



VISIONARIA
network

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



REAL CHANGE COMES FROM WITHIN.

Despite decades of investment and development efforts, poverty and low-quality education persists in rural areas of Peru, where 44% of the population lives in poverty and 30% of rural adolescents never finish secondary school.

We know that:

- Development projects succeed when local community members are involved in their design and leadership.
- Young people learn best by doing things they find relevant and important.

Yet there remains too little engagement in community development by the most marginalized - women and youth.



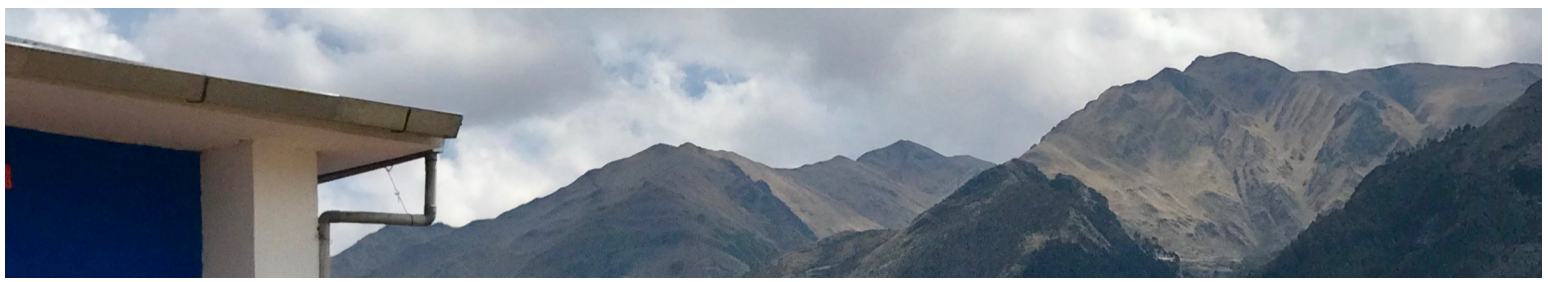
OUR MISSION:

To engage local visions for personal and sustainable community development.

WHAT WE DO:

We partner with local education ministries and sustainable development leaders to design new and engaging leadership opportunities for students.





DIRECTOR'S LETTER

2018 was a landmark year for Visionaria Network, in which our vision – of a world where young people are able to realize their own visions for themselves and their communities – has taken hold.

In the Andean foothills of Cusco, Peru, there is a great sense of change and excitement. On any given day, the clouds will break to reveal bright white glaciers and jagged peaks, while a record number of boys and girls will make their daily commute to secondary school.

Access to education has never been higher in Peru, but there are stark differences in the quality of education in poorer and rural areas. Less than 10% of public school students are achieving satisfactory skills needed to take part in debates as critical, informed citizens, or to succeed in the labor market and continue on with higher education.

As ancient glaciers recede and communication technologies speed up market changes and public discourse, a sense of urgency and potential has taken over – most acutely among young adults. In response, and ever since we first engaged young people and development leaders in the region in 2013, Visionaria programs have resonated with educational leaders, and young leaders in waiting – recognizing that real change must start from within.

Since founding Visionaria Network at the end of 2016, Paola Saldivias and I have dedicated our time and professional talents to integrating the Visionaria program model into regular secondary school course curriculum. We have done so on a shoestring budget compared to similar programs. In 2018, we completed our first provincial-level pilot and began fine-tuning the model for growth in neighboring provinces and throughout Peru.

We hope you enjoy reading the results included in this report, and that you will stay tuned in to our progress throughout the year. And, on behalf of our growing team and network in Peru, I want to thank all of our donors and supporters who refuse to stand by in the face of urgent and dynamic sustainable development challenges.

Onwards,



Paul Spurzem
Co-founder & Executive Director

VISIONARIA FOR SCHOOLS

PROGRAM GOAL: For young women and men to graduate secondary school with the skills to lead in their own lives and communities.

