



Report of the Trustees for Sarah's Rural Library Fund

From 1/10/19 to 30/9/20

Charity registration number: 1144970

Objectives and Activities

Sarah's Rural Library Fund's objects are to advance and maintain the literacy and education of the general public in the rural communities of the State of Cajamarca in Northern Peru, through the provision of library facilities.

Sarah's Rural Library Fund raises money for the Rural Libraries Organisation which operates in the state of Cajamarca, Northern Peru. This organisation provides books and library facilities based in people's homes for the rural communities of the high Andes in the state of Cajamarca.

The money raised in the UK is for core costs which fund:

- the expenses of the volunteer Librarians,
- the administration of the organisation
- the publication and purchase of books.

Public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and consider that the objectives, aims and achievements of the charity described in the report enable it meet its duty to the Charity Commission as per Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 and to the benefit of the public

All the money raised in the UK goes directly to fund the work of The Rural Library Organization in Peru. All the people contributing to Sarah's Rural Library Fund in the UK are volunteers and all the librarians in Cajamarca, Peru are also volunteers.

Impact

The impact of the Rural Libraries on the indigenous communities is evident from the length of time it has been in existence, the commitment of the volunteers, some of whom have been working with the project for 49 years and the positive feedback from the readers in the rural community.

Its main body is the General Assembly. At each Assembly, the achievements and challenges are examined. The records of book lending, which are kept by every librarian, are analysed. Issues are brought to the assembly by co-ordinators representing the librarians e.g. if a library is not functioning then co-ordinators will visit and support any changes that are needed.

Teachers are requesting more libraries, which is having a significant impact on literacy and the recognition of the value of the indigenous way of life. The organisation has also been increasing its work with teacher training institutes training the teachers in how to promote literacy in the indigenous communities

Achievements and Performance in Peru

The Network of Rural Libraries central committee were starting to plan several activities to commemorate their 50th anniversary in March 2021. They were holding their first General Assembly in March 20 when the COVID 19 State of Emergency was declared and strict lockdown measures were introduced. Since then, they have adapted their activities, both in the central office, where the volunteers have continued their work with tasks e.g. correspondence, preparation of training, preparation of books, etc., and in the communities, where work has been curtailed due to the pandemic yet they have found innovative ways of continuing to share books and literature.



The General Assembly March 2020

The challenge of the pandemic is that library co-ordinators in the remote rural areas have limited access to the internet or to any form of digital device e.g. smart phone. However most people have access to WhatsApp through their mobile phones and mobile networks. The pandemic situation has enabled the development of new programmes to continue the work of the Rural Libraries.

These include:

- a) A new Remote Co-ordination Strategy. This strategy allows communication via cell phone and WhatsApp with the co-ordinators to support the work from the Central Office, i.e. the office can be informed about the difficulties that each librarian faces in their respective communities.
- b) The Virtual Library of the Network (BIVIR) which involves the digitization of previously produced materials.
- c) Family Rural Libraries are being developed as a new type of rural library. This is due to quarantine which has meant that the books in the community have not been able to be rotated in the countryside. Many peasant families require various reading and study materials at home, especially in the case of the most vulnerable in the countryside i.e. the elderly, children, the injured or sick and people with disabilities,
- d) A Rural Libraries YouTube Channel is being developed which offers greater access to those people with internet access. Topic and content planned includes live broadcasts of book presentations and other events.
- e) Since March 20, there has been a greater dissemination of the methodology and principles of the Network with various organizations requesting their intervention in webinars and virtual conversations, both to publicize the work of Rural Libraries and to request support in the development of literacy.

Examples include:

- **2 webinars organized by Sarah's Rural Library Fund** in July and September

"Books across Borders: The power of reading" in discussion with best selling childrens' author Frank Cottrell Boyce and Alfredo Mires

- **Regional Directorate of Education of Cajamarca:**

"The usefulness of the texts of rural libraries for the reading comprehension of students and families"

- **International Book Fair in Huancayo 2020:**

"Territories of reflection: rescue of oral memory within the framework of the Network of Rural Libraries of Cajamarca".

- **Rural Educational Network "El Tuco":**

"Understanding, Reading and education"

- **National Library of Peru:**

"The library near, close to the community"

- **Regional Directorate of Education of Cajamarca:**

"Rural Libraries, mediators of reading and rescue of the oral narration".

