

Cabeceras Aid Project

The Urubamba River Valley Medical Aid Project

Summer 2002

Last summer, while in the Urubamba River Valley of the southeastern Peruvian Amazon, Cabeceras' fieldworkers Lev Michael and Chris Beier were approached with an urgent request from two Ministry of Health doctors stationed in that region.

These doctors explained to us that administrative responsibility for this region's healthcare had recently passed from PISAP, the medical branch of the Dominican order, to MINSA, the Peruvian Ministry of Health. This recent change in administration is presenting a significant challenge to MINSA's limited local resources, especially regarding their ability to serve the most remote indigenous communities in the large region of the jungle under their jurisdiction.

Having heard of Cabeceras' healthcare initiatives in the Camisea Nanti communities in the same region, these doctors approached us to ask that we incorporate as many other remote indigenous communities in the region into our organization's activities as possible. Both doctors expressed their concern that as the situation presently stands, there simply are not sufficient resources – neither medical supplies nor personnel – to serve all the communities in their jurisdiction. We talked at length with the doctors about which communities in the region were most difficult for them to reach and were therefore most in need of outside assistance from our organization.

On behalf of Cabeceras Aid Project, we agreed to provide as many basic medical kits as we are able for the remotest indigenous communities that have trained local healthcare workers. We promised to raise funds for these kits in the United States during the spring of 2002, and to deliver the kits to these doctors in June of 2002.

Working with the advice of these doctors, we have calculated that about \$200 will provide a basic medical kit of the most essential life-saving supplies that will suffice for an *entire year* for a small community. Each kit will be provided to the community healthcare worker either when he or she visits the MINSA healthpost or when MINSA staff journeys to the village to administer vaccinations.

100% of your contribution to Cabeceras Aid Project for this important project will be used to purchase these basic medical kits.

Thank you for your support!