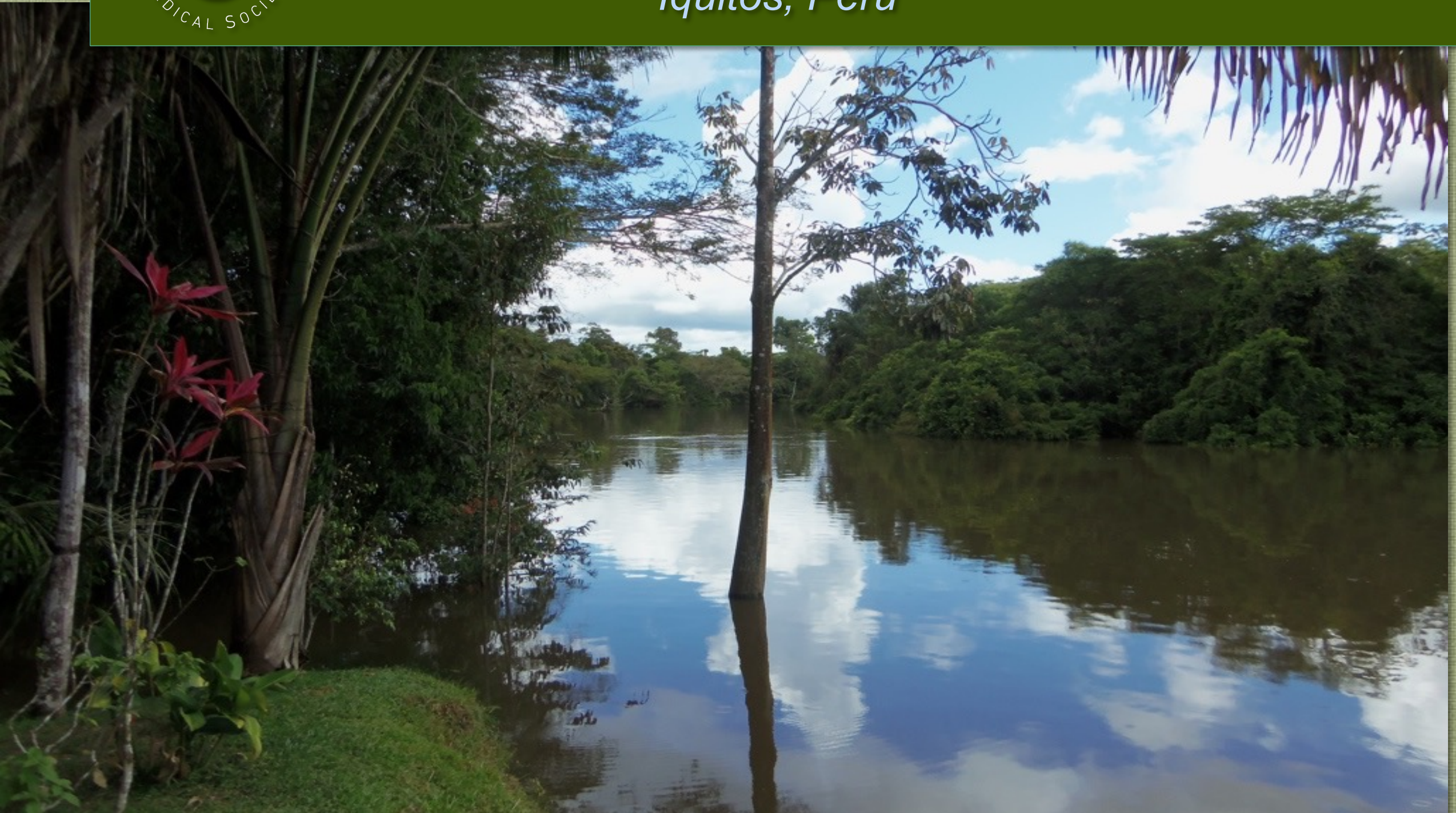




# Selva in Action (SIA)

*Iquitos, Peru*



A Project of the Peruvian American Medical Society  
A U.S. 501 (c) (3)



# The Peruvian American Medical Society has over 30 projects

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*Selva in Action*

There are projects located all over Perú

Some are in the mountains

Some are in the desert

Some are near the ocean

...and our project, **Selva in Action**, is located in the  
Amazon jungle



# What is a “selva”?

- “Selva” is the Spanish word for jungle or rainforest.
- It denotes an area of land overgrown with dense forest and tangled vegetation.



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(SIA)***





# The Selva in Action Mission Statement



**Selva in Action  
(SIA)**



**To improve access to medical and dental care and to promote wellness through educational and empowerment workshops for the people who live along the rivers in the Peruvian Amazon jungle.**



**To provide mentorship opportunities for young Peruvian doctors and medical students.**



# La misión de Selva en Acción es:

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**Selva in Action  
(SIA)**

- Mejorar el acceso a la atención médica y dental y promover el bienestar a través de talleres educativos y de empoderamiento para las personas que viven a lo largo de los ríos en la selva amazónica peruana.
- Brindar oportunidades de tutoría para jóvenes médicos y estudiantes de medicina peruanos.





