



## Report to La Vida

### August 2022 to July 2023

One of the main highlights of the last twelve months has been welcoming a new cohort of students to the programme! The first phase of the Transitions Project, Pathways, had been on hold since 2019, due to the Covid pandemic, so we hadn't been able to enrol new students since then. However, 27 of the 30 students who enrolled in Pathways 2022 completed "Amantani Academy" (a month long academic reinforcement and vocational orientation course) and joined the Scholarships Programme in March.

2023 will be our biggest year of graduations yet! While only six students graduated in 2022, 13 students have completed their courses during the first half of this year and we expect a further 20 graduations during the rest of the year!

### Progress Towards Outcomes

Outcome	Progress so far
80% of Pathways Participants enrol in further education courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>90%</b> (27 of the 30) participants completed Pathways 2022/23 and <b>are receiving scholarships</b>.</li> <li>• <b>22</b> have <b>completed their first semester</b>.</li> <li>• <b>5</b> others have <b>chosen their courses</b> and are ready for entrance exams.</li> </ul>
80% of scholarships students successfully complete each academic semester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>92.5%</b> of students successfully <b>completed the 2022 academic year</b>.</li> <li>• <b>98%</b> of students successfully <b>completed the first semester of 2023</b>.</li> <li>• <b>38%</b> of our students in 2022 <b>showed excellent academic performance</b>, ranking in the top third of their classes.</li> <li>• <b>7</b> young people <b>received government scholarships</b> (that are based on academic performance) through the start of 2023.</li> </ul>
Students are supported financially, psychologically, and academically during their studies	<p>Results from our 2023 semester one survey (86% of active project participants responded):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>100%</b> say they <b>use the Youth Hub</b> regularly.</li> <li>• <b>90%</b> are <b>happy discussing their academic issues</b> with their tutors.</li> <li>• <b>54%</b> are <b>comfortable discussing personal and/or family problems and worries</b> with their tutors.</li> <li>• <b>91%</b> of young people <b>feel supported by their parents</b>.</li> <li>• <b>72%</b> of young people <b>receive financial support from their parents</b> to cover food and lodging.</li> </ul>
Students complete their studies, graduate and receive recognised qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>6</b> graduations in <b>2022</b></li> <li>• <b>13</b> graduations so far in <b>2023</b></li> <li>• <b>20</b> more young people <b>are expected to graduate</b> during the 2023 academic year.</li> </ul>
Graduates have improved access to fair employment / opportunities for entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>24</b> of our project graduates are currently working in decent employment.</li> <li>• <b>14 (58%)</b> of these young people have <b>formal contracts</b>.</li> <li>• <b>11</b> young people are working in jobs <b>directly related to their studies</b>.</li> </ul>

## Challenges

One of the biggest challenges, occurring in the middle of this period, was the political situation in Peru. Between early December 2022 and the beginning of February 2023, protests about the state of the government all but paralysed parts of the south of Peru. As well as causing the Youth Hub and educational institutions to close on various days (due to disruptions to transport and the potential for violence), this civil unrest created lots of uncertainty. Roadblocks reduced the supply of many basic-need items (including cooking gas, vehicle fuels, and foods like fruit, chicken and cheese) creating a sharp increase in living costs. Our team and young people handled the situation well, adapting to remote work on the days necessary and making up for lost time whenever they were able to get to the Youth Hub. To help their fellow students manage the unprecedented increase in living costs, the Student Council requested additional stipends for food and travel, which we were able to provide. Since February, protests and roadblocks have lifted, prices normalised and tourism started to pick up again, but there has been no real change to the political situation, so there is potential for more civil unrest in the foreseeable future.

Another key challenge is unplanned pregnancies. There are seven young people (six young women and one young man) who became parents whilst studying in the programme (first half of 2022 and prior). These young people are able to continue their studies as they have help from their own parents to cover childcare needs. They all need additional support from our team to help them face the challenges of studying while learning to be parents, but everyone is coping admirably! We have seen no further unplanned pregnancies amongst our students for the last 12 months, which we attribute to improved comprehensive sexuality education through individual tutoring sessions and workshops.

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## Participant Stories

### Baking Dreams Come True - Ada's Story



**Ada (20)**, is a budding baker, from the community of Chifya, Huanoquite district. She is in the final year of a three-year technical professional qualification in Food Industries.

When she joined the Pathways Programme in 2019, Ada was very timid and scared of voicing her opinions in groups or talking in public. *"Little by little I learnt to really express myself and not be afraid; the tutors helped me with this,"* she says. *"I still get a little scared, but bit by bit I'm overcoming it!"* She was unsure of what she wanted to study, so the careers guidance during the programme helped her identify what she was really interested in. Ada had the opportunity to study food production for six months at a technical college before starting her three-year course, to make sure that it was the right choice for her. (It was!)

