



## Perú Flood Relief

Reporting period: May 18, 2017 – June 12, 2017

Prepared by: Magali M. de Pujalt, RMF Perú Executive Director, and Deanna Boulard

Organization: Real Medicine Foundation Perú ([www.realmedicinefoundation.org](http://www.realmedicinefoundation.org))

Project title: Perú Flood Relief

Project location: Santa Eulalia, Huinco, and Barba Blanca; Huarochirí province; Lima region; Perú



*Children sit in front of RMF's free clinic in Buenos Aires, Santa Eulalia*

### May–June 2017

Real Medicine Foundation  
11700 National Blvd., Suite 234  
Los Angeles, CA 90064  
+1.310.820.4502

## Background

Since December 2016, flooding and mudslides in Perú have caused at least 90 deaths, damaged an estimated 150,000 homes and businesses, and caused extensive damage to infrastructure and crops. Northern Perú has been most affected, as well as the capital city of Lima. In a live broadcast to the nation, Perú's president, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, stated, "There hasn't been an incident of this strength along the coast of Perú since 1998." Many flood victims are from poorer areas, where their makeshift homes were quickly overrun with mud and water.

Now that flood waters have receded, mud and stagnant pools of water remain, causing a rising number of Dengue and Zika cases. On May 27, 2017, the well-respected Peruvian newspaper, *El Comercio*, reported that per the Ministry of Health, there have been 44,971 cases of Dengue registered this year in Perú—27,000 more than during the same time period of 2016. One of Perú's northernmost coastal provinces, Piura, has been the most affected by Dengue. However, the disease has made an appearance throughout the country; as of April 22, 2017, there were a total of 226 Dengue cases (129 confirmed) in the Lima region. Cases of Zika have been less common, with 23 reported in Lima as of June 1, 2017. Winter will be arriving soon, and although the cold weather will help lower cases of mosquito-borne illnesses, people in poor towns and neighborhoods (typically hit hardest by the flooding and landslides) are in need of shelter and warm blankets.

## RMF's Presence

RMF has been working in Perú since 2007, when we arrived to offer long-term medical support to victims of the August 15<sup>th</sup> earthquake. 10 years later, our health clinic, Policlínico Peruano Americano, is still operating successfully in San Clemente, Pisco, providing free health care to those most in need. In addition to the medical services and outreaches provided by the clinic, in January 2017, Policlínico Peruano Americano began serving as a base of operations to collect and distribute food, clean water, clothing, and other supplies for flood victims.

In May 2017, after several planning sessions, meetings with authorities, and trips to assess areas affected by the flooding, RMF Perú decided to focus our flood relief efforts on several affected towns northeast of the capital city of Lima: Barba Blanca, Huinco, San Pedro de Casta, Santa Eulalia, and surrounding communities in need of aid.

This report covers the first 3 weeks of project implementation, from May 18, 2017 to June 12, 2017. During this time, after procuring essential medicines and supplies, RMF Perú's outreach team, consisting of 2 medical doctors, 2 psychologists, 1 nursing tech, 1 pharmacy tech, and 3 logistics/coordination team members accomplished the following activities:

- Set up and operated temporary (free) health clinics
- Provided primary health care services
- Provided individual psychology consultations and group workshops
- Distributed medicines, bug spray, mosquito nets, warm blankets, and hygiene kits
- Provided health education and preventative talks on dengue and Zika
- Visited area schools to distribute bug spray and provide health education and preventative talks on dengue and Zika

## Huinco: May 18–21, 2017

In order to reach the high-altitude town of Huinco, 1,969 meters above sea level, you must travel from Chosica about two hours on the tortuous, meandering road from Santa Eulalia. On May 18<sup>th</sup>, RMF Perú transported essential supplies, medicine, and medical equipment to the community center in Huinco. RMF nursing tech Lizbeth and logistics/coordination team members Guido and María Fe were commissioned to set up our temporary clinic in the community center. The building belongs to all community members and includes communal accommodations, which RMF was allowed to use free of charge.