# Who we are

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## *Team 2022*



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# We are ...



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A group of Peruvian, American, and International volunteers and staff of all ages...

**Janice Felipa, RN**



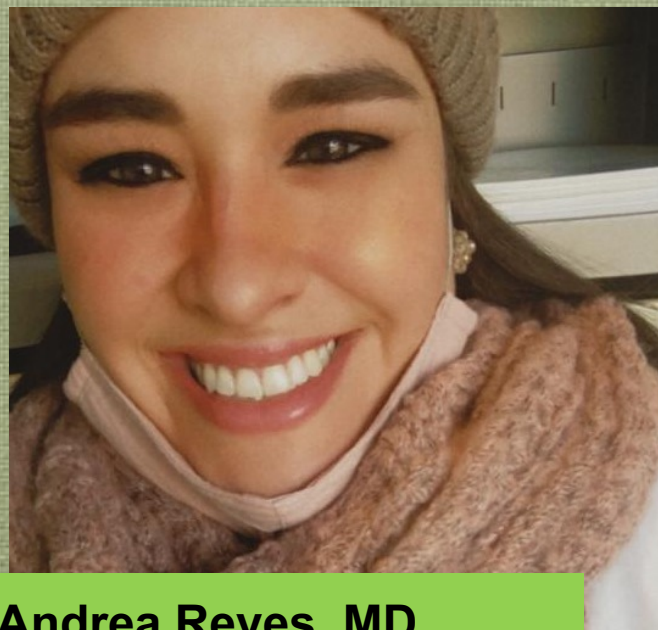
**V. Raul Felipa, MD**  
*Internal Medicine*  
*Past Medical Director*



*...medical and dental specialists ...*



**Luis Espinoza, MD**  
*Infectious Diseases*  
*Medical Director*



**Andrea Reyes, MD**  
*Internal Medicine*  
*Asst. Medical Director*

**Sammi Ráez, DDS**  
*Periodontist*  
*Dental Director*





# We are...



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(SIA)**



**Team 2010**



*health care providers,  
administrators, educators,  
therapists, public health  
professionals...*



**Dr. Shekufe Akhter  
OB-GYN  
Data Coordinator**

**Aryn Yancher  
Volunteer Coordinator**

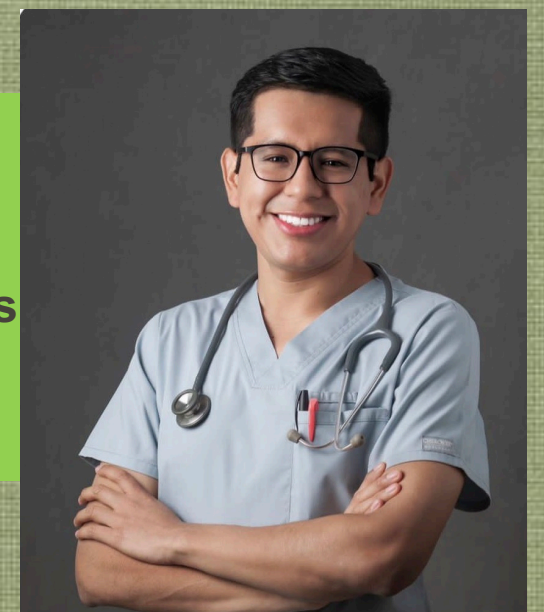


**Franke von Engel  
Co-Director**



*nutritionists, social  
services providers,  
consultants, coordinators,  
lawyers, teachers and  
students...*

**Dr.  
Anthony  
Ramos-Yataco  
Communications  
Coordinator**





... we are family

(Dr. Reya Lee - Chiropractic/Acupuncture)



*Selva in Action*  
(SIA)





# We are young...



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**SIA JOVENES 2022**



...and we are young at heart!



**Selva in Action  
(SIA)**

Dr. Raul Felipa  
Age 87





# We are people with helping hands and caring heartS



**Selva in Action  
(SIA)**

**L to R:**

- **Gio Vela, Paramedic**
- **Fara Atias, Patient Coordinator**
- **Jack Bosantes, former Logistics Coordinator**
- **Pedro Guerra, Boat Driver**



**SIA's  
GREEN  
TEAM**



**Anita Soluna**  
*SIA Co-Founder &  
Program Director*

*... who are taking the initiative to partner with local villagers, national and local government and businesses, to address the identified needs.*



**Dr. Miguel Vasquez**  
*Cardiologist*





# OUR PARTNERS



**Selva in Action  
(SIA)**

Úrsula Vera



Juan Miguel  
Ibieta





# OUR PARTNERS



**Selva in Action  
(SIA)**



MUNICIPALIDAD PROVINCIAL DE  
**MAYNAS**

*Hagamos Historia*





# Our contributors

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**Selva in Action  
(SIA)**

Amazon Garden Ecolodge Boutique

Dr. Luis Espinoza

Dr. Miguel Vasquez

Dr. Tom Chappell

The Felipa Family

Dr. Mel Butler

Dr. Reya Lee

Drs. Eduardo and Sammi Ráez

Paredes Lecarios – Lima

Peruvian American Medical Society – PAMS

- South Florida Chapter
- San Fernando Chapter
- Pollo y Papas – USA

And numerous friends and family members.