Moving to Cusco was hard for Ada. She had never been away from her parents before and she felt really lonely. *"It was a real shock,"* she says of her early days in the city. She thought about going home, but her parents encouraged her to stay and continue studying. Participating in the meetings at the Youth Hub and speaking with other young people, helped her feel less lonely and more comfortable. Phone calls from her parents also helped Ada to adjust and feel supported.

The Food Industries course covers many different aspects of food production and Ada has enjoyed it all – the practical side at least – but loves baking and dessert-making most. She enjoys using her hands and creating different food products, but is not such a fan of the theoretical side. Despite this, Ada consistently shows academic excellence, highlighted by the fact that she has received a government scholarship (which are awarded based on academic performance) two years in a row!

As part of her course, Ada had to do work experience and she showed a lot of proactivity in finding herself a placement at a local bakery. Her placement has finished, but the bakery has kept her on as an assistant baker, allowing her to work around her study schedule. *"Thanks to God, I have a job doing what I like the most!"* she says. Ada feels she is learning a lot in her job that will help her when she is able to open her own bakery, where she will sell fancy cakes and incorporate traditional Andean products in her recipes.

## Starting Her Career as a Guide - Cleyde's Story

Having grown up near the Farallones de Tecsaycocha, a tourist attraction in Ccorca, **Cleyde (23)** had long known she wanted to be a guide. Firstly, because she likes travelling and the English language, but also because there used to be a zipline where she lived. *"We watched the guide bring various groups to Ccorca and we helped him carry the equipment up the hill,"* she says, and that's how she got the idea to be a guide herself.

Cleyde graduated from secondary school at the end of 2015 and took the entrance exam for the tourism degree at Cusco's national university straight away. But her score just wasn't high enough to get her in. After exploring other ideas, she joined Amantani's Pathways Programme in 2017. The scholarship enabled her to try out a technical qualification in archaeology before she finally settled on studying to be an Official Tour Guide.

*"It was hard moving to Cusco,"* says Cleyde, *"As we are a very closeknit family."* Luckily, her older brother already lived in the city, so she had someone to study, cook and eat with. She also went to the Amantani Youth Hub a lot, to complete group assignments, share with the other participants in the programme and attend English classes run by volunteers. But the pandemic made everything harder! Midway through her three-year course, Covid hit, closing the institutions and making travel impossible.



Once classes started up virtually, Cleyde had major problems attending from Ccorca, even after a fundraising effort from Amantani provided her with a laptop and mobile data. *"There was no internet here and I had to go waaaaay up the hill to connect,"* she recalls. *"Every day I had to go up there and then rush back home to eat."* Internet connectivity issues, batteries running out, coming home in the dark after late classes and potential rainfall almost led Cleyde to postpone her course, but support from the other students and her tutor, Marleny, convinced her to keep going. Amazingly, she managed to keep her grades up and received a government scholarship (awarded based on academic excellence) two years in a row.

When Cleyde graduated in March 2022, she helped lead tour groups around Cusco and the Amantani Youth Hub and kept up with English lessons. In March 2023, she received a job offer from the Office of Tourism at the Municipality of Ccorca, so she moved back home for work. She earns a living wage, enjoys the job and has learnt a lot but doesn't get to lead as many tours as she'd like to. Now that her official certificate has finally come through (this can take some time after graduation in Peru!), she will apply for her Official Tour Guide Licence and hopes to start working as a guide with a travel agency very soon.

## On the Road to Becoming an Engineer - Andy's Story

**Andy (18)**, is from the community of Ccorca and has just started a Civil Engineering degree. He finished secondary school in 2021 and had been looking for opportunities to continue studying. His parents couldn't afford to send him to university, even though both his parents work, as he has two younger brothers. Andy's aunt, who was a member of last year's Parents' Council, knew of his situation and encouraged him to apply for the Pathways Programme.

In July 2022, Andy joined 29 other young people – most in their last year of school – at our Ccorca campus for a two-week, residential course, focusing on personal development. His main take away from the course was how to share his thoughts and feelings: *"Before, I was scared to express myself,"* he says, *"to say how I feel and talk in public."* Andy has wanted to be an engineer since secondary school, as he loves maths and has always been interested in construction. He still found the vocational orientation during the programme useful though: *"I was confused about what to study, but with this I was more sure about what I wanted to do."*

During January and February, the group got together again for Amantani Academy: an intensive, four-week academic reinforcement programme. Alongside his additional studies (Andy spent a lot of time watching instructional videos on the internet and went to an academy for a few months in 2021), these classes helped him prepare for the entrance exam. *"I wasn't nervous,"* he says, *"but time was short...even though it was two hours, it felt short!"* Andy passed the entrance exam and has just completed his first semester of classes at university. He is building friendships with his course mates, particularly through a shared love of football.

\*\*\* Andy prefers not to share photos of himself