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, we rented a car and transported the remaining outreach team members from the larger town of Santa Eulalia to Huinco. We left Santa Eulalia at 6:00 AM and arrived at the Huinco community center at 9:00 AM. We immediately began providing general medicine and psychology services. For 3 days (May 19<sup>th</sup> to May 21<sup>st</sup>), we treated patients from Huinco and the nearby towns of San Pedro de Casta, Bella Vista, Puente Verde, and Huachunya. People from San Pedro de Casta had to take a different route, since their usual route was still affected by landslides, and those from the village of Cumpe (near Huachunya) traveled on foot to our clinic in Huinco, since that road had also been affected by the landslides.



9 members of RMF Perú's outreach team at the Huinco location

#### **Services provided during RMF's 3-day outreach in Huinco:**

- 267 general medicine consultations
- 190 psychology consultations
- 2 psychology workshops
- 200 blankets distributed
- 400 bottles of insect repellent distributed
- 121 hygiene kits distributed
- 1 doctor's visit to a small local school

The 3-day clinic in Huinco was very successful and well received by the community. Patients from the town returned to our clinic and gave us fruits from their harvest to show their appreciation. Most farmers have lost 99% of their crops due to the flooding and landslides, so this small gesture was very generous. Because the clinic in Huinco has been non-operational since March 15, 2017, the community felt abandoned by various authorities and was extremely glad to receive help. Since the disaster happened, no solution has been brought forward.

*Note: For additional photos showing RMF Perú's 3-day mission in Huinco, please see our first outreach report: ["Huinco and Barba Blanca Medical Outreach: May 2017."](#)*

#### **Callahuanca: May 22–24, 2017**

Callahuanca is located on the left bank of the Santa Eulalia River, on a plateau 1,800 meters above sea level. It is about 46 kilometers from the capital city of Lima, and most community members are farmers who raise avocados and cherimoyas.

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, during our work in Huinco, the mayor of Callahuanca offered us facilities on the second floor of his town's municipality building, so that we could bring health services to the community. On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, accordingly, we set up our next temporary health clinic in Callahuanca. We had to travel there using an alternate route, since the most direct road was under construction to repair the destruction caused by flooding/landslides. We followed a narrow road, which skirted the hills, and it took us 1 hour to reach our destination. The staff of the municipality supported us with amenities for the installation of the clinic, and we began providing services that same day.

#### **Services provided during RMF's 3-day outreach in Callahuanca:**

- 184 general medicine consultations
- 106 psychology consultations

- 75 blankets distributed
- 300 bottles of insect repellent distributed
- 48 hygiene kits distributed
- 1 team visit to a local school, where we gave a preventative talk on dengue, conducted a group psychology session, and distributed bottles of insect repellent to the school's 120 students

**Project photos from Callahuanca:**



*RMF Perú's outreach team with employees of Callahuanca municipality, who supported our outreach*



*Dr. Adriana and her assistant with a young patient and her mother*



*Babies being weighed*



*Psychology workshop*



*Psychology consultation*



*Mothers and children receiving blankets*



*Many mothers and children benefited from our clinic in Callahuanca*



*Elderly townspeople receiving blankets*



*Our clinic was honored by a visit from these two women. Béatrice, on the right, is 101 years old.*



*Patients receiving medication*



*A young girl happily receiving a blanket*



*The townspeople were very thankful for our services and brought us some of their harvest: avocados and chirimoyas.*



*One of the doctors giving a preventative talk on dengue at the local school*



*Students listening to the talk*



*A young student receiving his bottle of insect repellent*



*Young students being educated and given insect repellent*



*Young students with their bottles of insect repellent*

**Barba Blanca: May 25, 2017**

Barba Blanca (near Callahuana) is one of the communities that was greatly affected by the flooding and landslides. The affected population includes 15 families who are still living in tents because they have nowhere else to go. The community has consistently received donations of food, but not health care.

RMF Perú traveled to the small community of Barba Blanca on May 25th at 7:00 AM and set up our temporary clinic and medicine dispensary in the shelter of a tent and awning.

**Services provided during RMF's 1-day outreach in Barba Blanca:**

- 59 general medicine consultations
- 26 psychology consultations
- 25 blankets distributed
- 60 bottles of insect repellent distributed
- 25 mosquito nets distributed
- 10 hygiene kits distributed
- 1 psychologist's visit to the one-room, wooden schoolhouse, which serves 19 students of different grade levels (between ages 6 and 11), where we conducted workshops and provided blankets and bottles of insect repellent to the children

The community kindly offered us lunch before we returned to Santa Eulalia.

