BUILDING A MEDICAL FACILITY
for the Guardians of the Rainforest

Case For Support
Building a modern medical facility in the Peruvian Amazon will fill a huge gap in medical services to rural people, and will give them the opportunity to remain in their communities as protectors of the rainforest.
The Dire Need for the Facility

- **The Location:** Loreto, Peru: the western and most biodiverse portion of the Amazon rainforest. An area larger than Germany.

- **The Population:** Over 900,000 people, half of whom live in 4,000 villages scattered across the region.

- **Primary Mode of Transportation:** Dugout canoe and pamacari riverboat taxi. For 95% of rural residents, the network of rivers is the only means of transportation. The cost of fuel for motorized boats is cost prohibitive for families in the Amazon.

- **The Problem:** One public hospital serves uninsured patients from the entire region. For rural people, the cost of travel and medical expenses can start an inescapable cycle of poverty.

- **The Reality:** Even if money can be found for motorized boat travel during an emergency, it can take days-to-weeks to reach medical professionals and receive treatment.

- **The Consequence:** Tens-of-thousands suffer or die annually in the Peruvian Amazon from treatable or preventable medical conditions. The highest rates of mortality are among neonates and infants. Contributing to the suffering and death are:
  - Common diarrhea and resultant dehydration (the #1 cause of death)
  - The inability of local people to access clinics due to distance and poverty
  - Inadequately staffed clinics lacking basic medicines
  - Lack of diagnostic capabilities
  - Sporadic or incomplete vaccination campaigns
  - Lack of health education with regard to infant and childhood diseases
  - Accidents, including snakebites, occurring in remote areas. Victims frequently die en route to medical care.
Many rural people in the Loreto region cannot travel to clinics or hospitals, so Project Amazonas brings care to them via medical boats. For many of the 9,000+ patients served each year, it is their only access to medical services.
The Charity Making A Difference

In 1994, Dr. Ernesto Salazar Sánchez, former Regional Minister of Health and current head of surgery at the Hospital Regional de Loreto, cofounded Project Amazonas, to do what the Peruvian government could not afford to do: bring medical aid to remote villages in the Peruvian Amazon. In continuing partnership with the Ministry of Health, Project Amazonas brings care to over 9,000 people a year via volunteer and Ministry-staffed medical boats, and also works with medical schools from around the world, enabling young doctors and senior medical students to incorporate service expeditions into their training.

A Medical Facility for the Rainforest

Existing medical infrastructure and staffing in the Loreto Region falls far below what is needed to address health problems that are exacerbated by poverty and lack of health education. The new medical facility provides the opportunity to vastly improve the health of the residents of the Amazon Rainforest, and creates a health-care model to be emulated, both within the Peruvian Amazon, and in other underserved regions of the world.

45,000 people per year will receive care at this facility, sparking opportunities for expansion of health services and education, partnerships, and sustainable economic development of this rapidly growing region.

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Iquitos is the site of the Hospital Regional de Loreto, the only comprehensive medical facility in the region.

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Mazán: An Optimal Location

Strategically located at a geographical crossroads, the town of Mazán is ideally situated for a medical facility that will serve communities on both the Napo and Amazon River watersheds – the dominant river systems in the region. To reach medical care, residents of the Napo watershed must currently pass through Mazán on their way to Iquitos and the closest hospital in the region. The medical facility will also serve as a base for the health education and preventative medical care that is key to reducing current staggering levels of preventable illnesses and death.

Port Access

The Mazán port on the Napo River facilitates the transport of construction materials. New road access from Mazán also provides access to two port areas on the Amazon, ensuring that goods and people can move from one river system to the other year-round.

Proximity to Iquitos

A facility in Mazán will be the first choice for most patients who would otherwise have to travel to Iquitos for care. For patients in need of critical or advanced care, however, the proximity to Iquitos means that they can be rapidly transported to the Regional Hospital by speedboat or helicopter.

Impact Study

In 2012, Project Amazonas (with support of the Ministry of Health, and charity AidJoy) conducted an extensive study on the impact of a new medical facility in the region. This study examined health issues and concerns, existing medical facilities and infrastructure, and geographical and physical considerations that would impact construction, population trends, and future transportation/mobility changes. After careful examination of several potential sites, Mazán was clearly identified as the best location for a new facility to have the maximum impact.
The open center courtyard will hold a garden of medicinal plants.
The Architectural Design

Project architect Alex Gil, principal at SPACECUTTER (New York City) has professional experience that includes supervising high-rise construction, school design, and realizing contemporary private residences. A registered architect in the State of New York and Illinois, Gil holds a Master of Architecture degree from Harvard University. His 17,000 ft² medical facility design was inspired by the indigenous architecture of the Yagua people of northeastern Peru, and integrates local environmental conditions into its design and operation.