# Where we work



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Perú is situated on the west coast of South America, just south of the Equator.



# Peru at a Glance

**Country population:  
33.36 million**

**Area: 496,200 square miles  
(nearly twice the size of Texas)**

**Capital city: Lima  
Population 11+ million**

**Average monthly salary: \$ 425**

**Poverty level = people who earn  
less than \$5.50/day:  
32.9% on average, and as high  
55% in rural areas – and higher  
where we work**





# Iquitos



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(SIA)*



Our base of operations is in **IQUITOS**, the largest city in the Peruvian Amazon, with a population of roughly 484,000 in the metropolitan area. Iquitos is located in the northeastern quadrant of Peru (in the state of Loreto) and can only be accessed by plane or boat.



# Amazon River and Tributaries

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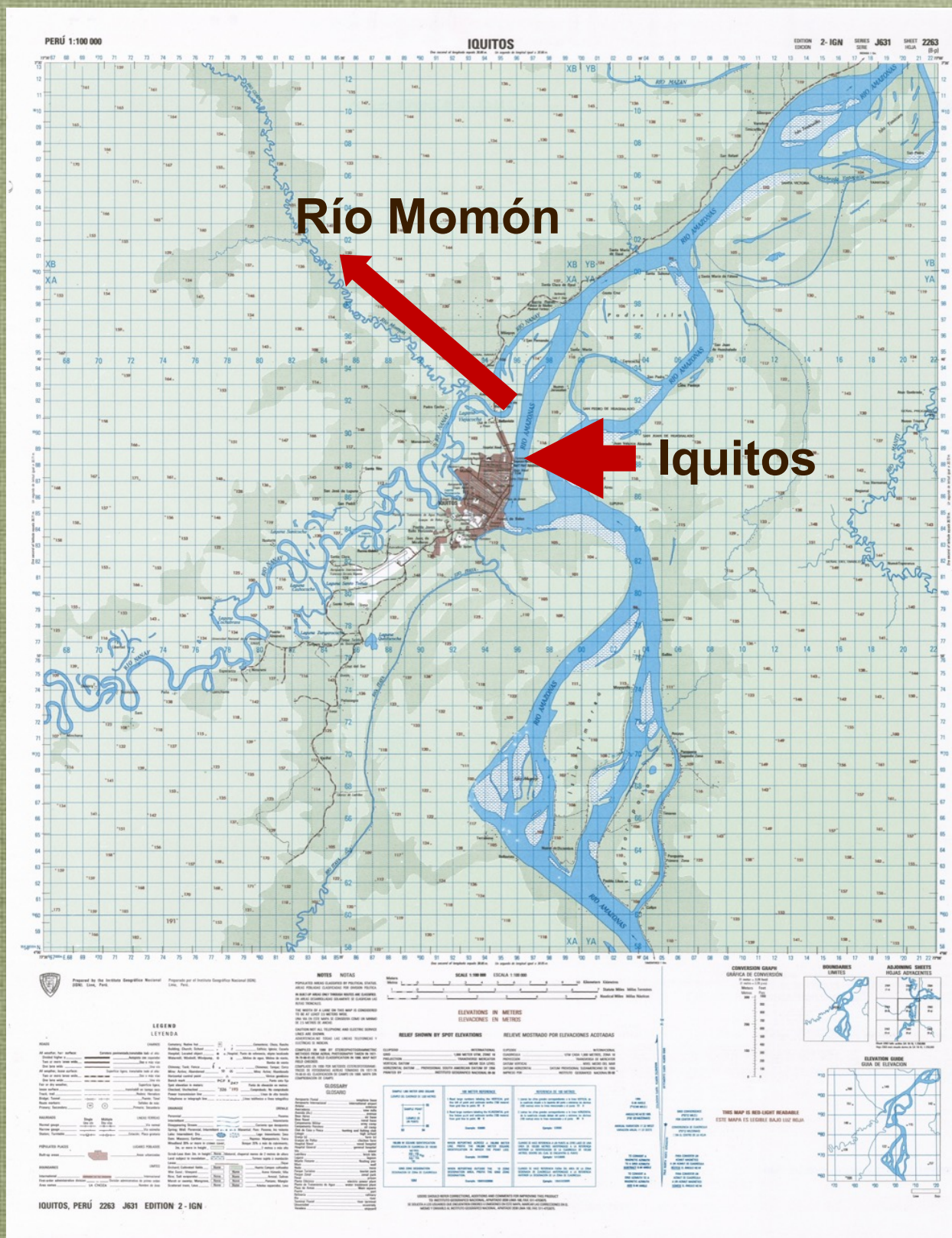




# Rio Momón



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From Iquitos, we go by boat to the Río Momón, which is a tributary of the Río Nanáy. The Río Nanáy is a tributary of the Río Amazonas (the Amazon River).