**Project photos from Barba Blanca:**



*Driving to Barba Blanca*



*We saw many areas affected by the landslides.*





*The mud was very high in some places.*



*In Barba Blanca, our clinic was sheltered by a tent and an awning.*



*Townsppeople waiting for general medicine and psychology consultations*



*Patients being registered*



*Patients arriving at the clinic*



*Patients being registered*



*Patients consulting Dr. Adriana*





*Mothers and children consulting Dr. Adriana*





*A young girl receiving a hygiene kit*



*RMF Perú's Executive Director with a family receiving blankets and a hygiene kit*



*A young man with his blanket and hygiene kit*



*Community members receiving mosquito nets*





*Community members with their mosquito nets*



*15 families were still living in tents.*



*Psychology workshop at a local school*



*Students participate in the workshop*



*Students receiving insect repellent and blankets*



*Students with their blankets and insect repellent*

### **Wrapping up the First Week of Implementation**

After completing our day in Barba Blanca, we returned to Santa Eulalia and arrived at 6:30 PM that evening. At this point, the doctors took a day off, while the logistics team organized the second stage of the mission. Special thanks to RMF Perú team members Lisbeth, Judith, and María Fe, who supported us during this first week of implementation. They have returned to provide care and services at RMF's Policlínico Peruano Americano in San Clemente, Pisco.

### **Cashahuacra, Santa Eulalia: May 30 – June 3, 2017**

Cashahuacra is a suburb of Santa Eulalia, and the town is formed in partnership with Virgen del Carmen. It is located on the right bank of the Santa Eulalia River, at an elevation of 1,200 meters above sea level. The population of Cashahuacra is made up of approximately 150 families, who are mostly low-income and live in houses unsuitable for the area. At night, the temperatures get very low. The town has few amenities, with no medical center and no public transportation. Area roads are very narrow, and in some places, only one vehicle can travel at a time. In March 2017, the heavy rainstorms raised the water levels of the Cashahuacra Creek, causing landslides that affected homes and roads in Huarochirí province, including the town of Cashahuacra. The community was very glad to receive our team. They provided the community center as a space to set up our clinic from May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **Services provided during RMF's 5-day outreach in Cashahuacra:**

- 424 general medicine consultations
- 266 psychology consultations
- 181 blankets distributed
- 104 bottles of insect repellent distributed
- 25 hygiene kits distributed

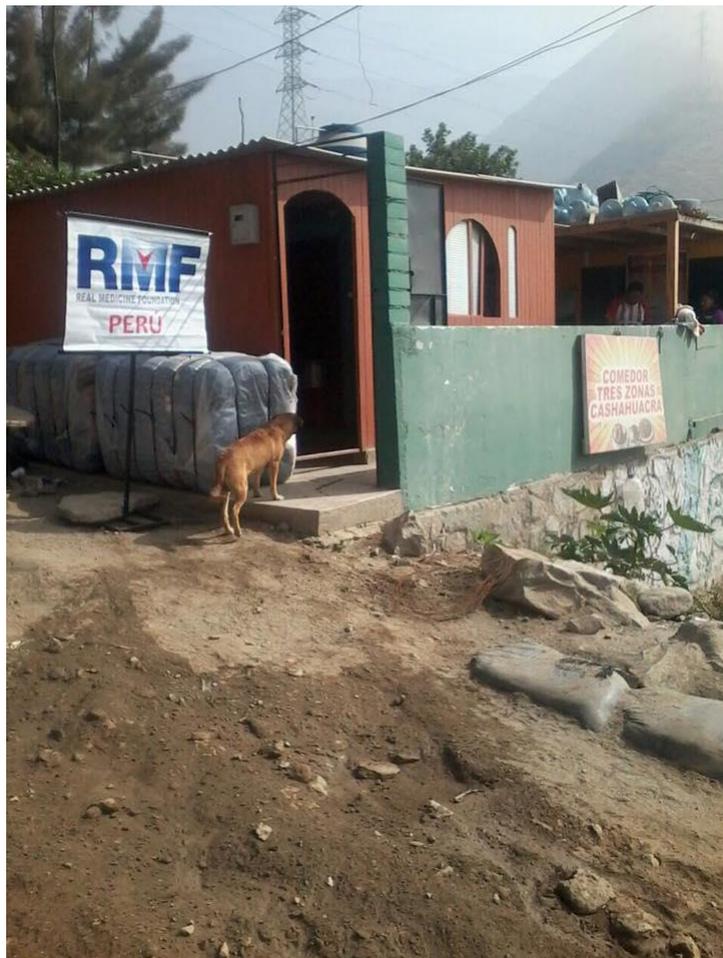
#### **Project photos from Cashahuacra:**



