



### Biosand Water Filters

Technical nurse Mary Luz Palomino Zamalloa has started work as our Water Filter Educator, working with Sandy two days/week installing filters in Huarqui communities, and delivering water filter, sanitation and hygiene training courses. To date 50 filters have been installed and monthly visits carried out by the qhalis have demonstrated excellent filter maintenance and satisfaction with the improved water quality. In the upcoming months the qhalis will be focusing on hygiene and sanitation teaching with each household.

In response to interest in our filter design by NGOs in the region, Sandy is examining ways to scale up production as one means to help to sustain DESEA's community water filter projects and qhali program.



Water, health and education for Andean families.



Qhali Toribia showing 'germs' to students.



Nurse Vilma and qhali Cirila visiting homes.



Qhali Jerónima checking filters

### Community Health Worker Training

DESEA's community health workers – 'qhalis', from the Quechua word meaning healthy - have received training in a number of key areas since the start of the year. Workshops in nutrition, diarrhea and dehydration, hand washing, first aid, reproductive and pre-natal health, and biosand filter maintenance have given the qhalis many skills they'll need for their community health responsibilities. The qhalis have been assisting nurse Vilma Florez with hand washing teaching in the schools throughout the project areas. They are fast becoming the essential eyes and ears in their communities, identifying ill patients and families which require additional support, and helping to maintain water filters.





Mary Luz teaches the importance of clean water, hygiene and sanitation to new filter recipients.

## Joining the DESEA Team

Mary Luz has expanded her work with DESEA to serve as both a filter educator and as a technical nurse, providing care, health promotion and illness prevention to families with whom she visits. Fluent in Quechua, and with years of experience in indigenous communities, she is playing a central role in DESEA's water treatment and community health components.

Julio Cesar Illa Huamán has recently joined us to assist part-time in the filter workshop. Julio, a young indigenous man in his final high school year, may move into full-time filter work when his schooling is completed.



Julio prepares wooden filter lids used to protect the diffuser plate and to keep the biolayer clean.



Marina back at work in the DESEA office.

DESEA is delighted to welcome back in an intern position, Marina Sophia Flevotomas, a Greek citizen. Marina completed her Masters of Humanitarian Action at the Ruhr University in Bochum, Germany in late 2010 after spending that summer as a volunteer with DESEA. During this time Marina produced the culturally-relevant illustrations to accompany detailed modules which Sandra is developing for training of illiterate community health workers. Now back with DESEA, Marina will help with additional art projects, editing and publishing of the community health worker training modules, communications tasks, and aspects of qhali training related to her field of expertise.

## THE DESEA QHALIS

From left to right:

- Tibursia Espinoza Huilua – Totora qhali
- Lucia Condori Chura – Chaipa qhali
- Sabina Mamani Hullpa – Totora qhali
- Vilma Florez Huayllapuma – Community Nurse
- Cirila Huaman Puma – Chaupimayo qhali
- Toribia Puella Puma – Sasicancha qhali
- Juana Puella Puma – Chaupimayo qhali
- Sandra McGirr – Community Health Director
- Jerónima Siccus Ccoya – Kellococha qhali
- Benita Gutierrez Mamani – Kellococha qhali



After an intensive two-day training course in reproductive and prenatal health, qhalis now have the tools (colouring books and educational materials) and skills to address family planning and prenatal health during their house-to-house visits.

A special thanks to Peruvian/American amiga Mariela Rodriguez for her incredible work and dedication in translating the training manuals.