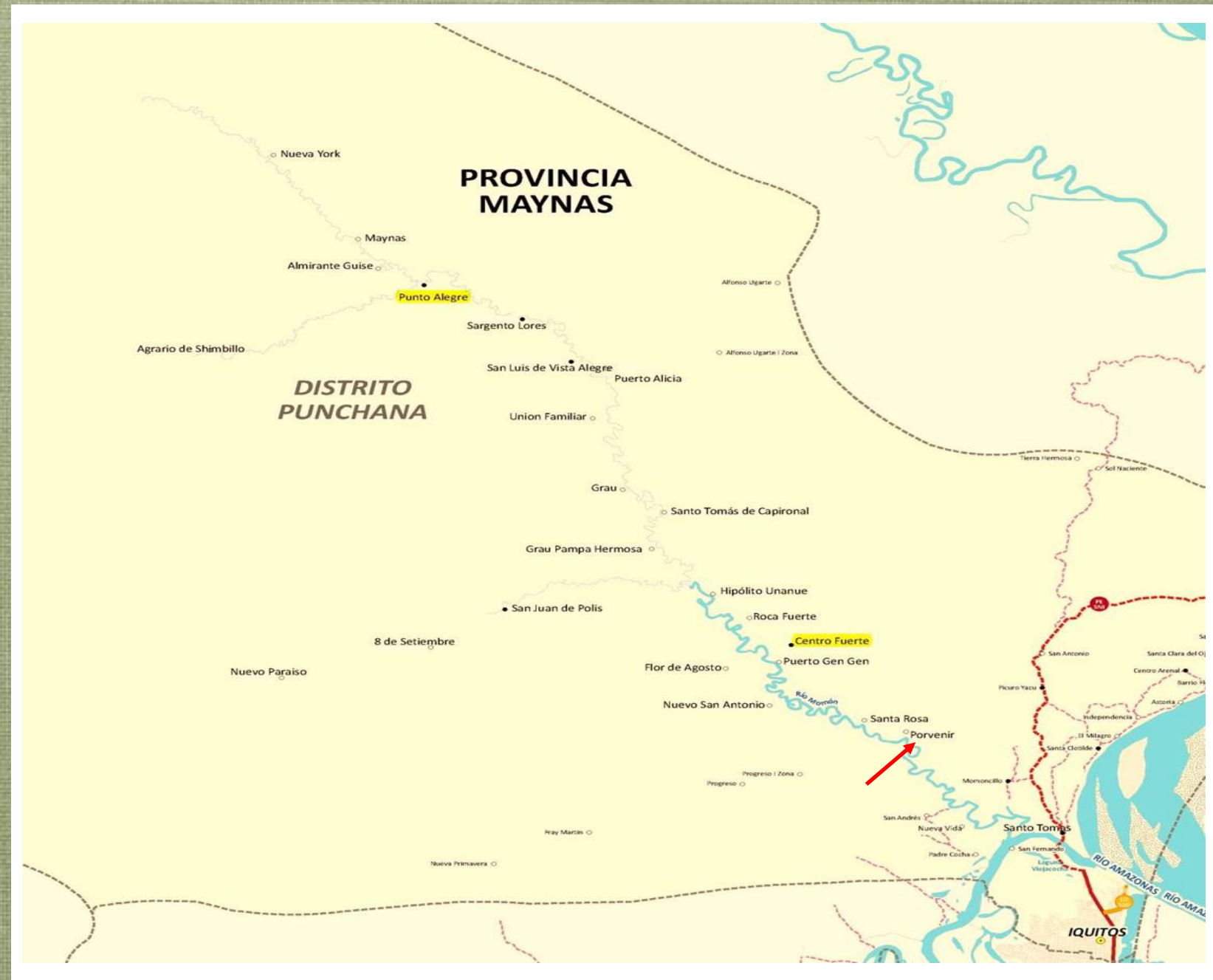
# Our location



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(SIA)**

**Our work locations on the Río Momón have been in the villages of Centro Fuerte & Punto Alegre (highlighted).**

**In 2023, we will be working in the village of Porvenir (red arrow).**





# Getting there

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(SIA)*



**From Iquitos, it takes 45 minutes using a wooden boat with a 15 horsepower motor to reach Centro Fuerte and 6 hours to reach Punto Alegre, if the water is high enough for the boat to pass over the bottom of the river.**



# Getting there...

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**Or a whole lot longer if you are using local transportation!**



# The reasons we are there

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# Just the facts:

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The Peruvian Government has declared the Río Momón an area of extreme poverty



Extreme poverty refers to income so low that it could not provide adequate nutrition even if every cent was spent entirely on food.