Visionaria for Schools is an innovative program model for secondary schools that includes teacher training, community projects, and a school-integrated Visionaria Course. The program helps educators achieve modern learning goals with a greater student-centered approach, while facilitating meaningful exchange between students and other leaders in their communities.

Real change comes from within – ourselves, our communities, and the positive visions we share for the future. Recognizing this, and drawing from world-class leadership training and design methodologies, we created our 3-part Visionaria learning model:

EMPOWER – EXPLORE – ENGAGE

1. EMPOWER: Build self-confidence, esteem, and a positive self-identity
2. EXPLORE: Identify your priorities and explore the issues and people involved
3. ENGAGE: Create projects and opportunities to apply confidence and experience

2018 REACH:



“Visionaria helped me to have confidence in myself, to respect myself.”

STUDENT PERSONAL GROWTH

Students report that the Visionaria program helped them know themselves better and to feel more capable of making changes in their lives and communities. In a survey conducted with over 320 participating students at the end of the 2018 school year, the immediate personal impact of our program was clear:

	YES
Did the Visionaria experience help you to know yourself better?	98%
After participating in the Visionaria experience, do you feel like you can make changes in your life?	97%
After participating in the Visionaria experience, do you feel like you can make changes in your community?	97%
Would you recommend the Visionaria experience to other students?	98%



"Thanks to Visionaria I learned how to share my opinions with my peers and with my friends"

- Maria Nelida (15)

“I care because our plants are drying out...”

STUDENT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A range of problem topics were prioritized by student teams during the school year. Below is a sample of some of the most popular team topics, along with the student-selected targets of their related advocacy messages:

Teams	Topics	Targets of Advocacy Messages
3	Teenage pregnancy	➔ Sexual health educators, peers
10	Water pollution	➔ Community members, leaders
2	Deforestation	➔ People who slash & burn local forest
8	Municipal corruption / admin.	➔ District government officials
4	Substance abuse – youth	➔ Peers, District ministry of health
4	Substance abuse – community	➔ Parents, District ministry of health
6	Land pollution	➔ Event organizers, community leaders

Each student team finished the year by choosing a specific message, learning, and “ask” directed at one community stakeholder of their choosing. This type of initiative and public comment is very uncommon for young people in the region, especially for young women.

The Visionaria course helped students to analyze problems they cared about and communicate their points of view to authorities and other members in the community. The experience serves their community today and makes students more effective leaders for tomorrow.



“I learned to bring my students a new way to prepare for life...”

TEACHER TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Teachers report that Visionaria for Schools helped their students build critical thinking skills, improved their teacher-student relations and helped students participate in the pursuit of community well-being.

Biggest benefit of the program?

"I learned that I should research and personalize my teaching to get results"



100% AGREE	100% AGREE	100% AGREE
“The Visionaria program helped me develop my students’ capacity for critical thinking”	“The VfS program helped improve my teacher-student relationships”	“The VfS program helped my students co-exist and participate democratically in the pursuit of the common good*”

* This focus on co-existence and participation in pursuit of the common good is one of the main competencies in the course area that teachers apply the Visionaria material

“The biggest benefit of the Visionaria training?”

WHAT TEACHERS ARE SAYING

Our efforts to train and support teachers yielded a host of benefits in 2018. Participants told us what they saw as the biggest benefit:

- “An understanding that our students don’t only learn through knowledge and memorization, but also through the experience that they have and practice.”
- “Valuing myself and recognizing my own qualities.”
- “I gained more experiences, met more educational professionals and shared my experiences”

+43%

At the end of the 2018 program we measured a 43% increase in the number of teachers who reported confidence in their ability to modify their teaching methods in accordance with new curriculum requirements.



Visionaria Course

The Visionaria course is taught by teachers who are trained and supported by the program. They teach an entire grade of students each year (typically 10th grade and between 20–50 students depending on school size). The course includes several unique lessons and teaching methods that are rarely found in rural secondary-schools:

- **Empowerment lessons** that help students know themselves and their communities better.
- **Leadership lessons** that better define what it means to be a leader and discover individual leadership strengths.
- **Sustainable development lessons** that uncover problems from students' perspectives and link them to global sustainable development goals
- **Youth-led projects and design activities** that allow students to engage with members and leaders in their community about problems they are motivated to solve.
- **Gender sensitive activities** that promote equitable relations and norms for women and men in a local context.



