliament but even worldwide.

Since 2007 we work in cooperation with the non-profit association "Claim for Dignity", a recently founded organization based in Germany and Spain. Claim for Dignity managed to qualify for financial support by the "Landesstiftung Baden-Württemberg" in Germany to realize a new project: "Education vs. Undernourishment". The project is working with a public school in La Mansión, a marginalized part of the district of Socabaya in Arequipa. 102 students from 7 different slums are attending the school. The main reason to start this project is the fact that most of these children suffer from chronic undernourishment. The taken blood samples showed extremely low blood protein levels and in addition most children are infested with up to 3 different parasites. Our analysis helps us to evaluate the situation of the children who live in great poverty. We expect to be able to reduce undernourishment, to improve school achievement, to improve the situation of the children's families (for this reason we are not only working with the children but with all family members). The projects counts on the involvement of the local administration, the "Unidad de Gestión Educativa local" (UGEL; local education department) and the department for health. There is an agreement between those three and CIESCU to each take responsibility for fighting chronic undernourishment in our target group.

These are some of the projects which CIESCU started and is working on so far.

José Alvaro Ruiz  
Anthropologist and chairperson of [www.ciescu.org](http://www.ciescu.org)



## FROM AREQUIPA (PERU) (1/2) THE PROJECT: „LA MANSION: EDUCATION VER- SUS UNDERNOURISHMENT“

**A lot of the school's students are undernourished or malnourished. Almost all of them suffer from parasites.**

„La Mansión: Education vs. Undernourishment“ is the title of our project in Peru (Arequipa). It started in October 2007 in cooperation with CIESCU which is a local NGO in Arequipa.

Mansión does indeed mean mansion although this is a poor and marginalized part of town which has got nothing to do with mansions. The name originates from the nearby former mansion of the founder of Arequipa in the sixteenth century.

The project works with the school of La Mansión. This means working with the school's 85 students, their parents, the care-taker, five teachers and the school's director.

Basically the goal of the project is helping to reduce infantile undernourishment. A lot of the school's students are undernourished or malnourished. Almost all of them suffer from parasites. The sanitary conditions are awful. Only a few of La Mansión's houses have electricity. There are no installations for water supply or waste water. Each day a rationed amount of water in buckets is given out. This is not enough water for cooking, drinking, body hygiene and laundry. A lot of the fathers have insecure jobs or can't earn enough money. Also a lot of the mothers work from time to time as field hands for very low wages. If both parents work the children are left alone at home throughout the day. The older ones take care of the younger ones. But they might not have essentials like food or water. One child in three children is also working after school. Most of them sell candy in the streets. A lot of the parents have had a poor education. Discontent with the general situation and the daily struggle for survival can lead to alcohol misuse, domestic violence, abuse etc.

Confronted with all those problems we decided to work with the school of La Mansión and the children because of the following reasons:

- Children are innocent and are the ones to suffer in first place from the situation
- Children are our future
- It is important especially for children to have sufficient and nutritious food. Undernourishment and malnutrition cause irreversible damage not only in the child's physical but also in its mental and personality development. How can a child believe in being an important part of

## experiences

our world's community when he or she is still hungry after lunch but watches people living in abundance on TV.

We want to reach the project's goal of fighting undernourishment and malnutrition with various programs: supply school lunches and workshops for parents and teacher about nutrition, preparing nutritious meals and hygiene. We want to enable the people of La Mansión to take action and overcome powerlessness and to regain dignity.

After several months of preparation we opened up the school's kitchen on March 24, 2008. Students and parents, teachers and the mayor of Socabaya (one of the 14 districts in Arequipa, La Mansión is located there) attended the opening ceremony. Each day (except during vacation) three of the mothers (hopefully they will be joined by some of the fathers) will prepare a cooked meal for the school's students. Most of the ingredients for the meals will be native products from the Andes like Kinua, Camote, Kiwicha, etc. They have a very high nutritious value and are also cheaper than imported products from the agricultural industry. Workshops about nutrition, preparing nutritious meals and hygiene in which participants learn by doing will start in May 2008.