- **Higher Pedagogical Institute "Víctor Andrés Belaúnde", of Jaén:**

"Reading and liberating writing – Network of Rural Libraries of Cajamarca".

- **Regional Directorate of Education of Cajamarca:**

"Rural Libraries and Children's Literature".

New libraries, librarians and coordinators

- 4 new rural libraries were opened in educational institutions but the schools were closed in March 20
- 3 families have applied for the new Family Library Box so far



Readers, readings and books

Reader Register Statistics

Here is a sample of statistics based on the Readers' Records for the year 2019 delivered by the coordinators of 11 zones, 23 sectors, 62 libraries. Their number is small because the Assembly in March 2020 (days before the restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic) could not be attended by all the coordinators.

Readers by gender

Based on the available data: the total number of registered readers were: **1,675**; of which **783** are **women** (47%) and **885** are **men** (53%), not registered gender **7** readers.

Readers by age range

7 to 18 years (831 readers)

19 and 35 years old (294 readers)

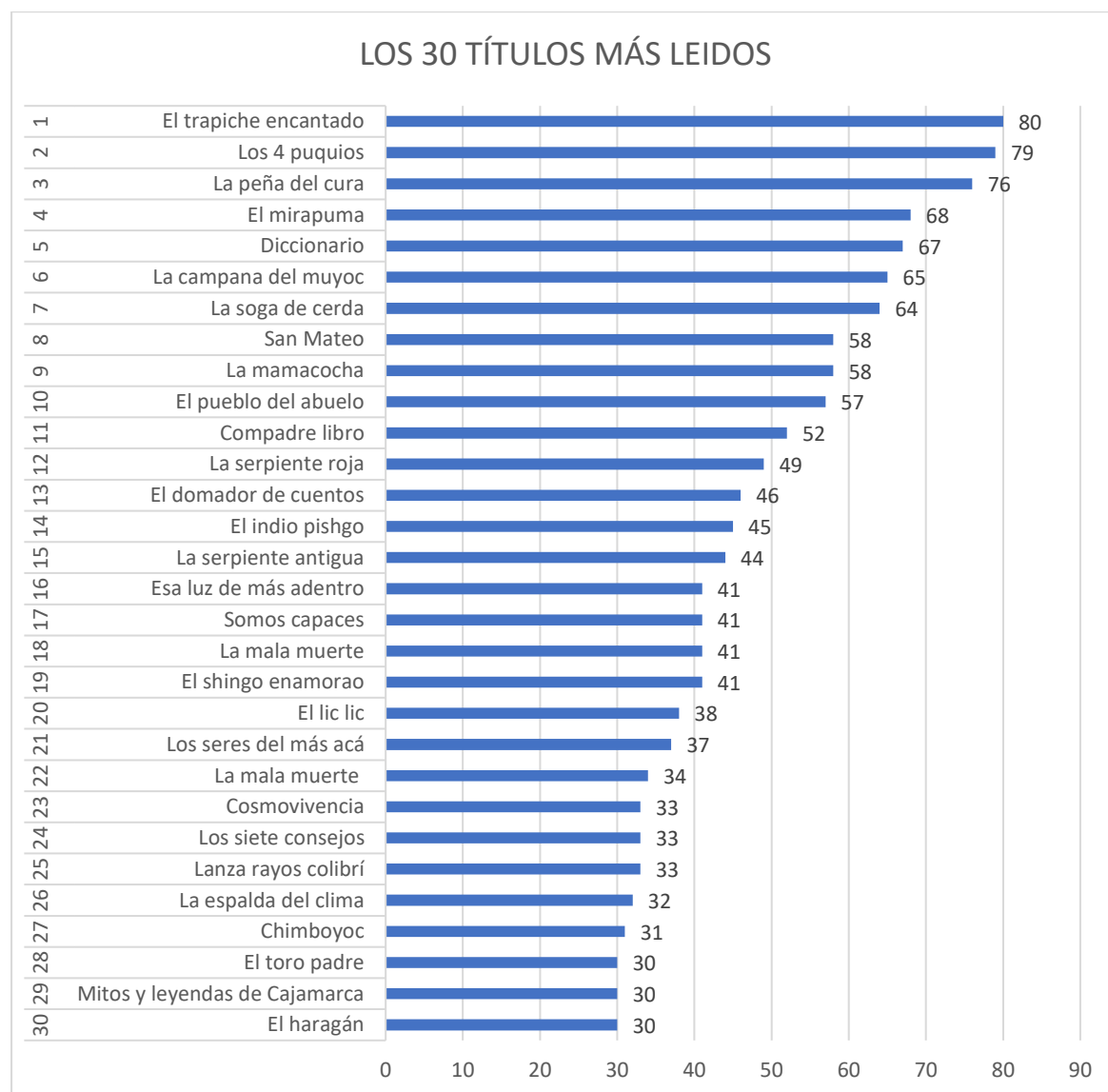
36 and 60 years old (313 readers)