*Driving to Cashahuacra*



*Cashahuacra*



*Our clinic in Cashahuacra*



*Patients waiting to receive medication*



*A woman receiving a blanket*



*Dr. Diego checking a woman's blood sugar*



*A mother and child receiving medical attention*



*Triage*



*An elderly patient consulting, and laughing, with Dr. Adriana*



*Psychology consultation*



*Psychology consultations*



*Psychology workshop*



*Psychology workshop*

#### **Buenos Aires, Santa Eulalia: June 5–12, 2017**

Buenos Aires is a sector of Santa Eulalia, with a population of about 600 families. This is another town where constant rains made creeks and rivers rise, causing landslides that affected some houses and roads. This part of Santa Eulalia was fortunate to have a retaining wall along part of the river, which prevented some of the floodwaters from causing more misery and destruction. Currently, area residents are being contracted by the government to clean parts of the creek running through the town.

Although the town of Buenos Aires does have a medical center, its stock of medicines and supplies had been completely depleted. The staff of the center approached us to supply cetirizine (a common antihistamine) for a patient with very limited resources. For 8 days (June 5–12, 2017), RMF's team provided the community with free medical and psychological services, as well as blankets, insect repellent, and hygiene kits. Our temporary clinic was set up in the community center, and was open from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

#### **Services provided during RMF's 8-day outreach in Buenos Aires:**

- 573 general medicine consultations
- 332 psychology consultations
- 150 blankets distributed
- 48 bottles of insect repellent distributed
- 10 hygiene kits distributed

#### **Project photos from Buenos Aires:**



*Communal work to build a retaining wall and clear the roads toward Chosica*





*RMF's free clinic in the town's community center*



*Children sit in front of RMF's free clinic in Buenos Aires, Santa Eulalia*



*A mother and her three children with a hygiene kit*



*A young patient arriving at the clinic*



*Patients waiting for general medicine and psychology consultations*



*Patients waiting for general medicine and psychology consultations*





*We treated many elderly patients during our 8-day outreach in the town.*





*Patients receiving medical consultations*





*An elderly woman consulting one of the doctors*



*Patients receiving medications*



*RMF Perú distributed 150 blankets to needy residents of Buenos Aires, Santa Eulalia.*





*Patients consulting with the psychologists*



*One of the psychologists conducting a group workshop*



*Townpeople watch and participate in the psychology workshop*



*Townpeople brought refreshments to thank us for the outreach.*



## Case Studies

### Sonia Jiménez

Sonia Jiménez is a 36-year-old woman from Huinco. She has three children, ages 16, 11, and 1 year and 8 months. She earns income by selling portable food (such as stuffed potatoes and parboiled corn) on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Her post is on a high traffic road. When she is in Huinco, she lives with her 75-year-old mother. Sonia's husband is a driver for a transportation agency and has a home in Chosica, where her older children study at a state school. On March 15, 2017, due to the heavy rains in Huinco, Sonia decided to bring her mother to Chosica. On March 16<sup>th</sup>, the landslides and floods became worse, destroying part of her mother's house and this year's crop of cherimoyas.

Sonia came to the clinic to receive medical and psychological care.

**Diagnosis:** Common cold, migraine

**Treatment:** Loratadine, 1 tablet every 12 hours for 3 days  
Ambroxol, (cough syrup), 1 tsp. every 8 hours for 3 days

Sonia brought her young daughter, Camila, to the clinic as well. Camila had a fever and phlegm.

