

## THE DESEA PERU APPROACH

- Construction and installation of lightweight PVC biosand water filters in homes and schools, with hygiene and sanitation education;
- Bi-weekly health clinics in each community;
- Training and support of Quechua-speaking women as community health workers (qhalis).

*This integrated, community-based approach is significantly improving health outcomes.*

## CHALLENGES

- Peru has the second highest mortality rates for maternal, neonatal and under-five children in South America, due to high incidence of diarrheal disease, upper respiratory illness, and chronic malnutrition.
- Health conditions are particularly poor in remote Andean communities, where many indigenous families live in extreme poverty (<US\$1/day).
- In Andean communities, low literacy and deep-rooted practices necessitate sustained family education to improve health outcomes.



Mat Dayka photo

To make tax-deductible donations in Canada and the U.S, please visit:



[www.deseaperu.org](http://www.deseaperu.org)

Also please go to Facebook: DESEA-Peru for regular updates.

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## SUPPORTING DESEA PERU

Both general and targeted contributions (such as the following) can be made via our website.

- **\$65/month** supports an annual qhali salary.
- **\$35/month** provides first-aid supplies and basic medicines to a community.
- **\$90** purchases a permanent biosand water filter for a family with education & support.
- **\$50** establishes a medical dispensary for a community.
- **\$25** Provides parasite medication for 20 children under-five.

**DESEA Peru** is a non-profit organization working in high-elevation indigenous communities in the Sacred Valley of the Peruvian Andes.

### DESEA's comprehensive program

includes household water treatment, hygiene & sanitation education, healthcare provision, and community health worker training .



# THE QHALI PROGRAM

- DESEA Peru has created a unique program to train illiterate, unilingual women as community health workers, called 'qhalis' from the Quechua word for 'healthy'.
- Training focuses on child and maternal health, diarrheal disease, pneumonia, emergency care, elderly care, hygiene and sanitation and biosand water filters, all delivered in Quechua.
- As women and mothers, the qhalis are strongly motivated to improve the health of their families and communities - and they are doing just that!
- Since the initiation of the DESEA qhali program there have been NO maternal or under-5 child deaths from preventable illnesses.
- These women have become the most effective agents of improved health in their communities, they have become empowered as leaders, and they are saving lives through their treatment capabilities in these remote and under-served communities.



*Qhali Tubursia works with an elderly patient to ensure proper vitamin and medication use.*



*Qhali Lucia manages a small medical dispensary for patients in her community.*



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*Qhali Juana teaches a woman about the importance of clean water and filter use.*



*A family with their new filter!*

## BIOSAND WATER FILTERS

- DESEA has designed a sturdy, easily-transported, PVC biosand filter modeled after the concrete version of Calgary-based Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology.
- Each family participates through carrying and preparing the materials for filter installation, and by participating in hygiene and filter training.
- Biosand water filters offer a permanent, secure water source for families removing 100% of parasites and 95-99% of bacteria.
- Qhalis support families through filter monitoring, hygiene and sanitation education, and teaching families about filter maintenance.

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# COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM

- Bi-weekly health clinics delivered by licensed nurses are focused on health promotion and illness prevention; all patients who receive medical treatment are monitored in their communities by the qhalis.
- Families receive educational support, sensitive to their literacy and comprehension needs, and relating to their specific health issues. This approach helps to empower individual families and the community at large.
  - In 2012 more than 3000 home visits were made by nursing staff and qhalis.



*Handwashing lessons.*

## 2013 PROJECT GOALS

- Complete and publish DESEA's manuals for training illiterate community health workers and the DESEA PVC biosand filter construction manual.
- Extend the program to an additional three high-elevation indigenous communities.
- Install 150 PVC biosand water filters.
- Train 8 additional women as qhalis and continue the training of 8 existing qhalis.
- Operate bi-weekly medical clinics all 9 project communities.
- Establish first aid treatment centres/dispensaries in each community.
- Work with local government toward project sustainability and health model promotion.

*Nurse Vilma dispenses multivitamins to preschoolers during a school visit.*



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