Another part of the project is to build a chicken farm on the school grounds. Each child will be responsible for one chicken. The school will use the eggs for cooking. If there is a surplus the eggs will be sold and the earnings can be used to buy chicken feed.

A part of the money to buy food, kitchenware, gas for cooking, the chickens, workshop materials, etc. is donated by the "Landesstiftung Baden-Württemberg". Funds from this source will last until December 2008.

The project is a first step to improve the situation in La Mansión. Now it is important to keep going. Short-term projects won't change much. Development assistance should be supporting, should believe in the local people and their abilities, should enable them to help themselves.

Stephanie Wildenberg



## news

- The traditional "Cena del Hambre" will take place in the parish church of John the Baptist on 23rd May 2008 (Santa Creu 2, plaza de la Virreina, 08024 Barcelona). As we already informed previously, the collected money will be donated to the project "HIV/AIDS Response program" from the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in South Africa. We would like to recommend a minimum donation of 5€ per attendee.

- Our NGO "Clam per la Dignitat" will be introduced together with other associations and organisations in the parish centre of Saint Vincent (Barcelona), on 24th May 2008.

- The next meetings of the board of "Clam per la Dignitat" will take place on 25th of May and 18th August 2008. Any member or friend of our NGO is welcomed to participate.

- Friends and members of Claim for Dignity e.V." will meet at the evangelic parish centre of Aich/Aichtal on 5th July 2008. In the morning session we will make working groups, and in the afternoon session Stephanie will present her experience in Arequipa (Peru) in relation to the project "La Mansión"

- Project "La Mansión" in Arequipa (Peru)

-- The high school Robert-Bosch in Langenau has contacted our NGO "Claim for Dignity e.V." through SEZ (Stiftung-Entwicklung-Zusammenarbeit) in order to evaluate the possibility of implementing a cooperation project together with the school "La Mansión" in Peru. The first meeting to discuss the issue will take place at the SEZ premises in Stuttgart on 4th June 2008.

-- Stephanie will present the project "La Mansion" in the seminar given by Prof. Walther Specht taking place in the University of Tübingen. In addition, Prof. Specht has invited both Stephanie and José Àlvaro, president from CIESCU, to participate

in the ninth international symposium organised by ISMO (International Society for Mobile Youth Work) in Stuttgart on 15-18th September 2008; the project "La Mansión" and other results from the investigations performed by José Àlvaro will be presented.

-- Stephanie will present the project "La Mansión" in the educational institution Hermann-Gundert-Schule from Calw, as well as in the Christian-Morgenstern-Schule professional training centre (including its three shelters for young people) in the city of Reutlingen-Rommelsbach.

-- Young people interested in going to Arequipa (Peru) to support the project "La Mansión" for a period of six to twelve months should contact us.

- José Àlvaro Ruiz, president of the Peruvian NGO CIESCU, has been invited to come to Europe from 1st August until 5th October 2008 by the association SCI-Bélgica (International Civil Service). He will extend his visit to stay in Barcelona until 20th November 2008, where he will meet members of both "Claim for Dignity e.V." and "Clam per la Dignitat".

- If you are interested in volunteering for "Sostre" in Barcelona, please contact [Javi Laguno \(xavier.laguno@gmail.com\)](mailto:javi.laguno@gmail.com) or the secretary's office.

- Our friends Roger Layola and Núria Molines got married in Barcelona on 12th April 2008; Viola Durán and Pablo Auset will also get married in Barcelona on 7th June 2008. Congratulations!!!

-We would like to congratulate Macarena and Javi for the birth of their first son, Javier Baquero Dastis, born in Barcelona on 3rd May 2008.

- We would like to have a special thought and a prayer for the baby from our South African friends, Lufuno and his wife, who died two days after being born.

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