**Diagnosis:** Acute tonsillitis

**Treatment:** Cephalexin (250 mg), 1 tbs. every 8 hours for 3 days  
Chlorpheniramine (2.5 mg), 1 tsp. every 12 hours for 5 days



*Sonia Jiménez carrying her young daughter*

### Luzmila Salinas de Olivares

Luzmila Salinas de Olivares is an elderly woman from San Pedro De Casta. She came to our clinic in Huinco very early in the morning, even before we started seeing people. The town baker had offered her a ride, because public transportation would not have been able to take her to the clinic so early. She said, "Ma'am, please attend to me quickly, because I have to get back to my hometown to attend a school parade. Today is the

anniversary of the school opening, and we are hosting a parade and lunch. I am one of the 20 mothers who opened the school in 1978. We pay a professor to teach our children because there is no high school in our town. I came to the clinic because my daughter urged me to come, but I must get back before the parade.”

We attended her for her rheumatic pain, which is characteristic of her age. We gave her medicine and a blanket.

**Diagnosis:** Common cold and arthritis

**Treatment:** Loratadine (10 mg), 1 every 12 hours for five days

Ambroxol, (cough syrup), 1 tbs. every 8 hours for five days

Naproxen (pain reliever), dependent on pain

Vitamin B, 1 every day for 30 days

Much to our surprise, we also saw Luzmila Salinas de Olivares during our mission in Cashahuacra, where she was visiting one of her daughters. She explained, “My children no longer visit me. I must come and leave my house alone, but I'm only here a short time. Next, I travel to Chosica to see my other daughter, and at 6:00 I return to San Pedro de Casta.”

Luzmila Salinas de Olivares has 7 children, which she was able to provide for thanks to her work in agriculture and cattle breeding. The rains and floodwaters affected her livelihood when they destroyed 1 hectare of cherimoya and avocado trees. She is one of the people who were evacuated by helicopter after San Pedro de Casta was totally isolated with the road buried by the natural disaster.



*Luzmila Salinas de Olivares*

### **Faustina Torres**

Faustina Torres is a 41-year-old woman born in Cuzco. At the age of 8, her older brother was carrying her, when he lost his balance and they both fell. Her mother took her to a witchdoctor, who made her drink some herbs for the pain. From that moment on, she could no longer walk, only crawl. Faustina explained that her mother had no education, and because of her ignorance she never worried about the health of her daughter.

A foreigner offered to take Faustina out of the country for an operation, but her mother refused outright, leaving her an invalid.

When she was 15, a friend of Faustina’s mother brought her to live in Lima. This woman was able to buy Faustina her first wheelchair and take care of her for 15 years, making her feel like one of the family. However, the family decided to move out of the country, and they could not take her with them. They brought her back to Cuzco to live with her mother, but her mother had become an alcoholic. Faustina could not stand living with her mother, so she returned to Lima. A woman helped her get a job at a retirement home in Chaclacayo in exchange for a room and board. Her job was to hand wash bed linen. Her hands were greatly affected by this hard work, and she was not able to work there for long. While attending church, she made friends with a family from Buenos Aires. The family helped her earn money by selling candy, and she was able to buy land and build a wooden house. After saving more money, she was able to build a cement home. Because of the flooding, she lost many things in her house.

Faustina came to RMF’s clinic in Buenos Aires for medical treatment.

**Diagnosis:** Urinary infection and gastritis

**Treatment:** Amikacin I/m for 5 days

Ciprofloxacin 1 every 12 hours after finishing injectables

Omeprazole, 1 per day (on an empty stomach) for 10 days



*Faustina Torres*

**Numbers Served: May 19 – June 12, 2017**

Date	Registered Patients	Triage
5/19/2017	148	148
5/20/2017	171	171
5/21/2017	138	138
5/22/2017	116	116
5/23/2017	126	126
5/24/2017	43	43
5/25/2017	92	92

5/30/2017	147	147
5/31/2017	183	183
6/1/2017	178	178
6/2/2017	104	104
6/3/2017	76	76
6/5/2017	180	180
6/6/2017	193	193
6/7/2017	177	177
6/8/2017	132	132
6/9/2017	139	139
6/10/2017	41	41
6/12/2017	43	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,427</b>	<b>2,427</b>

**Patients by age:**

Age	Number of Patients
< 1	60
1-4	170
6-15	236
16-30	489
31-59	934
60+	538
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,427</b>

