

POTATOES FOR THE FAMILIES IN THE COMMUNITY CRUZANI



By Sara Ticona, a Young Adult Friend volunteer

On June 8, 2023, some Friends volunteers and I went to visit the Community Cruzani, which is located in the municipality Peñas. That day we were able to interview the 20 families to whom the local authorities selected to be benefited with the help "potatoes for families in the Altiplano". Cruzani is located in a place very far from an urban town. There is no public transportation to get there. The families live very close to the mountains in small houses. At the time of the interview, I could see that most of the families were elderly, widowed women who support their children alone, and elderly people who take care of their grandchildren. All these families had lost their crops, either due to frost or drought. Interviewing those families showed us that the families need help with food, because these people depend on their harvest to be able to feed themselves or generate economic income to meet their needs.

June 21 was the most awaited by the families of this community since that date was chosen for the delivery of the potatoes to the most needy families. Together with sister Emma and 3 volunteer sisters, we went to the community for the distribution of potatoes. Early in the morning we bought the best potatoes, and with

the help of the community authorities a large quantity of potatoes was transported to Cruzani. After traveling for 2 hours from the city of Alto to the town that was near Cruzani, a local authority came to pick us up in order to go to the community Cruzani. Once we got to the community, we saw that the families were already waiting for us in a rustic soccer field. Some of them came with their young children. They welcomed us kindly, and they said that they were very happy and grateful for the help. All of them looked so happy. 100 pounds of potatoes were given to each family from the 20 families already selected. Thanks to God we had potatoes left over so that we were able to deliver 50 pounds to 6 more families that were not on the list of beneficiaries. Then, when we finished distributing the potatoes, we had lunch with the authorities and the families.

I felt very happy to be part of this experience, but at the same time I felt sad and thoughtful, with several mixed feelings, because I saw that it was not just that community that was affected by the drought and the frost, but lots of other families needed help with food. Nevertheless, we were able to assist these families in Cruzani, with the favor of God. I am very grateful to Friends (brothers and sisters) who gave money to buy potatoes for these families.

