



Amazon Promise Summer 2015 Update

Dear Friends of Amazon Promise,

This week we are in the jungle with the summer Amazon Promise (AP) medical team, but I want to share some exciting news with you.

Our partner organization, Toilets for People, is joining the AP medical team in the field this week to begin installing composting toilets in each home in the village of Nuevo Jerusalen on the upper Tahuayo River. Jerusalen, as you may know, already has a successful rainwater catchment system, and now sixteen families, (plus one-room schoolhouse), will soon have their own private, clean, indoor toilet with a handwashing station.

The combination of safe drinking water and hygienic sanitation facilities is a precondition for success in the fight against poverty and hunger (WHO). Each year, 1.6 million people die from diarrheal diseases (including cholera) attributed to lack of access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Amazon Promise, along with its partner organizations, are continuing to look for ways to reduce poverty and improve health in the Peruvian Amazon!



Current bathroom in Jerusalen Future bathroom in Jerusalen

Each family has signed on to build an enclosed elevated platform that will be connected to their home, and pay a small fee of s/50 (USD \$16) as part of this joint investment towards their family's health and well-being. It works the same in the jungle and for the houses near our Belen Clinic where Toilets for People and AP have already successfully installed several toilets. Together, we're making real progress, village by village.

We're also making progress with plans to install five additional rainwater catchment systems in the villages of Puerto Miguel and Nuevo Loreto on the Yarapa River, San Jose and Libertad on the lower Ucayali River, and Payorote located on the lower Marañon River. Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Sonoma County will continue this incredible work with AP on the Nuevo Loreto, Libertad and San Jose systems, and we are happy to bring on another EWB partner team, from the Central Houston Professional Chapter, to install a system in the village of Payorote. Puerto Miguel will have a rainwater system before the end of this year, thanks to the joint efforts of AP and Vance Cook, owner of The Tree House Lodge on the Yarapa River.



There are many smaller communities, just like Jerusalem, that have requested both rainwater catchment and toilet systems. If you've ever had to live even a day or two without safe drinking water or access to a clean toilet, you know how difficult life becomes. Imagine living your entire life without them! We ask you to join us and make a donation to our clean water and basic sanitation program at <http://amazonpromise.org/index.php/donate>.

As mentioned in our March update, cervical cancer is the second leading cause of death in Peru. Women have little to no access to screening and treatment, and are dying from a disease that is curable if detected in time. Amazon Promise aims to change this horrifying statistic by its direct action Screen and Treat campaign. The first round of screening and treatment in February for cervical pre-cancer was a success. Thirteen women, out of 52 screened in impoverished neighborhoods on the outskirts of Iquitos, tested positive for pre-cancerous cells and have now been treated. The next round of Screen and Treat starts August 5th. A year of planning, fundraising, and educating women and their families of the importance of screening has been lifesaving for many women already. Children need and deserve to have a healthy mother and the Screen and Treat program is just one of the ways we can make sure that happens. We are grateful to all of you who have supported this campaign to date - thank you!



Amazon Promise would also like to thank its partners, Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Sonoma County, EWB Central Houston, Toilets for People, Centura Health, Community Health Council, and Selva En Accion for their dedicated and hard work to bring health and stability to the people of the Peruvian Amazon. Together, we make the difference!



Community Health volunteer, Ryan Emery, with leaders from the village of San Francisco after repairing their water pump.

I look forward to keeping you posted on our work in the months to come.

Please consider making a gift and invest in a healthier Peru! You can give through our website at <http://amazonpromise.org/index.php/donate> or send a contribution to P.O. Box 1304, Newburyport, MA 01950. Thank you!

Best regards,



Patty Webster

Founder and President, Amazon Promise

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