

Meet the change makers of Lima, Peru

Meet the change makers of Lima - a group of young people, driving change in communities across the city.

Lima, capital of Peru, is the second largest desert city in the world, after Cairo.

This vibrant city faces many challenges:

- It is vulnerable to **natural disasters**.
- Families often lack **access to water** and **safe spaces** for children to play.
- The city is **running out of water**.

But the change makers of Lima are taking on these challenges.

- They are **defending the land** and **protecting the earth**.
- They are **speaking up for their rights** and **fighting for water**.
- They are **planting the seeds** and **building the future**.

Find out more, as this exhibition **comes to life**.

Jasmin,

Jasmin likes to **play sport**, especially football and volleyball. She lives in an area of northern Lima where there is **lots of poverty**. There aren't many public parks or **safe places to play** there.

Jasmin belongs to a children's organisation that helps children to **understand their rights** and **voice their needs**. Together they have claimed back a safe public space for children and young people, known as the **Labyrinth**.

Jasmin helped to clear the Labyrinth of rubbish and create a lovely area with a maze, a playground and a **space to play sport**.

“Here we come and play. You can do anything here... I like most of all to come here and play football and volleyball. I don't like the violence in my neighbourhood.

At the Labyrinth I feel happy and I feel free.”

Jean-Pierre, 10

Jean-Pierre lives in an area of northern Lima where there is **lots of poverty**.

Many children also **fall behind** at school or **drop out**.

Jean-Pierre goes to a **homework club**, a safe space where he can do his homework and study, **planting seeds for the future**. After the children have done their homework, they can **play** and do **puzzles and games**.

They also have a **garden** to tend to. They have made signs to illustrate the rules of their garden. Jean-Pierre's sign is about not watering the plants when it's too hot.

“When I’m in the homework club **I feel good, I feel happy...** I like to water the plants so that they grow. **Without plants we can’t breathe.**”

Abigail, 11

Abigail belongs to an **eco-brigade**. She lives in a mountainous district towards the north of Lima, near a chain of mountains called the **Lomas de Primavera** (Lomas).

As Lima is a **desert city**, with very little rainfall, the Lomas is a **crucial eco-system**. Mist coming up from the Pacific coast allows vegetation and **natural life to flourish** here. But the Lomas is **under threat** from land traffickers. Mining companies are also threatening to invade the Lomas.

Abigail and the eco-brigade are helping to **defend** the Lomas. They have started working on **planting small plants** to help protect the land.

“It’s important to protect the Lomas because they give us our oxygen, they help our wellbeing and **help our planet.**”

Paolo, 19

Paolo lives in an **informal settlement**, built high into the steep hillside of southern Lima. He is volunteering his time to do **community service** every Sunday, to help **improve his neighbourhood**.

He is working on a new **staircase**. Without these staircases, the paths leading to the houses are treacherous. The staircases can make a huge difference to help people **move down the hills quickly**, especially if there is a fire or a **natural disaster**, like an earthquake or landslide.

Paolo is helping to **build the future** of his community.

“For me, community service is really important. It is something that you do to **improve your community** to help it to grow and develop.”

Daniela, 16 (centre)

Daniela lives in an **informal settlement**. She never had **running water** at home.

Water is **delivered** to her neighbourhood, but sometimes the water trucks don't come, which means there is **no water**. When the trucks do come, the **water quality is poor**. Residents in poorer neighbourhoods, like Daniela's, can **pay up to eleven times more** for water.

Local experts have developed an **app**, to **collect information** that will be used to lobby for better rights to water. Daniela and her friends are helping in this fight, using mobile phones to gather this information from her community.

“You don't really know when the water will arrive... Like everybody, we feel uncomfortable when water doesn't come. **We need water for everything** - to wash, to cook, everything.”