

DESEA PERU NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

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Mom and baby home from the hospital, safe and sound.



A prenatal check during a home visit.

- 1) Vilma and Sandra have been making house-to-house nursing visits in the new project communities. This process is important when starting in a new community, to discuss the project with each family and to evaluate their health and water treatment requirements. At the same time we explain the community health worker (qhali) program and identify potential candidates for the positions – we're finding numerous excellent in each community. Since August and September are very busy months of cultivating and planting in the Andes, it has been difficult to meet with every family. We now expect the final qhali selection process to not take place until October.
- 2) We have been working closely with the Ministry of Health to ensure that high risk pregnancy patients are being supported in the communities. We have been able to encourage two high risk women to deliver in hospital – an uncommon practice in many remote communities. After some hours of listening and teaching Vilma and Sandra were able to persuade a reluctant mother with placenta previa – an extremely high-risk condition for a home delivery - to deliver her 7th child in the hospital. We're happy to report that the delivery went well, and both mother and child are safely back in the community.
- 3) DESEA is distributing the maternal/lactating multivitamins donated by Vitamin Angels, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health. Lactating mothers already feel that their milk production has increased, and pregnant women are reporting improved energy. At present more than 100 women are receiving the supplements in Lamay District.
- 4) This month Sandy will complete the water resources survey of household water sources in each community. PVC biosand filters have been installed in two new community schools to demonstrate filter use and hygiene practices. Sandy is making final adjustments to the design and will start a full installation schedule in October.
- 5) Handwashing programs have been started in each community school. The kids and teachers have especially enjoyed using our GloGerm magic light to "see" germs on their hands.
- 6) DESEA's new administrator, Sandra Izquierdo, has been a great addition to the DESEA team. In her first week Sandra has tackled DESEA's registration as a Peruvian non-profit, development NGO, a requirement if we are to issue tax-deductible receipts for donations in Peru.
- 7) As always, we're trying to keep up with fundraising, especially with our expansion to new communities and engagement of new staff. Any ideas for government, foundation, or private sources are appreciated (contact: info@deseaperu.org).



Preparing a hot lunch with filtered drinking water.



Handwashing lesson in kindergarten.