



mano a mano International

an update on water projects



Training, Maintenance, Research: Building a Center for Project Sustainability



Ucuchi Mano a Mano completed its first water reservoir project in 2005 in Ucuchi, a community just outside of Cochabamba. 3,600 people directly benefit from the project. In its first year after completion, 640 hectares of land were being irrigated, as opposed to 250 hectares previously, and personal incomes went from \$150/year to \$300/year. Mano a Mano is currently working on an expansion of this project.

Pictured: Mano a Mano Nuevo Mundo's plaque; Ucuchi dedication ceremony; Completed reservoir

Jusku Molle

In 2012, we recently completed a new water project in Jusku Molle, Bolivia, a community about five minutes down the road from our water project in Laguna Sulty. This reservoir will provide 350 Bolivian families with sufficient water to irrigate their crops. The reservoir can hold 50,000 cubic meters of water and will irrigate about 741 acres of land (the reservoir is roughly the size of three football fields).



Pictured: Community members and volunteers laying the foundations of a new reservoir; Jusku Molle reservoir complete and filled

Choquechampi In June 2010, Mano a Mano dedicated the Choquechampi reservoir, a huge project that required 32,000 hours of volunteer labor to complete. The reservoir can hold 700,000 cubic meters of water and irrigate 1,600 acres of land. The local agronomist has estimated that access to water doubles or triples crop harvests, which in turn improves family nutrition and income.

Pictured: The completed and filled Choquechampi reservoir

In addition to building the infrastructure projects themselves, as with all of our projects Mano a Mano is committed to ensuring that there is ongoing support so that these projects are sustainable long-term.

In 2011, Mano a Mano worked with three students from the University of Minnesota Masters in Development Practice to interview residents about the impacts that these water projects are having. Based on these interviews, Mano a Mano decided to build a Demonstration and Training Center in Cochabamba to provide training to rural farmers that maximizes their water projects.

We are continuing to work with the University of Minnesota and are

(continued on page 2)



Sancayani In 2012, Mano a Mano dedicated a large water reservoir project in Sancayani, Bolivia. Sancayani is a rural community in the department of Cochabamba high in the Bolivian Andes – about 14,000 feet above sea level. This water project consists of two large water reservoirs, Sallamani Chico and Sallamani Grande. Rainwater and snow melt are collected via a channel into the Sallamani Chico reservoir first, which can hold about 250,000 cubic meters of water. Once the Sallamani Chico reservoir is filled, excess water flows into the Sallamani Grande reservoir, which can hold about 350,000 cubic meters of water. The project provides water access to 9,600 people.

Pictured: Crowds gather for the Sancayani dedication; Sancayani reservoir on a beautiful clear day

Pasorapa In 2013, Mano a Mano completed a water project in Pasorapa. Pasorapa is the largest and driest municipality in the department of Cochabamba, and is Bolivia’s primary cattle region. Recent years have seen severe droughts – 30,000 families have lost cattle, and Pasorapa was declared a National Emergency Zone. The new reservoir holds 40,000 cubic meters, more than eight times the original capacity, and water is now available year-round rather than 3-4 months of water access previously. 540 Bolivians (or 90 families) benefit from the Pasorapa reservoir.



Pictured: Pasorapa reservoir filled and ready for use

Training, Maintenance, Research *continued*

planning to return to our previous water project studies to look at the ongoing impacts.

To keep projects maintained, each community develops a water cooperative and beneficiaries pay a nominal amount (typically two bolivianos, or roughly 29 cents, to irrigate a hectare of land for 30 minutes). Mano a Mano also holds community maintenance days for these water projects, where up to 300 residents volunteer for a day.

Pictured (Clockwise from top): Community Maintenance Day in Sancayani with over 300 participants; Showing young students how to make an inexpensive water filter; Sample garden at the demonstration center

Pictured from Page 1: Demonstration center construction



Recognizing the life-changing difference of **Water**



Laguna Sulti In 2007, Mano a Mano built a water reservoir in Laguna Sulti, which provides water access to 3,600 Bolivians. Farmers there tell us that having water access almost guarantees them a good harvest; on August 13, 2012 leaders from 10 communities in the Laguna Sulti area traveled to the Mano a Mano Nuevo Mundo office in Cochabamba. Don Primitivo Montano, a former community leader, told us that they had never had a better corn harvest than that year, and everyone in the group expressed their deep appreciation for the water project.

Pictured (L to R): Completed Laguna Sulti reservoir; Farmers showcasing a bumper corn crop in 2012; Displaying the difference water makes in Laguna Sulti



Omereque In 2010, Mano a Mano built 153 atajados, or small water ponds, in Omereque. Each pond provides water for one to four Bolivian farm families. We utilized the atajado design in this community, rather than a large reservoir, due to the wide dispersal of community members in difficult geographical terrain.

Pictured (L to R): A full Omereque atajado; Abundant agriculture, ready to be sold at the market; A farmer shows off crops that benefitted from atajado water