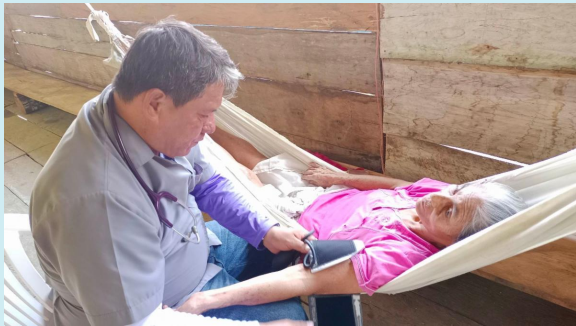




Hello Friends of Amazon Promise!



As we move forward into our 30th year providing essential medical care, health education, clean water, and family planning services to remote jungle communities, we are also called to provide urgent aid and assistance to vulnerable populations and underserved neighborhoods located on the outskirts of Iquitos.

People are still trying to bounce back from the medical inattention during the pandemic, and we are seeing people who have waited too long to get care for serious illness and injury. As always, your support is essential. We cannot do this work without you!

How we're helping right now

The rainy season has begun, causing high water and flooding of urban neighborhoods. The conditions create the perfect breeding ground for mosquito and rodent-borne diseases, such as dengue fever and leptospirosis. Having either of these illnesses would be terrible, yet some are diagnosed with both and other maladies at the same time.

As I write this, we are providing aid to a 62-year-old woman from the town of Nauta. She was brought into Iquitos with dengue fever, leptospirosis and anemia and has now been diagnosed with a hospital-acquired infection, and a liver abscess. She is

unconscious and receiving a blood transfusion. Many of the medicines, laboratory tests and supplies prescribed for her are not included in her hospital care. This is where Amazon Promise steps in to make the difference for her survival as well as many others in need right now.

The situation in Iquitos

According to Nolberto Tangoa, Director of the MINSA Peru laboratory of San Juan, and Director of clinical laboratory analysis for Amazon Promise, over 3000 people have been hospitalized with dengue fever this year. With the deaths of three people from dengue in Iquitos, the local Ministry of Health has initiated a house-to-house fumigation campaign. Hospitals and health centers remain on alert 24 hours a day. There is also an increase in leptospirosis, chikungunya and malaria.

Your support allows us to make incredible and meaningful differences to people in need every day. Thank you for your partnership!

With love and gratitude,
Patty

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R`^S`ã Áæ|`ÉÆ æ[] Á|[{ `ã^qÁÉ È|` }d`É] ^&æÁ|{ b&øÁ æ æ ^!Éæ Á•óÁ finished working with our partners at Engineers Without Borders (EWB) (Sonoma County) to implement another potable rainwater harvesting system in the village of Amazonas. This is our 13th year working with Engineers Without Borders, and the 17th community potable water system we've built together.

In addition, the potable water system of San Jose, located on the lower Ucayali River, was recently dismantled and relocated deeper into the jungle, to a place where the community was forced to move because of quickly occurring erosion of the shoreline. The erosion has carried away huge tracts of land, putting homes at risk. Jose worked with community members to ensure their water system remains safe and secure in its new location, with several improvements and updates made.

In July, we will be working with EWB Detroit to build a second potable rainwater system in the community of Libertad, located on the lower Ucayali River. Libertad is a growing community in need of an additional clean and safe water supply.

In August, we will work with EWB Central Houston, in the village of Puerto Prado, to research future construction of a bridge between the community and the village of Santa Cruz. EWB Central Houston will also continue work on a pilot project to install anaerobic toilet systems in the community of Payorote.



Volunteer with Amazon Promise!

Join our team for ONE WEEK this July

We are now accepting volunteer applications for our one-week, July 22 – 29, 2023 medical outreach team.

Amazon Promise will provide primary health care, dental care, laboratory testing services and health education at our Belen Clinic location, and in other underserved urban neighborhoods in Iquitos.

The one-week trip cost is \$750 and includes hotel accommodations & transportation in Iquitos, breakfast at hotel, lunch on clinic days, and clinic supplies.

Open to all medical professionals and student applicants (medical/dental/nursing/nurse practitioner/physician associate).

Volunteer!

Soy Capaz Report

By Elena Deem, PhD

In spring 2022, we launched a pilot educational project in Peru about medicinal plants, their use and significance in the river communities. The goal was to continue the momentum of previous Amazon Promise activities.

In many past Amazon Promise clinics, we have brought a shaman and an ethnobotanist to work together and reintroduce lost knowledge of the local natural resources the villagers have at their disposal.

In the chronic absence of state-sponsored medical care, the Amazon jungle is still a great source of treatment possibilities for some less serious yet prevalent illnesses in the area.

