

Villa María, Perú: Proyecto Quest Overseas  
**Impact report**  
**2013**



Improving the lives of children affected by poverty, crime and drug abuse through the provision of community recreational activities, educational opportunities and by supporting vulnerable families with housing.

# 2013 In Numbers

**6** houses built for vulnerable families

**25** communities benefited from our mobile cinema

**S/. 500** – the cost of a Family Sunday show

**\$800** – the cost of one new house

**136** pupils attended the Quest School

**46** pupils received fully-sponsored places

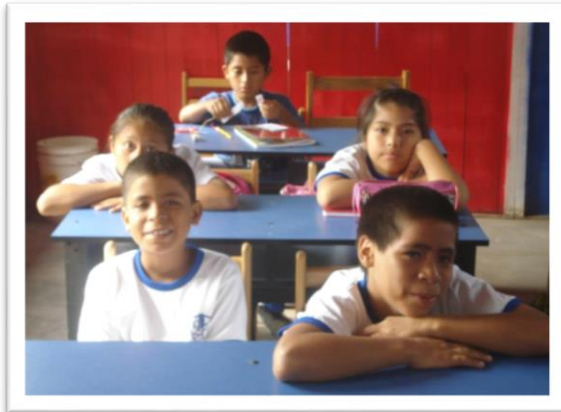
**12** dedicated teachers



# 2013 Highlights

## The Quest School: I.E.P. Quest Overseas

In 2013 the Quest School celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are very proud of what we have achieved in that time. When we first opened our doors in 2003 we had an initial intake of just 50 pupils and were only able to offer schooling for three- & four-year olds. Since then we have continued expanding and making improvements to the school. We now have capacity for up to 180 pupils and teach up to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade; thereby offering a full pre and primary education.



### Fundraising successes for the Quest School:

In 2013 we secured a grant of £1,000 from the N Smith Charitable Settlement, managed to raise £800 through the Big Give Christmas Challenge, and of course were extremely grateful for our 6th year of continued support from La Vida. On top of this ex-volunteer Victor Mound raised over £500 in sponsorship from running the Thames Mead Marathon!



### School trips:

On top of their normal school activities, the pupils enjoyed the many additional events put on by the school: such as a visit to the Atareja water treatment plant, an excursion to La Granja Villa and the annual Quest Mini-Olympics. A video from the Olympics can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWwKpxD2xxA>.



# 2013 Highlights

## Project 'My New House'

We developed this project in 2008, in response to the urgent need for improved housing in the communities we work with. Since then over £19,000 has been invested into building homes for more than 40 vulnerable families. The homes are basic, single storey wooden constructions, which can be put together in a matter of days. Yet these solid constructions provide the warmth and hygiene that these families had previously been missing; transforming lives and providing them with a new home they can be proud of.



In 2013 we built and installed 6 new houses, with the help of the Quest Overseas summer group and parents' trip. It is always hard deciding which families to award a new house to, as the need is far greater than the resources we have available. However, the decision is always based on the assessment carried out by the Municipality of Villa Maria del Triunfo, ensuring that we reach those who are most in need.



Two of this year's recipient families were in urgent need of housing; they had lost their houses in a fire and were left with no roof over their heads. Luckily the group were able to build each house in just one day, quickly giving them somewhere to call home again.

# 2013 Highlights

## Programme of summer activities

Many of the children we work with receive little parental supervision. Their parents work long hours to scrape together enough money to survive, while the kids are often left to fend for themselves: spending their time looking after younger siblings, or simply wandering the streets. This often leaves them vulnerable to the risks of drugs and crime. With little to do but roam the streets, they frequently end up a target for criminals and in trouble with the police.



**Letting kids be kids:** Providing a program of cultural and recreational activities to hundreds of children in their summer holidays. Teams of volunteers channel the children's time and energy into a wide range of activities: from football and swimming, to arts & crafts and theatre. Two sessions a day are run for the kids, with dozens of children from different communities arriving, all with bundles of energy. This programme advocates bond building within communities, whilst helping to prevent the children from becoming victims of poverty and drug abuse.



