

# SOMOS CHOAPA

Somos Choapa is an initiative, promoted by Los Pelambres together with the municipalities of Salamanca, Illapel, Canela and Los Vilos, which seeks to contribute to the sustainable development of the region and the wellbeing of its inhabitants. Community participation is vital throughout the process (vision construction, problem identification, project prioritisation, definition of initiative portfolio and implementation). It is based on an institutional alliance and commits to collectively working on initiatives which are financed with public and private investment. Among 2018 highlights are:



## La Gran Mateada

Initiative promoted by Somos Salamanca and implemented by Ciudad Emergente Foundation, with the participation of nearly 800 residents, who carried out 34 "mateadas" in 26 urban and rural neighbourhoods in Salamanca municipal district to get together with their neighbours and restore an old local tradition: meeting to talk about mate, a local hot drink.

After the activity, participants acknowledged that getting to know each other, sharing and respecting one another are vital to strengthening neighbourhood ties and that similar activities should be repeated more often.



## APRoxima

APRoxima seeks to contribute to the development of rural drinking water systems and wastewater solutions in Salamanca, Illapel and Canela municipal districts.

The water programme provides Rural Drinking Water Committees with training and specialist technical support in designing sanitation projects. In addition, it contributes to financing minor works to ensure the operation of these projects.

Our partners in this initiative are the Ministry of Public Works' Water Works Directorate, the district rural drinking water network, municipalities of Salamanca, Illapel and Canela, monitoring committees for the Choapa, Chalinga and Illapel rivers and Minera Los Pelambres Foundation.



### Treasures of Choapa

The project seeks to place value on and highlight elements that reflect the identity of Choapa Province.

The entire community was invited to put forward proposals of the province's "treasures": examples of cultural, natural or social heritage that underpin the construction of the Choapa identity in order to make documentaries and graphic pieces about things which make the community proud.

[www.tesorosdelchoapa.cl](http://www.tesorosdelchoapa.cl)



### Design project for Constitución street in Illapel

The design project for Constitución street in Illapel began in 2016 and involved rehabilitating the town's high street including new paving, widening pavements, installing underground streetlight cables and planting trees. The last section of the street was inaugurated in a public ceremony bringing together about 2,000 people.



### Confluye – pilot programme to measure impact

The Confluye programme supports the design and execution of external and internal irrigation works for agricultural properties, which complements State co-financing through Law 18,450. Minera Los Pelambres Foundation has run the programme since 2008 with the Choapa River Monitoring Committee. In 2015, the Chalinga and Illapel River Monitoring Committees joined the initiative.

It tackles three main issues: the importance of agricultural activity in Choapa Province and its large number of associated water rights; the province's condition of cyclical drought and climate change; and the need for water use efficiency.

It aims to contribute to improving water availability and its efficient use for agricultural production, thus contributing to enhancing the quality of life and sustainable development in Choapa Province.

In 2018 we conducted our first impact measurement using the Confluye programme as a pilot project. The purpose was to evaluate the programme's real scope in terms of its social impact - beyond the number of beneficiaries, works built or money invested – and find out whether it positively affects farmers' profitability, income, costs, life quality and/or trust in the company.

The analysis showed external irrigation projects for agricultural properties have the biggest impact due to the higher number of farmers or families that benefit. There is also a greater increase in these types of projects (12.8 projects) owing to the Confluye programme.

The main impact is reduced costs, especially labour, incurred by farmers on irrigation. Other impacts such as increased income, increased profitability of land and time savings vary in intensity depending on the type of project.