

2020/2021

PROJECT REPORT

# ESPERANZA PROJECT: COVID-19 OXYGEN PLANT, PERU



**SAVING RIVERS AND LAKES ORG.**

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Oxygen cylinders supplied through the Esperanza Project in Huánuco, Peru

# Hope in the Midst of Crisis

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, Peru became one of the countries most severely affected in the world — with one of the highest mortality rates per capita and a critical shortage of medical oxygen. In Huánuco, hospitals lacked the resources to treat patients who were struggling to breathe. From our ongoing work in the region, Saving Rivers and Lakes witnessed this crisis firsthand and decided to act.

Together with local and international partners, SRL launched the Esperanza Project (“Hope Project”), an emergency initiative to provide life-saving oxygen to the people of Huánuco. The project embodied the organization’s spirit of solidarity and rapid action, transforming despair into hope at the height of the pandemic.

## From Urgency to Action

The project centered on the acquisition, installation, and operation of a medical oxygen plant to supply hospitals and patients in Huánuco. The plant, purchased from Xuzhou Huayan Gas Equipment Co. Ltd. in China, was built on land generously donated by local citizen Antonio Jara Carranza.

With a total cost of \$182,000 USD, funded by the Al Jalila Foundation, private donations, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (UTHA), the plant began operating under the management of Asociación Proyecto Huánuco.

***Over eight months, it produced 96,000 m<sup>3</sup> of medical-grade oxygen, filling 9,600 cylinders and providing oxygen to an estimated 25,200 patients.***

This rapid and efficient collaboration between partners in Peru, Denmark, and beyond demonstrated how international cooperation and local commitment can save lives in moments of extreme urgency.

## Results and Impact

The Esperanza Project became a lifeline for Huánuco at the height of the pandemic. At a time when hospitals were overwhelmed and oxygen scarcity was driving up prices across the country, the project provided accessible, affordable, and reliable oxygen directly to patients and healthcare centers.

Families who had been forced to queue for hours or travel long distances could finally receive oxygen in their own city. The immediate impact was reflected in reduced hospital strain and lower fatality rates in the region during the plant's operational period.



Beyond the emergency response, the project's impact extended into capacity building and local empowerment. By training local technicians and establishing operational procedures with Asociación Proyecto Huánuco, the initiative strengthened the region's ability to manage similar crises in the future.

When the acute phase of the pandemic passed, the oxygen plant was donated to the Regional Hospital of Junín, ensuring that it would continue to serve the public health system. This transition transformed an emergency intervention into a lasting contribution to Peru's medical infrastructure.

The Esperanza Project stands as a symbol of resilience and solidarity — proof that coordinated action and human compassion can bring tangible hope, even in the darkest moments.