



Since my companions had to cancel their trip, I departed alone for Lima on August 2nd. Elizabeth Arias and Darinka Pacaya, two members of our Peruvian team, joined me to take part in the mission. Carla Gamarra, also a member, had to stay in Chiclayo. Our engineer, William Cerron, made himself available for most visits.

INSPIRING ENCOUNTERS

Every year, the mission in Peru offers opportunities to meet people whose courage, tenacity and nobility inspire us and give us hope for the future of Peruvians. Here are some examples:



Celia

Celia: A survivor of terrorism, she was barely 35 years old when she found herself a widow with seven children following the murder of her husband by the Shining Path. Now 66, her smile reflects the peace and serenity for her community of Manzanayoc, which is undergoing reconstruction.

Wilmer: This young man in his twenties has little education, but is eager to learn in order to fulfill his role as chairman of the Drinking Water Committee of his village, Huancapuquio, located in the Andes. He is very proud to be the operator the solar-powered pumping system.



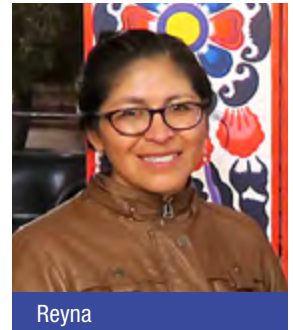
Wilmer listens to Darinka



Sheila and Darinka

Sheila is a young woman from the Yanessa indigenous nation who graduated from Centro Nopoki in 2014 and is now a teacher in Sheyamashea, a Shipiba community located three hours of walk away from the banks of the Ucayali River. With extremely limited means, she devotes herself body and soul to improve the condition of her students and of the whole of this community hidden in the middle of the Amazon rainforest.

Reyna: Since her early childhood, she was given the work of caring for the family's farm animals by her parents. This prevented her from studying. After barely escaping the Shining Path's raids, Reyna left the family home at 18 for the city of Ayacucho, where she fulfilled her dream of pursuing an education. About a decade later, after considerable sacrifices, hard work and studying, she received her university degree in administration. Her first experiences working with organizations dedicated to causes related to water motivated her to continue in this field. Could she be the rare person we are looking for to deal with the social aspect of our projects?



Reyna



Verónica

Verónica is a 23-year-old accountant who has willingly volunteered to serve her displaced and much-challenged community of Rio Seco. She is acting as treasurer of the drinking water committee. Her leadership is remarkable.

Susan Carolina At age 22, she received last December her law degree from the Universidad católica de Trujillo. We deeply admire what she accomplished in spite of her extremely poor background and all the hardships she encountered. Susan hopes to specialize in environmental law and actively collaborate with Wings of Hope. Her involvement in the life of her neighborhood of Las Torres de San Borja, Moche, also brings us hope.



Susan Carolina

Inaugurations in Ayacucho in the andes

Iribamba, Huanta, August 5. We were inaugurating a major project: the trenches dug for the pipes were more than 10 km long. The pride of the Iribamba farmers who worked hard to complete the project could be seen in their eyes. It also had a ripple effect, since the neighbouring village of Azángaro seemed ready to repeat Iribamba's community work effort in order to also gain permanent access to drinking water.



Iribamba : the reservoir

Huancapuquio, Vilcas Huamán, August 6. It was our first time installing a solar-powered pumping system in the Andes. The system had already been in operation for two months and the results exceeded our expectations. The experiment is conclusive and the skeptics were proven wrong.



Huancapuquio : the solar panels

Rurunmarca, Saurama, August 7. The sprinkler irrigation project covers an area of 42 hectares that is shared by 72 families who were already contemplating increased agricultural production and a promising future.

Antallaqta, Paras, August 9. Two springs were tapped, including one located at more than 4000 m altitude in huge rocks in the *quebrada* (ravine) flowing from the heart of the eternal snows. The climb to the site of the source was, we must admit, rather arduous! Now, both areas of the village have plenty of water.

Upon our return from Vilcas Huamán, we went to **Manzanayoc** to check the functioning of the drinking water system inaugurated in 2017.

Mrs. Marcelline Béliveau, who financed this project, will be very pleased to learn that everything is working satisfactorily and that the toilet installed next to the school is clean.

In **Antapite**, we had a key meeting with the community to finalize an agreement for a project about to begin.

On August 10, we visited the community of Waripercca, where the drinking water project was inaugurated on April 23. The ecological toilet construction phase is currently in progress. We finished our tour in the Andes in Angasmayo and Mitapasamana. The water and sanitation projects of these two communities will be carried out in partnership with the ISW (International Secretariat for Water).



