Sembrando Esperanza Peru is a project that focuses on the physical and mental health of street children and young adults with tuberculosis in Lima, Peru. IFMSA- Sweden and IFMSA- Peru are collaborating partners in the project.

Our goal is to transform the lives of young TB infected people living on the streets in Lima.
Background

The conditions that the street children and young adults in Lima, Peru are living under exposes them to drugs, prostitution, illnesses, violence and crime. These young people living on the streets are especially vulnerable to different infections such as tuberculosis due to malnutrition, bad hygiene and poor living conditions. They may also get infected with diseases such as HIV, hepatitis B and other preventable diseases due to their way of life. It is also common that these young individuals become infected with more than one disease at the same time which leads to a faster decline in health.

Peru is a country with a high burden of Tuberculosis (TB) and although TB treatment is free in Peru through a public insurance it does not reach the people living on the streets. The reason is that you are only eligible for the insurance if you have a permanent address which these individuals lack. Furthermore the treatment is at least six months long, sometimes up to two years and the side effects are usually both common and severe. To be able to fulfil the treatment it is necessary to have a stable environment with access to food, shelter and a social network. We have not been able to find any other care-home that could be a good option for these TB infected young individuals. Other care-homes charge money, have to long queues and/or use difficult acceptation systems with includes a lot of bureaucracy.

Ideas behind the project

The idea was born in 2003 when our project coordinator Lara Bolling was volunteering in Lima. The teacher and social worker Jenny Huaman Sulca who for many years had been helping the young people living on the streets inspired Lara to make a difference. Tuberculosis is a severe disease that takes the lives of many people living on the streets. Many are those who have lost their lives in vain, as the disease is curable. The dreams about the project started to take real form when Lara a couple of years later got involved with the medical student organisation IFMSA-Sweden. (IFMSA stands for International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations.) Through IFMSA- Sweden the outline of the project started to take shape. Now IFMSA-Sweden is working together with IFMSA-Peru to make the
project come to life. Together we are helping Jenny to set up a local NGO, Sembrando Esperanza Peru.

**Project Plan**

A care-home has been set up in Lima, Peru. The street children and young adults who are taken into the project will get help with treatment, nutrition and other basic needs. The home environment for these individuals will be safe and caregivers will provide support, care and guidance. When they have recovered enough from their TB infection they will receive education and training in order to become self-sufficient Peruvian citizens.

Even though our main focus is the TB infected individuals the harsh reality on the streets in Lima may make us take in others as well. These individuals will be relocated as soon as a better option for them can be found.

IFMSA-Sweden’s biggest part is to find sufficient financial support for the project. We are therefore looking for companies, private individuals and other organisations who want to sponsor the project. In the future we are also planning to send volunteers to this project who can help out and assist in the work.

The practical work in Lima is being done by Jenny and her co-workers with the help of IFMSA- Peru.

**Our work at the moment**

We are currently renting a house in Lima and there are around ten people living there at the moment. We have already succeeded with helping some people recover from their disease. One individual now has a job and has moved out of the house to leave his spot for another person in need.

IFMSA-Sweden is currently working hard with fundraising for the project. Part of the workgroup visited the project during Christmas 2010 to help to structure up the work and gather documentation from the project.

Jenny is working a lot with the home and the practical needs that the people there have. Now she is also focusing on the registration of the NGO.
For more information contact: seperu@ifmsa.se

We have a homepage but currently it is only in Swedish se-peru.com

Learn more about the background to the project, watch the movie: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MVc9eLdMIO or search for the movie on youtube by typing in Sembrando Esperanza Peru.