Undoubtedly, one of the most popular summer activities is a trip to the municipal swimming pool. The entry fee is not much, but enough to be prohibitively expensive for the children we work with. Volunteers are often met with a chorus of kids shouting *piscina!* Eager to know when the next swimming session will be. Over the years we have taken well over 200,000 children swimming.

# 2013 Highlights

## Ciné en el barrio: our mobile cinema project

Growing up in the shanty town of Villa Maria is not easy. Many kids miss out on simple childhood activities that we may take for granted, like a trip to the cinema to see the latest Disney film. Our philosophy is that if the children can't get to the cinema, then we'll do our best to bring the cinema to them.



Armed with nothing more than a projector, a set of speakers, and a collection of the latest DVDs; our project brings cinema to the children. We set up our mobile cinema in the heart of their community, either in the area's communal building or al fresco in their sport's pitch, showing one or two films per screening.



During the months of January, February, July and August our mobile cinema project was taken out to 25 different communities in Villa Maria del Triunfo; enabling hundreds of children to enjoy the latest films in the heart of their own community.



# 2013 Highlights

## Domingos familiares: a show for the whole family

Our Family Sunday shows have become quite an institution in Villa Maria. We offer a chance for children and parents to spend quality time together, while watching an entertaining and diverse children's show. The shows consist of clowns, dancing, animation, games, many hands-on activities and lots of prizes to be won – not to mention the *lluvia de caramelos*!



This year our *Domingos Familiares* ran every Sunday throughout January, February, March, July and August. We worked closely with the Municipality of Villa Maria del Triunfo to coordinate the location of each show, trying to perform in as many different district squares as possible.



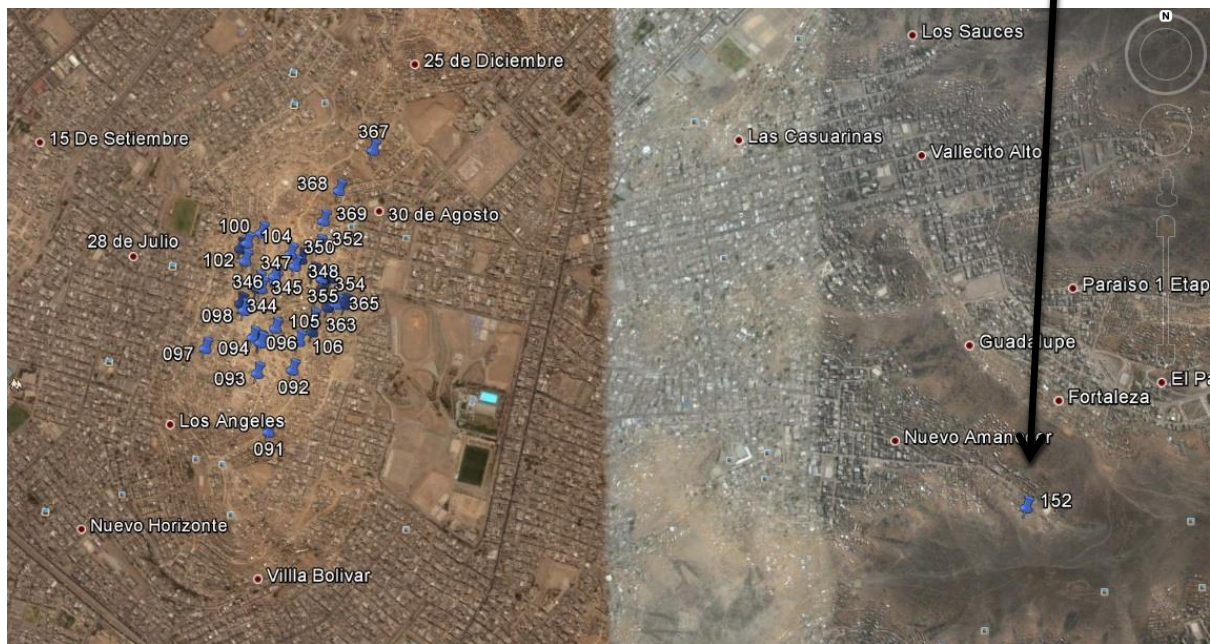
The most popular part of the show this year was undoubtedly Quest Overseas' very own version of *Yo Soy* – the popular singing and impersonation competition on Peruvian TV!



