



The Hospitaller Order with Iquitos-Perú

THE BROTHERS reached Iquitos, in the heart of the Peruvian Amazonian Jungle (in the Loreto region), in 2000, where a group of women volunteers had already been working for many years, serving as a link for transferring children with problems to the "Hogar Clínica" Home in Lima.

The Brothers began their work as an Outpatient Rehabilitation Centre in a home given to them by the Regional government.

This Centre specialises in orthopaedics, traumatology and rehabilitation, mainly catering for children aged up to 18, coming from very poor Peruvian Amazonian environments.

They also run campaigns outside the Centre. The particular geographical environment of Iquitos (it is an island surrounded by the Amazonian rivers Itaya and Nanay) makes travel very difficult for members of the communities scattered along the riverbank, which is why the Brothers have put into place the "Messengers of Health" or "Ikuatawara-nera" (in Quechua) campaigns, using a launch, to provide preventive healthcare and healthcare education programmes attended by all the members of the very poor riverside communities.

They also offer their services as external consultants/ counsellors to all the population living in the Loreto Department, in the more urban environments, where they can receive neurological, dental, psychological, paediatric, and gynaecological care and treatment as well as physiotherapy and general medical services.

At the present moment 20 people work in the Centre.



**WE NEED:
€350.000**

THE PROJECT: Con-

struction of a Rehabilitation and Hospitalisation Centre

The project will remove all the obsolete facilities from the Rehabilitation Centre in order to meet the growing demand, and make it possible to implement new development projects, building the Centre on a plot of land at Iquitos which belongs to the Order. In order to build the infrastructure for the Centre they have already received a subsidy from the Autonomous Government of the Community of Valencia (Spain).

Nevertheless, we will have to go on supporting the equipment of the Centre by providing new facilities and replacing the obsolete ones, and also help to fund its initial running costs; **this is the reason for our appeal, as we look forward to receiving your generous response.**

By building new installations it will be possible, among other things, to offer 24 beds for the admission of child patients after surgery, obviating the need to travel all the way to Lima (1,000 km away) and avoiding the uprooting of the children for several months from their home environments.

We can also give an impetus to the "Messengers of Health" Community Health Programme, using healthcare professionals in various specialised fields from the Centre, who can travel to the isolated communities and schools to provide them with medical care and run preventive health campaigns, spreading healthy and hygienic habits to enable the people to avoid contracting diseases. There are also other new initiatives such as the Environmental Education Programme, to encourage the people to create a healthier environment and ensure the sustainable use of their natural resources (by bringing influence to bear on the habits which are contributing to the deforestation of Amazonia), and introducing small fry of local regional fish species (a fish farm) and growing alternative crops, flowers and medicinal plants.



**UFFICIO MISSIONI E COOPERAZIONE
INTERNAZIONALE**

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**So far,
yet So near**

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