Establishing Visionaria for Schools for 2018 and Beyond

In 2018, our team focused on further developing the Visionaria course and program model for the public-school system in Cusco, Peru, and marked several achievements:

- ☑ **Secured formal administrative commitment and support from the provincial ministry of education in Anta**
- ☑ **Hired 3 new Visionaria staff to support a growing number of partner schools, teachers, and students**
- ☑ **Formed relationships with 16 new school communities throughout the province through a roadshow and classroom presence**
- ☑ **Built a list of initiatives and community contacts based upon students' expressed interests and priorities**

The result?

A new agreement and model for partnering with provincial ministries of education anywhere in Peru.



Pictured: Regional manager & co-founder Paola Saldivias (second from left) with curriculum directors in the Anta province.

Visionaria Spirit

We aim to foster a “Visionaria Spirit” from within each partner school community through roadshows and annual workshops that help faculty, students, and parents each:

- ☑ Know ourselves better
- ☑ See the positive side of whatever comes our way
- ☑ Seek opportunities to be the best we can be
- ☑ Recognize our virtues and areas for growth
- ☑ Practice leading positive change in our lives and communities

Our 2018 “Caravana Visionaria” roadshow reached 11 out of 12 partner schools and engaged more than 655 students, parents, and faculty during the month of October, 2018.



Pictured: Students presenting alongside their parents about what problems they would like to address in their community.

Visionaria for Schools

PROGRAM THEORY OF CHANGE

WHAT WE PROVIDE

High quality learning experiences in marginalized and under-supported schools.

THE IMPACT

Students are better prepared for adulthood with relevant skills, experiences and relationships.

WHERE WE INVEST OUR ENERGY

LESSON PLANS & TEACHER RESOURCES

TEACHER TRAINING AND MONTHLY CLASSROOM SUPPORT

BRIDGE BUILDING BETWEEN STUDENT PROJECTS AND LOCAL LEADERS

WHO GAINS WHAT?

STUDENTS

- Self-awareness, self-efficacy
- Leadership skills and experience
- Community influence and connections

TEACHERS

- Student-centered teaching methods
- Peer networks
- Recognition

COMMUNITY LEADERS

- Wider exposure for leading ideas
- Youth-led insight into tough problems



THANK YOU!

To all of our supporters & funders in 2018

We could not be on this path to bring such a positive change to young people and the Peruvian educational system without the individual donors, advisors, and words of encouragement along the way.

2018 institutional research partners & funders:



Rotary International
2018/19 Global Grant



USAID
2018 Young Women's Economic Empowerment
CREATION PRIZE



Overseas Development Institute
ALiGN Flexible Research Fund Grant



**Social Sciences and Humanities Research
Council of Canada**
Partnership Engage Grant



YOUR 2018 VISIONARIA PROGRAM TEAM

Since the beginning, we have leveraged a small budget to build a talented team and develop the Visionaria for Schools program:

Budget / Team / Reach

2017

Program Reach : 150 new students, 3 schools

Full-time staff : 2 (Regional Manager, Executive Director)

Part-time : 2 (Visionaria Coaches)

Operating Budget : 29,000 USD (approx.)

2018

Program Reach : 500 new students, 12 schools, 1 provincial partnership

Full-time staff : 2 (Regional Manager, Executive Director)

Part-time : 5 (3 Visionaria Coaches, 2 Specialists)

Operating Budget : 90,000 USD (approx.)