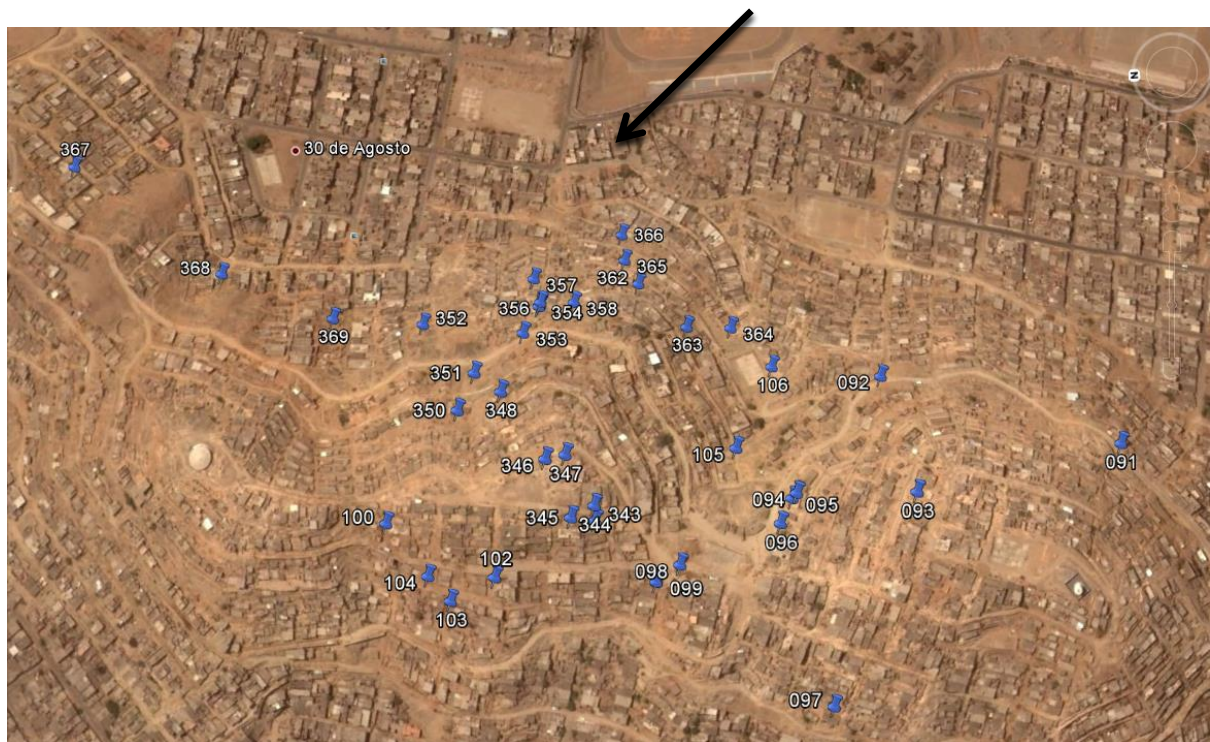
# Where are we having an impact?

At the beginning of 2012, we carried out some GPS mapping to visually demonstrate exactly where we have been having an impact.