# Just the facts:

---



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Most villagers must travel 4-8 hours by wooden boat to reach the closest doctor and emergency medical facilities.



People rely on river water for drinking, cooking, and bathing. The water, which is polluted by garbage & human waste, contains harmful bacteria and parasites.



# Just the facts:



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## Sanitation is inadequate





# Just the facts:

---



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**People bathe and brush their teeth in the river.**

PAMS is a U.S. nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization.



# Young children help with laborious chores.



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(SIA)**

Girls ages 8 and 10 carrying water



Carrying wet laundry



Selling  
his  
brother's  
artwork



Age 5, using machete to help prepare a meal





# And paddle their own boats

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Luz Clarita, age 6, on her way to school



# Senior citizens keep working!

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*(SIA)*



Mr. Davila, who passed away recently at age 93, was 85 years old when this photo was taken several years ago. He went to work every day in his fields, caring for his crops, his fish farm, his livestock, and his chickens.

In this photo, he had just come from picking food (yuca root) for his dinner. He carried it in a basket he made himself.



# Just the facts:

---



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(SIA)**



Many people suffer from anemia, dengue fever, malaria, intestinal parasites, malnutrition, vitamin deficiencies, and severe tooth decay.



# Just the facts:



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Also prevalent are:

- Snake bites
- A variety of bacterial and viral infections
- Insect bites





# Just the facts:

---



**Selva in Action  
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... and other untreated illnesses and injuries...





# Just the facts:



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## ...and skin problems.





# We were there for:

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...**Pedro**, who needed a pacemaker . Without surgery, his death was imminent. After surgery, he was able to continue working in his fields for an additional 8 years prior to his death.



# We were able to help **Jhefferson**



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...whose family lives over 30 miles from the nearest hospital. Jhefferson was unable to nurse and needed to be fed powdered formula with an eyedropper to survive. He could only eat soft food. He had cleft lip surgery in September 2013 and cleft palate surgery in March 2017. He still requires additional surgery and therapy to correct his speech.





# We are there for:



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14-year old Glian (age 8 at time of this photo), who is blind in one eye and requires surgery to remove his eye and implant a prosthesis.



And we are there for his sister, Marjory:



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Before ↓ and After →



who was severely burned and required plastic surgery



...and for their baby brother -

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**Selva in Action  
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Who was bitten  
by an insect  
and had a  
nipple full of  
pus.



# We were able to help:



*Selva in Action  
(SIA)*

...**Baby Cris**, now a healthy 7-year old, who was being fed only banana water, and had to spend 3 weeks in the hospital due to severe malnutrition & anemia.



Cris (L) at 2 months old.



Cris after  
receiving  
medical  
treatment



**Cris**

**July  
2021**



# We were there for Jose...but not soon enough



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Because he  
was  
ambulatory,  
the hospital  
system did  
not  
consider  
his  
condition to  
be an  
emergency.



We are there for:



**All the adults and children who need dental work!**

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(SIA)*

*(which is pretty much everyone)*

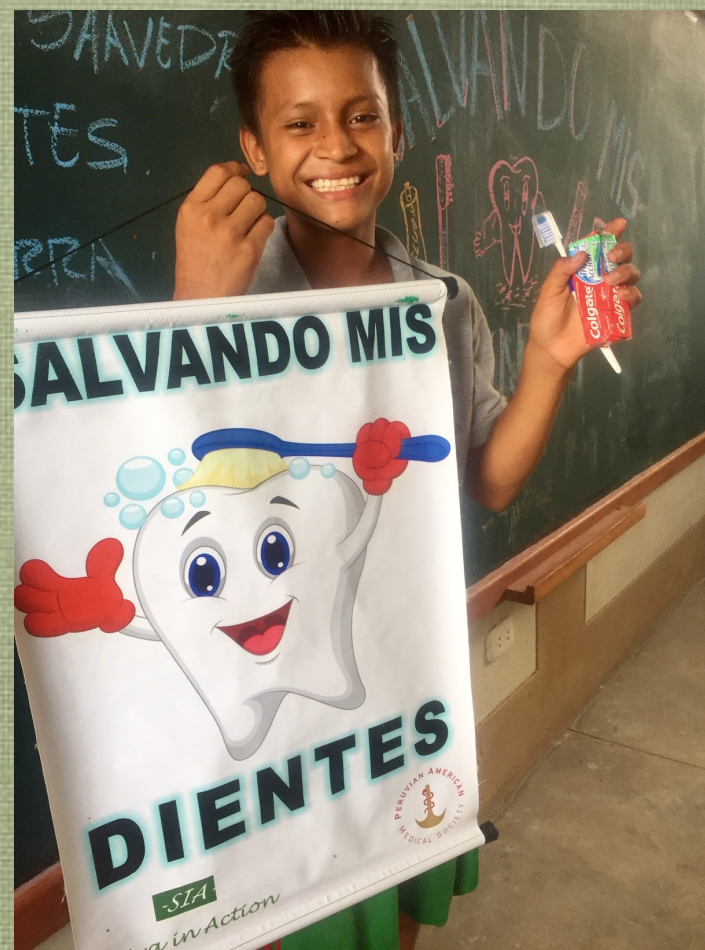




# SERIOUS DENTAL ISSUES ARE ABUNDANT



**Selva in Action  
(SIA)**



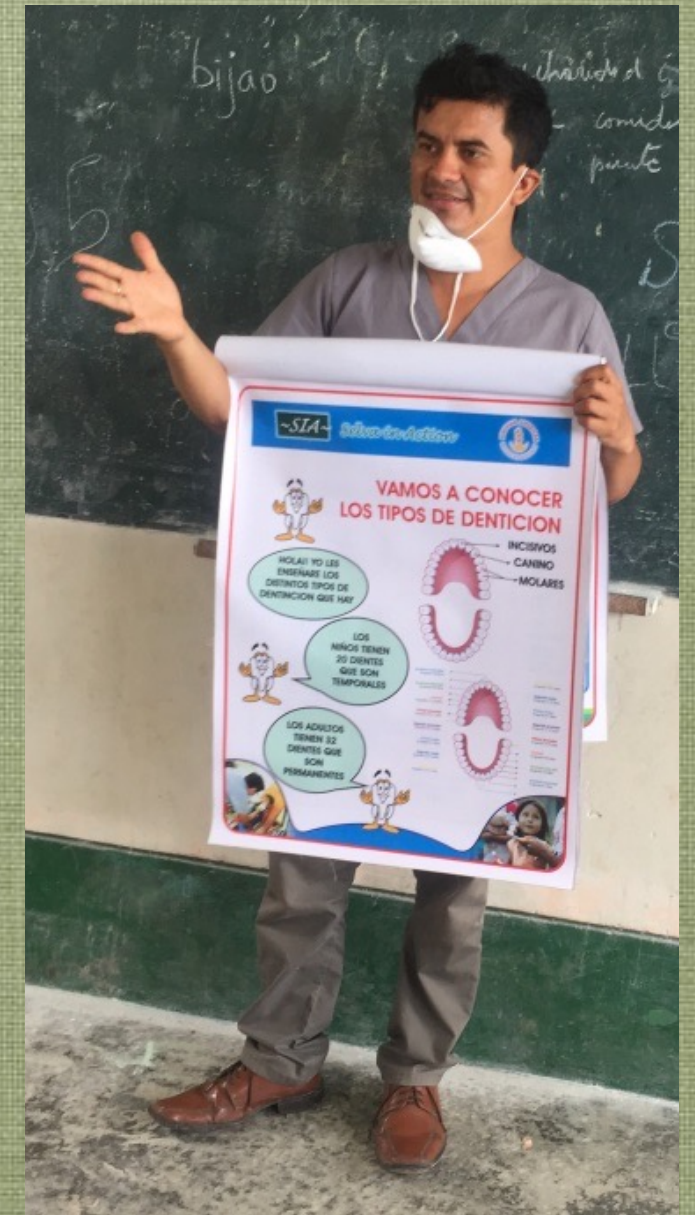
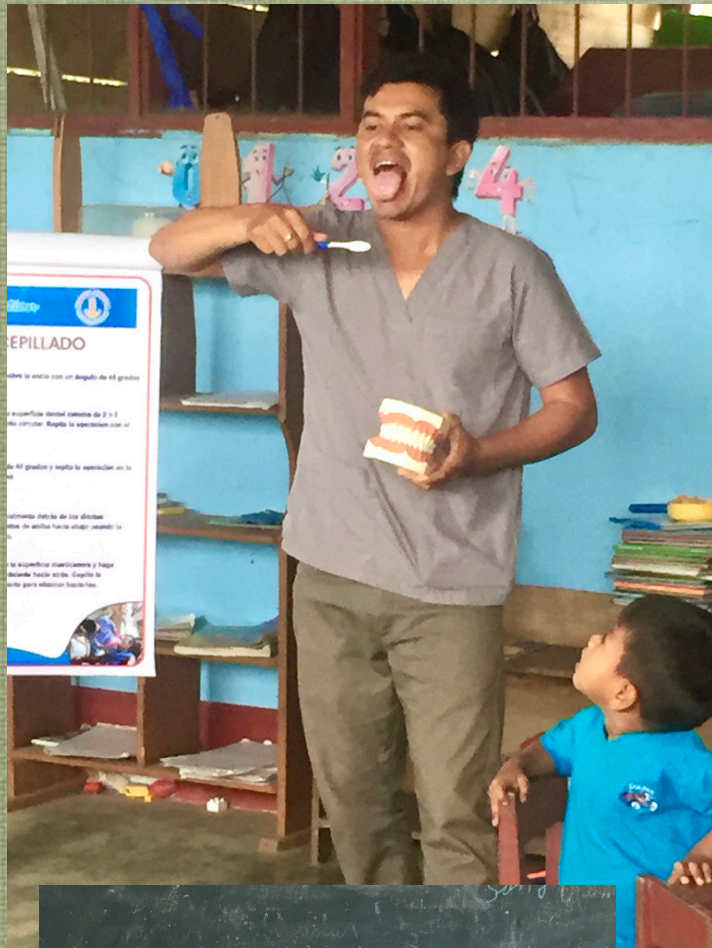
PAMS is a U.S. nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization.



