



# HOW ARE WE DOING?

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Betty navigates the muddy track.....



.....to Ponce Loma

In CRWRC we do regular (3-yearly) evaluations of our partner organizations and their programs. The recommendations that come out of these evaluations are valuable to our partners in setting goals and continuously improving their programs. It is also a good opportunity for us to visit the communities and see the results of their efforts.

In September we evaluated the Federation of Kichwa Nationality of Napo province in the tropical rainforest of Ecuador (FENAKIN). Among the communities we visited was Ponce Loma, which lies off the beaten track and for many years had no water or electricity. The only access was by a steep, narrow track through the jungle, and all supplies had to be carried up on foot or by horse, about an hour's journey from the main road. In recent years things have been changing. The community is now organized and able to plan its own improvement projects. This year saw the completion of a potable water system, a major success. Every family carried up its quota of cement and also sand and gravel from the river to make the storage tanks, mostly in "shigras," baskets that hold about two cubic feet, carried on their back with a strap around the forehead. Many of the homes now have solar panels to provide electricity. This year a road is being built with the help of the provincial council.

CRWRC has been involved from the beginning in FENAKIN'S Health program and now there are trained community health promoters in 12 communities along the Napo river. Each promoter has received 3 years of training. The results of the program are impressive. In the Ponce Loma community only one child out of 33 under-fives shows signs of undernourishment. Included in the program is training for the traditional birth attendants in each community to reduce infant mortality. FENAKIN also promotes the establishment of vegetable gardens, and in the past two years has launched a program to produce cloned cacao, which should provide a considerable increase in the income of the communities. There is even talk of building a chocolate factory some day!

More than anything, the transformation is taking place in the people themselves. Ecuador's international soccer team is spurred on by a chorus of fans chanting "Sí, se puede!" (Yes, we can), and this attitude is also becoming evident in the communities in Napo, with one important difference. Their motto is, "Yes, with God's help we can!"

Thank you for the part you play in this important work. Your prayers and financial support are greatly appreciated.

*Rob and Betty Wood*



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