**Project 'My New House':** An overview house locations. The furthest house is 2.1km from the school.



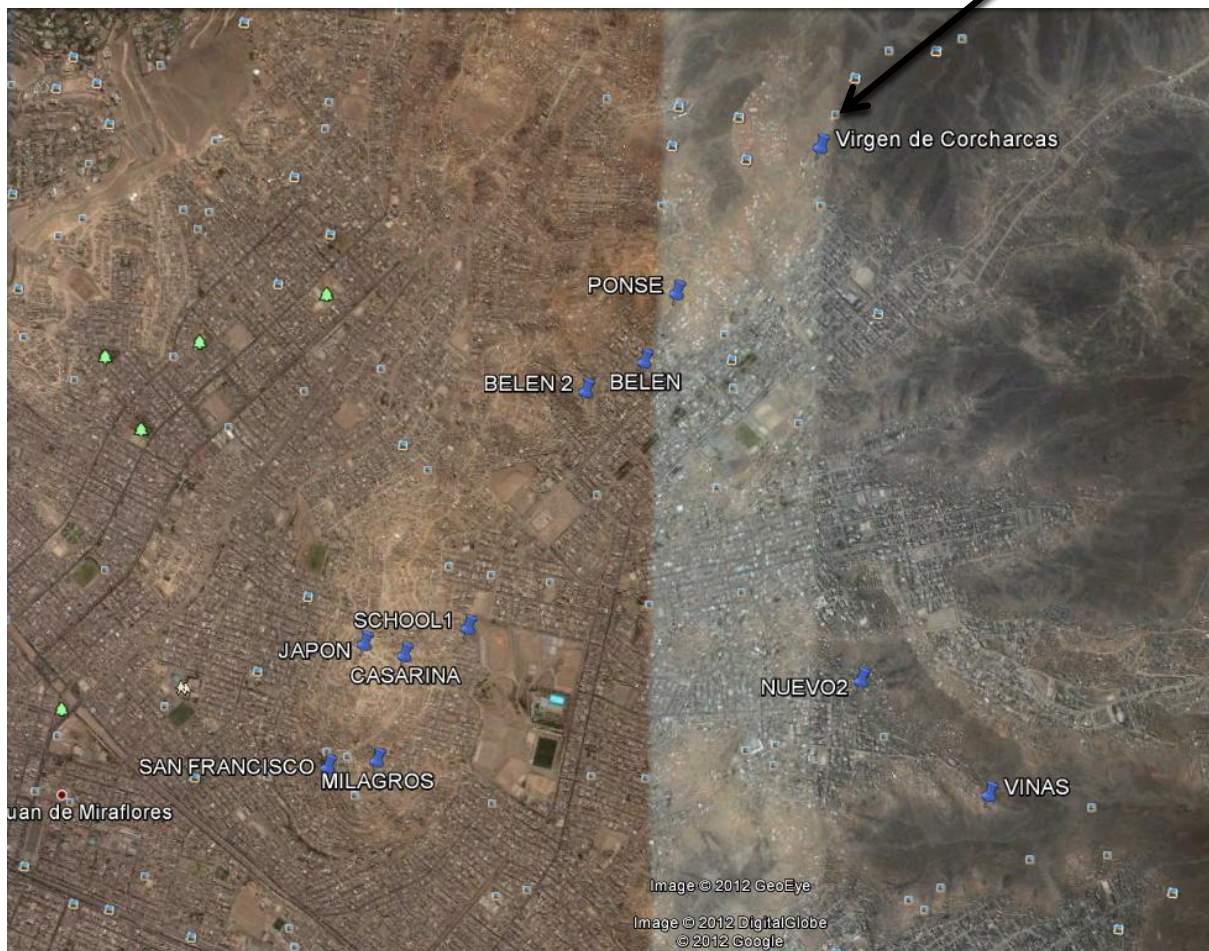
Housing located in the area immediately surrounding the school (school marked by arrow).





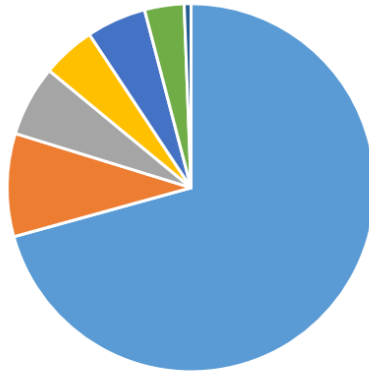
# Where are we having an impact?