Over 61 (35 readers)

0 to 6 with (17 readers)

At the moment, the Cajamarca Rural Libraries Network has (according to registration and updating of data) **400 rural libraries active** in the community, educational institutions and families, distributed in the **13 provinces** of the department of Cajamarca; in the department of La Libertad and in the department of Amazonas.

Most read books:



New publications:

There were 3 new publications:

- **Bartolomé de las Casas. I saw all things.**

A brief account of the destruction of the Indies, third edition, August, 2020.

- **Eduardo Galeano. Lanza Rayos, hummingbird!**

Ecology from within, second edition, August, 2020

- **This Is My Story** (Notebook)

Accounts in Peru

Financial Accounts from the Rural Libraries in Cajamarca are sent to the trustees of Sarah's Rural Library Fund bi-annually in addition to an annual report with a summary of the work and progress.

Sarah's Rural Library Fund UK

In the UK, the trustees hold 2 general meetings per year where we discuss financial planning, fundraising, updates from Cajamarca and the structure of the charity.

We held a successful social media campaign for Christmas 2019 to raise funds for children's story books written specifically about life in the Andes that the members of the Rural Libraries had sourced. We raised funds for a set of story books for 35 schools.



When the pandemic began and we all realised that we could connect online we had our first virtual meeting with all the trustees from Sarah's Rural library fund and members of the Central Office in Cajamarca. This allowed all the trustees to meet the committee members in Peru, some for the first time.

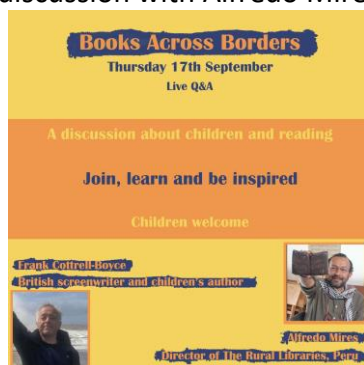
We also developed a new media strategy utilising the digital marketing skills of one of our trustees. This campaign significantly increased our social media presence and enabled us to link with other small charity groups and improve our campaigns.

We held 2 webinars via zoom:

9th July 2020 - Meet the members of the Rural Libraries Central Office

17th September 2020 - Books across Borders webinar- 'The Power of reading'

In discussion with Alfredo Mires and Frank Cottrell-Boyce.



This was a prelude to taking part in The Big Give in the first week in December 2020. The webinars helped us build interest in our Christmas Campaign 2020.

Financial Accounts

Sarah’s Rural Library Fund raises money from direct debits, donations, sponsored events, campaigns and fundraising events e.g. concerts.

All money raised goes directly to supporting the work of the Rural Libraries as Sarah’s Rural Library Fund is run by volunteers with minimal expenses for administration.

This year as well as donations from sponsors we also benefited from:

- a grant of £800 from Just Trust
- Stories for schools Christmas campaign – £800

We have no policy on reserves but try and maintain approximately £1000 in reserve.

Review of the charity’s financial position at the end of the period	Income £14,462
For full accounts please e-mail info@sarahsrurallibraries.com	

Structure, Governance and Management

Type of governing document	Trust Deed
How is the charity constituted?	Charitable Trust
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions.	Trustees are appointed by a resolution of the trustees

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Sarah’s Rural Library Fund
Registered charity number	1144970
Charity’s principal address	117A Queens Drive London N4 2BE

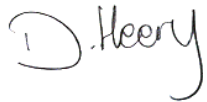
Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Helen Heery	Chair		
2	Mary Heery			
3	Deborah Porteous			
4	Jack Porteous	Secretary		
5	Matthew Hardy			
6	Rachel Hardy			
7	Simon Wheatley			
8	Daniel Heery	Treasurer		
9	Teresa Hardy			
10	Rosie England			

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Daniel Heery	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	

Date 9/7/21