



August 2020

Our activities here and the water projects in Peru during the pandemic

First of all, we hope that you and your loved ones are doing well.

We invite you to read this newsletter which gives you news about our activities here and in Peru. This newsletter replaces the usual *Mission to Peru report*, which is not taking place this year because of the pandemic.

In Montréal, the Wings of Hope office has remained permanently open since the beginning of the pandemic. André Franche lives close to the office, so he comes every day and Annick Delestre works from home.

In Lima, Peru, our Peruvian team has deployed a lot of ingenuity to adapt to the circumstances and to facilitate the resumption of work after the deconfinement. During the shutdown, we decided to pay our workers and social workers 75% of their wages. They are now all back in the field.

The latest official reports show that **Peru is the country hardest hit by the coronavirus**. Hospitals are overflowing and the number of deaths is increasing. Yet the Government

had reacted swiftly by declaring a state of emergency on March 15 and imposing compulsory containment on the 32 million inhabitants. The lack of a social safety net has led many Peruvians to go to markets or to work without respecting the social distancing measures that encourage the spread of the virus.

Today, the health situation there is still very worrying. However, in the remote villages in the Andes where we intervene, people seem more concerned about the danger and block the entrance to their village. No cases have yet been detected in these villages.

Since the end of May, at the request of the communities, we have been back in some villages while respecting a very strict sanitary protocol. Our workers are even sprayed with disinfectant like weeds! The villagers want at all costs to complete their water access system and this is understandable. Indeed, without water, they cannot wash their hands, an indispensable and universal gesture in the fight against coronavirus.

Our current projects



La Ramada, Chota: the drilling of the well had to be stopped at 32 m because of the rock at the bottom. Despite everything, the well's yield will be sufficient to feed the population for the next twenty years. The solar panels and pump will soon be installed.



Inserting the stainless steel pipe into the new well



The cistern enlarged and at the back the 30 solar panels. the water flows into the reservoir on the mountainside



Azángaro, Huanta: The resumption of work has been possible since the beginning of July, when the transport services, buses, planes, trucks, have gradually resumed. Delivering materials to the villages sometimes requires a lot of ingenuity.



Maestro Teodosio during daily temperature taking

The drinking water committee in this village is very active. At present, workers and the community are completing the construction of the reservoir, the water catchment structure and the distribution network.

Rayme Alto, Carhuanca: The social worker, Reyna Quispe, is on site to prepare the start of the work. She now travels with her 9-month-old baby. The mayor of the District has made her journey easier because travel is limited and there are still several checkpoints on the roads.



Reyna Quispe converses with a peasant woman

Alpahurccuna, Vinchos: Because of the pandemic, this project was planned for next January. However, the **community has subtly and kindly put pressure on us** to start the project as soon as possible. On their own initiative, the villagers have already dug the trench of more than 2 km between the catchment area and the village in the rocky soil. This is what Engineer William saw during his recent visit at the end of July. With this momentum, we are making the necessary changes to our program to get the project up and running in August.



A family from the village

Nuevo Progreso et Shenontiari, Atalaya: The health situation is more complex in the Amazon. However, two members of the team managed to travel to Atalaya at the beginning of August in order to continue the drinking water projects in these two natives communities.



Shenontiari: Darinka's laughter seems to have contaminated these natives!



Nuevo Progreso: the digging of the artisanal well, filling the trenches and transporting cement from the river to the village.



Despite the sanitary situation in Peru, the peasants and indigenous communities remain very enthusiastic and are eager to have access to drinking water. **We hope that this enthusiasm is contagious and that you will feel happy to support them. THANK YOU!**

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