**Programme of summer activities:** An example of the reach of our annual programme of summer activities for children, showing the locations of the major communities worked with by the February 2012 Quest group. The furthest community is 2.3km from the school.



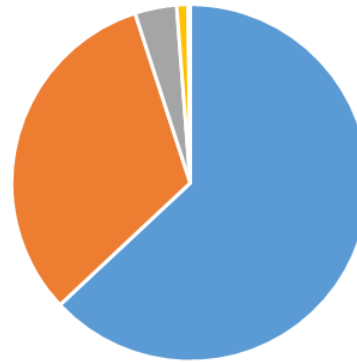
# 2013 School Finances

Expenditure breakdown 2013



Salaries (71%)	Extra-curricular activities (9%)
Utility bills (6%)	Maintenance, cleaning & repairs (5%)
Teaching materials (5%)	Legal paperwork (3%)
Travel expenses (1%)	

Income breakdown 2013



School fees (63%)
La Vida (32%)
N Smith Charitable Trust (4%)
Quest4Change project donations (1%)
Ralph Clark Charitable Trust (0%)

School expenditure 2013	Total (S/.)
Salaries	87,500
Extra-curricular activities	11,200
Utility bills	7,700
Maintenance, cleaning & repairs	5,800
Teaching materials	6,500
Legal paperwork	4,300
Travel expenses	750
<b>Total</b>	<b>123,750</b>

School income 2013	Total (S/.)
<b>Earned income</b>	
School fees	78,000
<b>Grants &amp; donations</b>	
La Vida	39,560
N Smith Charitable Trust	4,680
Quest4Change project donations	1,280
Ralph Clark Charitable Trust	230
<b>Total</b>	<b>123,750</b>

School fee breakdown	No. pupils	Monthly fee (S/.)	Yearly total (S/.)
Paying or partially-sponsored pupils	30	100	30,000
	50	86	43,000
	10	50	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>		<b>78,000</b>



# A look ahead to 2014

## Asociación Civil Quest Overseas Perú:

The team were working very hard throughout 2013, trying to get the project officially recognised as a charity within Peru. All the necessary paperwork has been submitted to the authorities and we are hoping that NGO status will be awarded to us in the coming months. This will be a big step forward for the project, testament to the on-going work carried out for the benefit of the communities in Villa Maria, and one which we hope will bring a wealth of new opportunities of support from within Peru.



## Expanding the number of communities we work with:

In 2014 we would like to expand our reach and impact even further. We are hoping to be able to buy a minivan, which will allow us to take activities such as the mobile cinema, Saturday fairs and Family Sunday shows to new communities located far from our base and high up in the valley.

## Music classes – promoting traditional Peruvian music:

We are considering the possibility of employing a music teacher, so that we could offer music classes for the pupils in our school, as well as children in the wider community. The classes would focus on folkloric and indigenous music, as well as teaching children how to play specific instruments.

## Expansion of the third floor of the Quest School:

In 2014 we would like to continue our school expansion work by creating a designated space for cookery, music and dance lessons.



# 2014 and beyond...

In 2014 we are projecting an increase in expenditure of approximately 17%. The majority of this increase is in the hope to be able to increase our staffing capacity in the school. Below is a breakdown of total costs by area:

Projected school expenditure 2014	Total (S/.)
Salaries	110,508
Extra-curricular activities	8,167
Utility bills	8,449
Maintenance, cleaning & repairs	7,517
Teaching materials	5,867
Legal paperwork	3,367
Travel expenses	860
<b>Total</b>	<b>144,735</b>

## Looking further ahead:

Our long-term plan for the Quest School is to be able to support the children of Villa Maria throughout the entirety of their schooling. To not just offer pre- and primary education, but to be able to support our current pupils through their secondary and tertiary education too. In an ideal world, this means growing year by year, along with our oldest pupils.

This would require the school to expand significantly, but we are confident that this is a viable option for the future. One option we have been considering is buying the plot of land immediately behind the school, which would give us plenty of scope for expansion.

