



CASE STUDY

Artisan development: Huancar Fibre Spinning



The Artisan Development: Huancar Fibre Spinning project is intended to strengthen the production and marketing of products created by female artisans of different communities. Activities associated with this project include providing participants with the necessary equipment and technical capabilities so that they can work in a sustainable and self-sufficient manner over time.

Strategic alignment to

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Shared Value Pillar

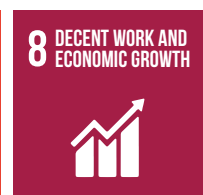


Natural resources
and local production

Direct Contribution



Indirect Contribution



SDG Target 9.2: Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation.

SDG Target 9.3: Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, to financial services and their integration into value chains and markets.

SDG Target 1.4: Ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

SDG Target 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership.

SDG Target 8.5: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

Background

Orocobre, through our Shared Value policy, seeks to promote development projects in the local communities, so that they achieve self-sufficiency beyond the Company's economic activity. In 2018, several local consultants were encouraged to submit proposals for the implementation of a local economic development project. [The National Institute of Industrial Technology](#) (INTI) was selected as the main project partner.

The initiative was launched in April 2018, with a workshop that sought to align the individual, community and institutional objectives with the following overarching objective of the project.

- Encourage the production and marketing for local entrepreneurs, developing their capability to work sustainably, with no dependence on public or private institutions.

Achieving this objective successfully required:

- Development of sustainable businesses that leverage traditional cultural activities
- Development of tools and capabilities within our Shared Value team to enable the replication of similar socio-economic development projects in other communities

The Artisan Development: Huancar Fibre Spinning project was identified as a pilot model for future artisan and economic development projects within our local communities. The project partners analysed market constraints in relation to the artisanal products that the project could produce. They identified there was a gap in the market for high-quality fibres. To increase fibre quality, a new yarn production scheme was developed to standardise and streamline the yarn manufacturing process. This enabled the Huancar Community to create



a product that could be easily marketed in local and even national markets and establish solid foundations for maintaining long term growth.

Proposal

The Artisan Development: Huancar Fibre Spinning project sets out to provide essential support, training and equipment to produce quality yarn without losing the “artisanal” character.

Through supporting this project, Orocobre facilitates local women to develop key skills, adopt appropriate technologies and access the necessary markets to increase their income generation potential.

The new equipment financed through the project will also provide environmental benefits by reducing the amount of water required for the fibre washing process.

Barriers faced

Orocobre respects the autonomy of communities and individuals involved in these projects and does not become involved in the community level management and administration. During 2020, there were no new stages of this project implemented.

Partnerships

The Artisan Development: Huancar Fibre Spinning project was developed collaboratively with local artisans of the Huancar Community in the pilot phase, and the National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI). INTI provided analysis of technical criteria based on the yarn quality and market needs.

Project outcomes and indicators

In 2019 a new production space, and machinery (such as swifts, spinning wheels, washing machines, dryers, etc.) were set up. Technical workshops on fibre spinning were conducted, introducing new techniques and standardising product development. Artisans collected raw material and completed the training workshops. Samples were taken to different customers and a demand for the product was established. Feedback from the market has been positive, given the quality of the yarn that women in Huancar are producing.

Water consumed during the washing process using the new machinery has reduced by at least 60% compared with previous amounts of water used in this process.

Indicators related to the implementation of this initiative are being further developed. These include: funds invested (machinery, consultants, training), time invested (workshops), number of artisans involved in the project, percentage of women, average revenue per artisan (pre-project), number of people currently employed/contracted, yarn produced, yarn and wool sold, other local social and economic benefits.