Antallaqta : the source at 4002 m



Meeting at Antapite

Coastal region of Barranca

On Sunday, August 12, we drove on the Panamericana Norte to Barranca. We met with the villagers of Santo Domingo and Rio Seco, where drinking water supply projects are underway. These two communities were ravaged by the March 2017 floods before being relocated on the sandy slopes of the mountain. Villagers must now rebuild their homes. Their immense courage motivated us further to support them. We also met with the communities of Huaralica and Los Angeles, which have requested our help. Our friend Beryozka Camacho from the Rotary Club of Barranca accompanied us throughout all these meetings.

On August 15, we were invited to the inauguration of the Aussaprub association's office, which manages the water supply of ten rural villages in Barranca. The leaders were very proud to have built these premises with the association's very funds. What a good example of autonomy!



A family in Rio Seco



The new village of Rio Seco



A first washbasin in Santo Domingo



Reception in Los Angeles

Trujillo

In the afternoon, Darinka, Elizabeth and I continued our trip to Trujillo, 560 km north of Lima. Our goal was to explore the possibility of contributing to drinking water projects in that area. In doing so, we were following the suggestion of our friend and collaborator Martin Oré of Mochica Restaurant in Montreal, who is himself from Trujillo.

In the afternoon of August 16, we were welcomed by the mayor of the province and the next day, we met the mayor of the Distrito de Simbal. The water supply systems of the district's fourteen communities were heavily damaged

by floods and huaicos in March and April 2017. We are considering carrying out projects here in partnership with Water Mission.

In the evening, Susan Carolina had scheduled a meeting with the Drinking Water Committee of her neighborhood, Las Torres de San Borja. As mentioned in my 2017 mission report, this project implemented back in 2005 is working very satisfactorily. However, with the number of families in the neighborhood having increased from 30 to 104, the quantity of available water has become insufficient and the drilling of a second well is now considered.

Amazon region of Atalaya – Rio Tambo

We took the night bus to Lima on August 18 and flew out the following night to Atalaya via Pucallpa for the final phase of the mission in the Amazon.

Medicinal Plants

In Atalaya, we met Geneviève Marion Séguin, a volunteer who supported Centro Nopoki, and Padre Rosendo, a missionary, in a project which aims to promote medicinal plants in the region's indigenous communities.

Amazon region of Atalaya – Rio Tambo *(continued)*

Inauguration at Lagarto Millar



Lagarto Millar:
Leidy, Chair of the Committee

On August 20, we went to Lagarto Millar to inaugurate the new solar-pumped drinking water system. What a great opportunity to celebrate the local people's efforts! To our great pleasure, we met again 5-year-old Reder (who's photo was on the cover of the 2017 Christmas card), now



Reder, all proud to see his picture on our Bulletin

a kindergartener. This village is full of young families and the number of children is impressive.

Street Protests of the *Nativos*

Hundreds of indigenous people from the province came to Atalaya for the big rally organized by the leaders of their associations, OIRA, AIDESA and others. Their demands covered a dozen points, related among other things to the pollution of rivers, the concessions authorized by the central government to logging companies, and so on. They demanded the arrival of Prime Minister Villanueva. Since the protesters blocked the rivers and roads, we could not leave Atalaya to go to Diamante Azul and



Protest in Atalaya



We march for water

Shinipo. On the 22nd, we took part in a long march on the streets of Atalaya with the students of Centro Nopoki. At the end of the day, a central government commission arrived as part of an emergency plan and confirmed the arrival of Prime Minister Villanueva on August 28.

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Thank you.

Solar Pumping at Nopoki

In the meantime, on August 21 at the Centro Nopoki, we inaugurated the solar-powered pumping system that had been in operation since December.

On the Way Back

Early in the morning on the 23rd, we headed to Canuja and Shirintiari, where we met the community leaders to discuss preparations for their upcoming projects. In Canuja, Darinka reconnected with two of her former students, graduates of Centro Nopoki and now teachers at the village's primary school. In this village, a drinking water project is planned, while in Shirintiari, there is talk of expanding the existing project following the arrival of twenty additional families. At the end of the day, we took the night bus back to Lima.



Canuja

The social aspect

Over the last three weeks, Darinka, Elizabeth, William and I have used our spare time to prepare a reference document on the projects' social aspect in order to better outline the work of people involved. This document focuses on community organization, gender equality, community work, clean water appreciation to ensure its proper use, hygiene rules and community water management. Its ultimate goal is to ensure the sustainability of the water systems in place. The document will be submitted to Carla for review.



Work Session: William, Darinka and Elizabeth

Conclusion

Over the few weeks of this trip, I have been deeply moved by the numerous heartwarming testimonials of Peruvian people from the remote communities we visited. I wish to convey to you their most sincere gratitude. Thanks to each and every one of you for working with us in Peru. Know that your help has bettered the lives of thousands of Peruvian families.

*André Franche,
President*

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