

Good Shepherd Cathedral Arpillera Program

In 1997, a group of seven women making these increasingly popular cloth pictures was helped by the Good Shepherd to produce work for a wider market, exhibiting the colorful, almost three-dimensional pictures at fairs and foreign community events. Since 2000 they have been exporting to the USA and UK. The original group now has expanded to 20, and a wider network of women (and men) supplies the tiny hand-stitched fruits and vegetables, baskets and dolls, and helps with basic embroidery, involving some 35 people.

The income from this colorful work has allowed the women to make great improvements in their living standards. Most have substituted their plywood or straw matting walls with bricks and mortar; have installed their first indoor bathroom with tiled walls, and all have financed schooling and higher studies for their children. One has qualified as a lawyer, one as a nurse, and there are several other educational successes.

The pandemic has interrupted the exports, but the group can design almost anything for personal orders in Lima. For additional information regarding the Arpillera Program and for orders, please contact Jean Samaniego at samaniegopritchard@yahoo.co.uk.

