

DESEA Peru - October 2011 News and Activities

Lamay, Cusco, Peru
www.deseaperu.org; info@deseaperu.org



The community of Kellococha has selected their two new 'qhalis' to begin training as community health care workers. DESEA is pleased to welcome in their new roles, Benita Gutierrez Mamani and Geronima Siccus Ccoyo, both mothers of seven children. The communities of Sasicancha and Chaupimayo will be selecting their qhalis in the upcoming weeks, and intensive training will begin in November.

Kellococha community voting for qhalis.

*Benita
Gutierrez
Mamani*



*Geronima
Siccus
Ccoyo*

DESEA has started a family planning program that involves education, support, and provision of birth control in patient homes. The medications are being provided by the Ministry of Health.



Nurse Vilma Florez distributing children's vitamins.

Thanks to a recent donation of children's vitamins from *Vitamin Angels* (USA) - and the kind assistance of Drs. Mitch and Karoline Brock of Portland, Oregon, who coordinated, ferried, and paid for shipping to Peru - DESEA has received its first allotment of vitamins. The communities in which DESEA works have some of the worst child nutrition in the country and these vitamins, in combination with improved water and health care services, are expected to make a significantly improve child nutrition and health. Vitamins are being distributed to all children 1-6 years of age, and to any children older than 6 years who are considered to be at extreme risk. As well, DESEA is continuing to distribute vitamins to

maternal and lactating mothers throughout their project areas, and is working in conjunction with the Municipality of Lamay and the Ministry of Health to ensure that all pregnant and lactating women in Lamay District also receive these vitamins.

DESEA installed PVC biosand water filters in both the Wawa Wasi (pre-school) centre of Chaupimayo (which provides nutritious foods and childcare to 44 children), and the school at Kellococha (with a total of 75 children). Follow up visits have shown excellent compliance and satisfaction with the treated water.



New water filter in Wawa Wasi - Chaupimayo.



DESEA welcomed Dr. Karoline Brock, with a specialty in paediatrics, for two days of home visits in Huarqui and Accha Alta. She arrived at an opportune time as there had been a recent surge of viral infections. In one school more than 60% of the children were ill (although still attending). During future outbreaks, DESEA qhalis will be disinfecting desks and surfaces in conjunction with handwashing instruction.

Nurse Vilma Florez giving Tylenol drops to a 3-month old.

Upcoming Events:

DESEA will be hosting the Mary A. Tidlund Charitable Foundation and a team of medical professionals for a two-week campaign.

Pat Teti, a colleague of Sandy's from BC, will be volunteering for a month, installing water filters in Kellococha and Chaupimayo.

Volunteer Brian Hettler, together with his U.S. *Engineers Without Borders* associates, will be providing support for sampling and analysis of water quality in Huarqui.

