

CLIMATE LOCAL:

Communicating locally to protect globally

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ADAPTING TO A WARMING PLANET AND SHRINKING GLACIERS IN PERU



PROBLEM

- 71% of the world's tropical glaciers are located in the Peruvian mountains, however over the last 40 years, they have shrunk in size by 53%
- The increased shrinking of the glaciers often creates new lagoons and lakes and leads to an unstable fresh water supply
- The melting glaciers cause earth slides and falling ice into freshwater basins that local communities and villages are situated next to.
- Falling debris causes large waves and thus flash floods rip through the waterside communities
- Glaciers were a dependable form of water storage, however the excessive shrinking has meant that water supply has been reduced and is leading to areas of drought

AT A GLANCE

- Warming temperatures have led to rapidly melting glaciers in the mountains of Peru
- A campaign was started to engage local people in water management practices to adapt in the changing supply of fresh water
- Women in particular were engaged so as to build better involvement for them in long term decision making

SOLUTION

- The Proyecto Glaciares+ initiative was established to *"improve the capacity for comprehensive adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the face of the glacial retreat phenomenon in Peru"*
- Glaciares+ uses local knowledge and combines it with expertise in glacier protection and climate change to build stronger resilience in affected communities
- The initiative trained locals on sustainable water management practices to help manage the new lakes that had developed
- In conjunction with local community leaders, early warning systems for disasters such as flash flooding were designed to be most effective for the communities that they were benefiting

IMPACT

- The introduction of water and lake management systems has reduced the number of disastrous land slides and ice falls by over half
- 200 new lakes have been created and sustainably managed, bringing water security to the local communities that rely on them for drinking water and irrigation purposes
- Early warning systems have been extended to protect nearly 70,000 inhabitants who live along water sources further down stream



COMMUNICATIONS

- The combination of scientific expertise and traditional local knowledge ensured that all policies and actions were tailored to very local situations, and therefore ensured the success that the programme experienced
- Throughout the project, there was emphasis placed on engaging women within communities to help manage water usage and adopt sustainable behaviours. The engagement of women in all processes relating to the projects has led to long term benefits of involvement for women in wider aspects of community decision making and climate change adaptivity
- Instead of treating each community individually, the project has encouraged cooperation between neighbouring villages and small areas to share their lessons learned. This leads to stronger climate resilience for the area as a whole, instead of just very small communities on their own