We have also conducted workshops on caring for the environment through our Soy Capaz program, with a focus on reducing plastics and appreciating natural alternatives. I combined these two activities into the new pilot program, which we developed with a team of two young women. One is Raysa, a daughter of the deceased Don Humberto, from whom she inherited her medicinal plant knowledge; the other woman is Erica, who has been involved in plastic treatment and recycling education in the town of Nauta.

It was exciting to see the young women take this opportunity to gain skills and self-confidence. We trained together online for nearly two months, as going to Peru was near impossible given the still high Covid numbers at the time. In May, the team, with a cook and a boat driver, visited 10 villages on the rivers Ucayali and Marañon. Soy Capaz sponsored the entire week-long expedition. We received invaluable feedback from the villages and the team, which I am still organizing so we can continue this program in future.

In July, I was contacted by Pam, one of the nurses from the United States who was going on the Amazon Promise expedition to the Ucayali/Marañon locations in August. We considered the areas of education that were most needed, including communicable disease prevention, gender-based focus on the wellbeing of women, and basic first aid.

While I prepared several potential scenarios and sent Pam various syllabi, we discussed the socio-cultural conditions of the local populations to situate Pam within the context of her upcoming educational activities in Peru. Pam ended up working in what surged as the most acute area of local need – gender-based family planning and the prevention of sexually transmitted infections. Pam gave talks and provided one-on-one counseling, helping women in the remote areas of the jungle who would otherwise have no access to this kind of care and attention.

The past few travel-restricted years have shown that in my absence, coordinating over the internet is an invaluable way to keep Soy Capaz's work alive. In view of the current political situation, it is my goal to hire a Soy Capaz coordinator on the ground in Peru soon, so she can liaise with institutions, such as CEM (Center of Emergency for Women) in the towns of Iquitos and Nauta and build education teams that can quickly respond to local need.



Family Planning Update!

Our family planning program continues to grow and attract more women living in remote jungle communities who want to take charge of their personal and reproductive health. There are currently 101 women participating in our program.

We work closely with the GERESA Loreto (ministry of health in Iquitos) and have a long-standing partnership to provide professional, safe, and thorough health services, and our family planning team of GERESA medical professionals and Amazon Promise staff travels to communities every three months.

In late March, our team traveled by boat and on foot to reach women and their families living in seven remote communities of the lower Ucayali River to provide follow-up care and register more participants. We also provided urgent and basic medical care to the general population.

Thank you, Obstetras (nurse-midwives), Milagros Stephanie Saldaña Marín and Milagros Fiorella Lozano Achang, for being part of our recent medical team providing follow-up care and women's health education to participants of our family planning program.

We also thank Dr. Claudio Leveau, for attending to the general population's medical needs in each village we visited. Of the 214 patients attended by Dr. Leveau two were taken to Nauta and Iquitos for appendicitis and pneumonia.

Amazon Promise team members, Adriana Calizaya, Segundo Coloma, Ricky Coloma, and Nancy Bardales organized the logistics to ensure a safe and successful trip.



New Cervical Cancer Research

By Dr. Eva Clark

Associate Medical Director, Amazon Promise

I am an Assistant Professor of Pediatric Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) and a physician-scientist trained in immunoparasitology.

Cervical cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for women in tropical low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The disease is caused by persistent infection with the human papilloma virus (HPV). This cancer is largely preventable. Even so, women living in Peru remain at high risk due to resource limitations that hamper adequate implementation of sustainable, low-cost cervical cancer screening and HPV vaccination programs.

Cervical cancer rates are particularly high for women living in LMICs who have helminth infection (intestinal parasites). Preliminary data show a significant population level association between intestinal helminth infection and HPV infection. My research proposes to evaluate whether intestinal helminth infection facilitates HPV co-infection.

I am conducting a cross-sectional study of adult women undergoing cervical cancer screening in Peru. This innovative study aims to determine the prevalence of HPV infection in women with and without intestinal helminth infection. Results of this work will suggest novel interventions that are urgently needed to prevent cervical cancer in women living in LMICs.

This work allows me to serve as a link between clinical discovery and public health system implementation of new strategies for cervical cancer prevention. From a public health perspective, if intestinal helminth infection increases a woman's risk for HPV infection and therefore cervical cancer, deworming – a widely available, low-cost intervention – should reduce the cervical cancer rates, thereby increasing the feasibility of cervical cancer screening program implementation and reducing costs associated with early cervical dysplasia detection and treatment programs.



The Amazon Promise office in Iquitos, Peru is open year-round to receive patients & provide follow-up and ongoing care to those in need. 322 Malecon Tarapaca, Iquitos, Peru.

Your continued support makes this happen! Thank you!

Amazon Promise - Sustainable Health for Peru

<https://amazonpromise.org>



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Sent by patty@amazonpromise.org