# Proper oral health education is a necessity.



**Selva in Action  
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PAMS is a U.S. nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization.



# We have been there since 2008,



***Selva in Action***



**Working for the benefit of all!**



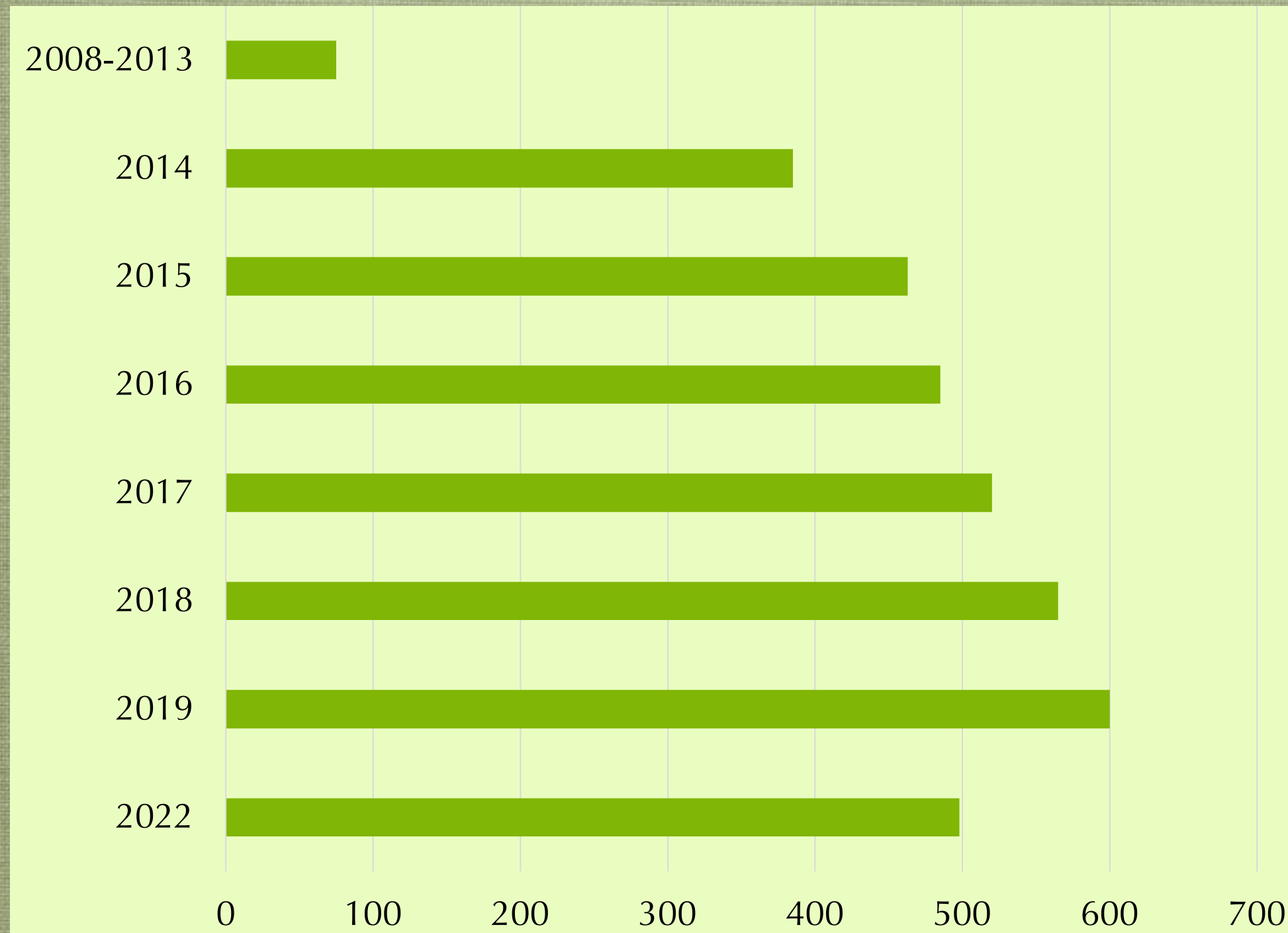
PAMS is a U.S. nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization.