In a design affectionately called “the doughnut scheme;” the open center courtyard will hold a garden of medicinal plants. The circular courtyard is positioned slightly off-center, allowing for rooms of varying depth, including examination rooms, diagnostic facilities, a laboratory, patient wards, a pharmacy, minor surgery and dental suites, and administrative offices.

Infrastructure, Power, and Water Needs

An on-site solar array with generator backup will provide for electrical needs. Clever design features including screened louver windows for cross-ventilation, high ceilings, and passive warm air evacuation through a roof cavity will create a very comfortable environment, with air conditioning restricted to key locations; the pharmacy, emergency, computer and delivery rooms.

Treated rainwater collected from the large roof area and supplemented by an on-site well will provide water as the municipal water supply is not reliable and is prone to contamination.
An estimated 45,000 patients per year will be treated in the facility.
Facility Facts

Patients Treated  A majority of the 45,000 patients attended annually will come from villages along the Napo River as well as portions of the Amazon River. The facilities location will greatly reduce travel time to medical care for thousands of people, as well as lowering travel and living expenses for patients and their families.

Access to Acute Care  The closest comprehensive medical facility will be the Hospital Regional de Loreto in Iquitos. Travel from Mazán to Iquitos is possible in 45 minutes by speedboat. A helicopter would allow door-to-door emergency treatment in much less time.

Staffing  A minimum of four full-time physicians, including the Director, will operate the facility. Two dentists and a full complement of six nurses, four obstetricians, several laboratory technicians and 30 support staff will round out the hands-on medical service team. Additional staff will include administrators, biologists (disease vector control), computer technicians, security, maintenance and grounds, and health education outreach personnel.

National and International Partners  Specialists in different medical fields from the Ministry of Health and other national and international entities will play an important role in training staff, and on an ongoing consultative basis (including telemedicine). The facility will also serve an important role in hosting interns and senior medical students from national and international medical and nursing schools. An external cooperation facilitator will coordinate volunteer activities and also prepare grants and reports.

Capacity Building  Development plans for the region will bring increased access and population to Mazán, providing opportunities for partnerships between the facility and its supporters for collaborative research, student and professional exchanges, and improved training and capacity building for Peruvian health professionals at all levels.
Current Mazán Medical Clinic Investors

- Project Amazonas
- Siemens
- AidJoy
- Loreto Regional Ministry of Health
- Municipality of Mazán
- Rivers of the World
- The Polus Center for Social & Economic Development
- WiRED International
- Immedion

(Far right): Dr. Edward Reátegui Salas, Mayor of Mazán (and former dentist), discusses plans for the facility.
A Multi-Sector Collaboration

Volunteered Services In addition to the architectural services volunteered by Alex Gil, a large international team of engineers, construction project managers, marketing and fundraising professionals have all offered their time and talent to this project. This global network is being complemented by local and regional governments and talent in Peru to see this project through to fruition.

Initial Support Siemens has generously donated $100,000 towards the construction of the Mazán Medical Facility Many of their employees are volunteering expertise in construction, health care, and project management to ensure the success of this project.

Durable Social Change Beyond ending the suffering of those in need of medical care, this project presents a unique opportunity to contribute to the transformation of a community in dire need. With a well-defined path forward, it is possible to disrupt a cycle of poverty, and change the future for the people of the Amazon Rainforest for generations to come. We are seeking partners and sponsors who share in this vision, and who look to make a lasting contribution.

Learn More

vimeo.com/aidjoy/mazan-mayor
Sponsorship Opportunities

Our charity partner AidJoy oversees Mazán Medical Facility sponsorships. Sponsorship is limited to a select group of organizations. AidJoy invests substantially in understanding an organization’s nuanced needs in order to tailor programs that match objectives and support levels. Programs elements provide measurable benefits in the areas of regional economic development, employee engagement, content development, and/or marketing and public relations.

Sponsors contributing over $15,000 annually will be recognized on signage and collateral at promotional events related to the clinic. Multiple sponsors may combine individual investments (maximum 3), to secure naming rights to any facility element eligible for financial sponsorship.
For Additional Information:

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