2019

Program Reach : 900 new students, 20 schools, 2 provincial partnerships (estimates)

Full-time staff : 8 (Regional Director, Exec. Director, 3 Visionaria Facilitators, 1 Field Coordinator, 1 Edu. Specialist, 1 Marketing Coordinator)

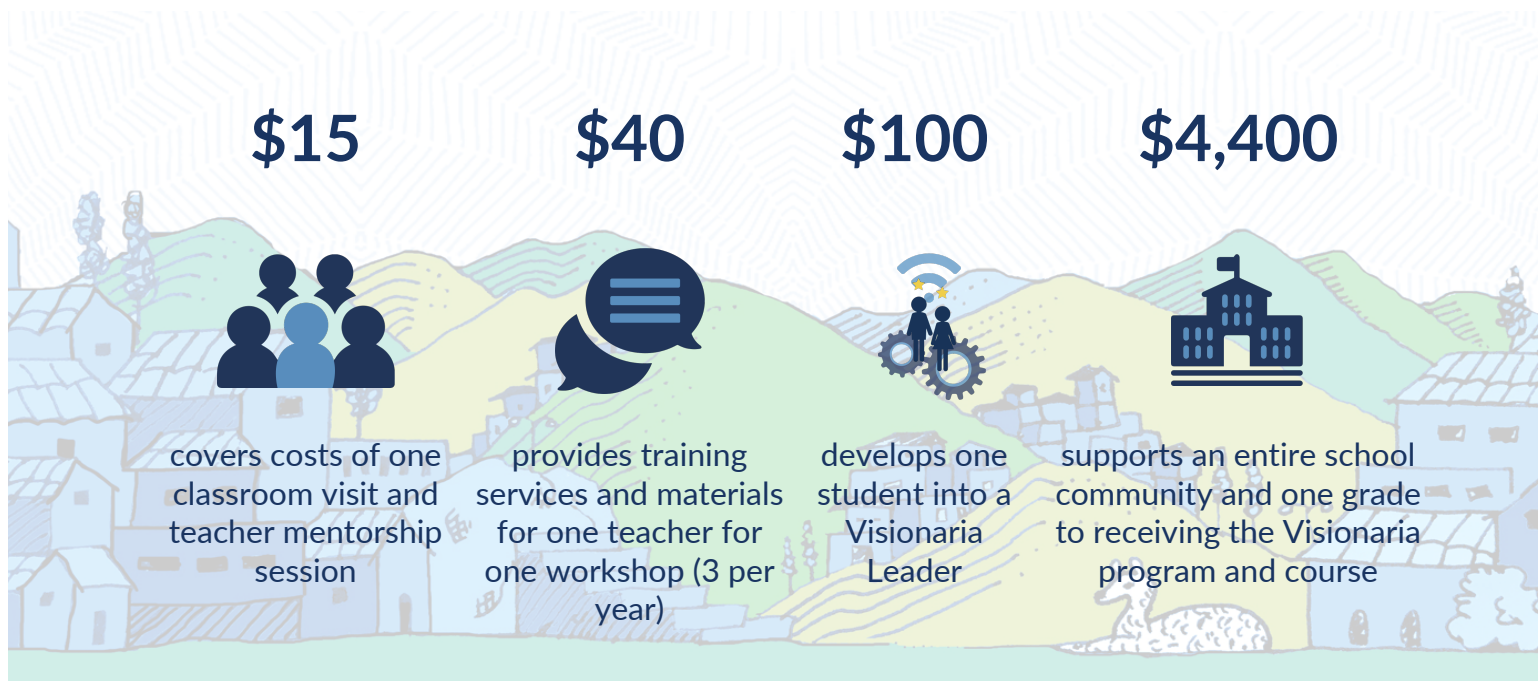
Operating Budget : 120,000 USD (est.)



INVEST IN VISIONARIA FOR SCHOOLS

High quality, low cost.

By delivering our program using existing infrastructure at partner schools, leveraging economies of scale, and implementing mobile technologies to manage and monitor our activities across different districts, Visionaria Network creates a big impact for a small cost.



Our greatest challenges will be solved by great leadership...
Your investment gives Peruvian youth the tools to lead in their lives and communities.

To make a donation to the Visionaria for Schools program please visit www.visionarianetwork.org/support or via mail to the address below:

Visionaria Network
 406 Wilson St
 Lafayette, CO 80026

Visionaria Network is 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible. under U.S. tax law.



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