# Number of Patients per Year



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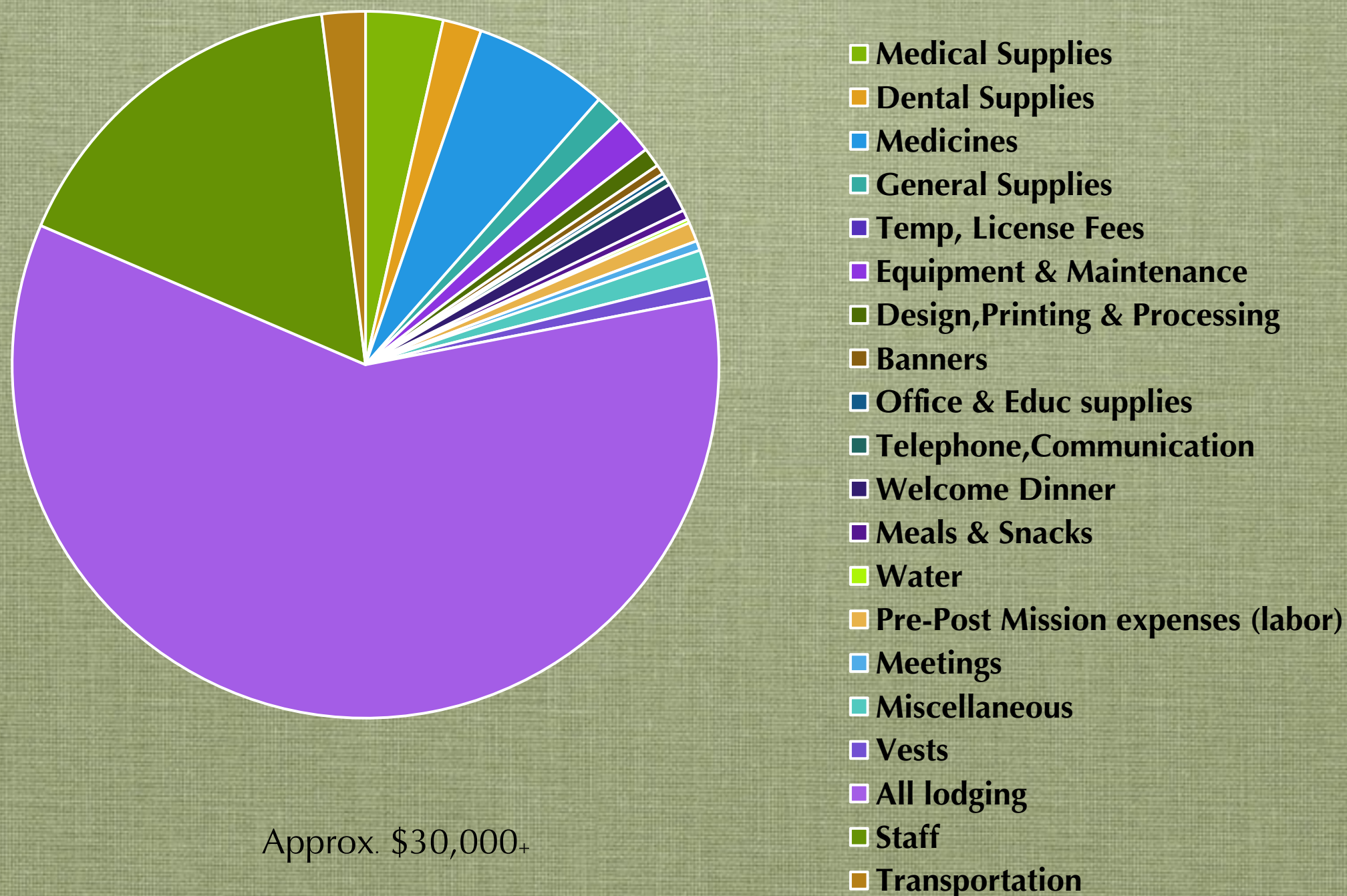
2020-2021 gap due to COVID



# SIA's 2023 Budget (fluctuates yearly)



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# What SIA needs for future missions

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- **VOLUNTEERS**
- **FINANCIAL DONATIONS**
  - **to subsidize the expenses for medical students and young doctors and nurses to attend the mission**
  - **to purchase toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, and fluoride for the dental patients**
- **...and more!**



There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life beautiful for others ...

Thank you for  
all your support





# In Memoria

Selva in Action honors the memories of friends who, unfortunately, did not have access to adequate medical care.



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# SELVA IN ACTION

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,  
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