

New Faces at Home

Water For People is pleased to announce new staff members in its Denver office, who are all deeply committed to fulfilling the organization's mission at home and abroad.



Michael DiBiase joined Water For People as associate communications manager. A talented graphic designer, he produces all of Water For People's print materials, publications, and promotional graphics, and manages the website. Originally from Providence, Rhode Island, Michael graduated from Philadelphia College of Art. He spent 20 years in Copenhagen, Denmark, before coming to Colorado in 2004.



Kathy Graham joined Water For People as general accountant with the responsibility for day-to-day accounting functions, including accounts payable, processing donations, and assisting with financial reporting. Kathy is a Colorado native and was born in Alamosa and raised in Delta. She is wrapping up her degree in accounting from Metropolitan State College of Denver and will graduate in December.



Nina Miller is Water For People's community outreach manager, responsible for cultivating and managing relationships with various service clubs, including Rotary International and Kiwanis, both of which have made water a priority of their global work. Nina was raised in Syracuse, New York, and attended North Carolina School of the Arts. She earned her B.A. in English and psychology from Syracuse University, and her Ph.D. in literature from Northwestern University.

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News about Water For People's work in Bolivia, the roof of the Americas.



High in the Andes: A Sustainable Solution at 14,000 Feet

The only way in and out of the community of Q'ochio (pronounced Ko-chee-o), Bolivia, is a very steep, rocky, mile-long descent or ascent. Located above 14,000 feet, the land here supports very few crops, but somehow the 13 families who call Q'ochio home are able to eke out a living by growing potatoes, barley, and oats and raising sheep and goats. In 2005, the community asked representatives of their local municipality, Tapacari, who worked with EIPROCOR, a Bolivian nongovernmental organization, to contact Water For People.

Before Water For People's involvement, women like Estelia Mamani Silvestre would collect water for their families from an irrigation system and contaminated springs several kilometers away. Estelia speaks of how dirty the water was and how animals also drank from the same source. She knew it was not healthy, but she had no other option. She also knew that clean hands were important for health, but because water was so difficult to get, she conserved what little water she could collect for drinking and cooking.

A higher-quality source was available, but this spring was even more difficult to reach by walking, so community members continued to use sources high in fecal coliforms. To



Village leaders from Q'ochio prepare to inaugurate the water system they helped construct.

BOLIVIA FACTS AT-A-GLANCE

Population:	8,989,046
National language:	Spanish (official), Quechua (official), Aymara (official)
Per-capita income:	US \$2,900/year
Life expectancy at birth:	65.84 years (male, 63.21 years; female, 68.61 years)
Access to safe water:	85% (68% rural)
Adequate sanitation facilities:	45% (23% rural)
Under-five mortality rate:	69/1,000 live births

Source: World Factbook and UNICEF 2004

High in the Andes, continued.

receive healthcare of even the most basic nature, the people of Q'ochio have to walk up a steep hill for an hour and then several more kilometers to a rural health post.

Times have changed, however, thanks to the hard work of the community, EIPROCOR, and Water For People. Over the course of six months, hardware for a new water system was completed and a variety of training sessions were held. The project components include two spring boxes, a 3,000-cubic-meter storage tank, a 1.75-kilometer adduction and distribution line, 13 domestic taps, and 1 public tap.

The project was accomplished with the full support of the community. During the process, EIPROCOR trained the community water committee and the beneficiaries in the operation and maintenance of the system, financial management, and health and hygiene education so that the project would be sustainable for the long term.



Leftover pieces of PVC pipe were turned into musical instruments and played during the inaugural celebration.

Before, during, and after the construction process, workshops and trainings were held in the following areas:

- Health and hygiene, including hand-washing, water treatment, appropriate handling of food, and prevention and treatment of diarrhea
- Operation and maintenance, including plumbing and cleaning of the chambers and storage tank
- Financial management, including basic accounting and managing receipts and record-keeping

A formal inauguration ceremony was held earlier this year, complete with food, song, dance, and speeches. At the inauguration, many thanks were given to all the supporters of the project,

which allowed Q'ochio's families to have clean water delivered to their homes. The celebration lasted a day, but the people of Q'ochio will continue to celebrate their new system for years to come.

Contribution Source	Cash Contribution US\$	In-Kind Contribution	Total Contribution
Community	\$83	\$1,024	\$1,106
NGO	\$180	\$759	\$940
Municipality	\$2,532	\$284	\$2,816
Water For People	\$4,125		\$4,125
TOTAL	\$6,920	\$2,067	\$8,987

Volunteer Abroad? Water For People Wants Your Help

by Ned Breslin, Director of International Programs

A common refrain heard at Water For People relates to the desire of supporters to contribute their considerable technical skills to our program work in Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras, India, and Malawi. In the past, Water For People did not have a system for managing such requests, which at times has led to frustration on the part of volunteers.

But this has changed. Water For People has developed a series of volunteer opportunities to help strengthen our program work overseas. These volunteer opportunities include:

- **Monitoring**—Water For People and a group of volunteers have field-tested a monitoring system that verifies whether projects financed by the organization in the past are still functioning. The system combines GPS, digital photography, and a detailed survey on project sustainability that will help guide Water For People program work in the future while clarifying the strengths and weaknesses of our program model and allowing us to improve on that approach. Volunteers are needed to help us understand what we do well, identify areas for improvement, and strategize how to address gaps in our program work. Monitoring will occur at designated times throughout the year.
- **Evaluations**—Water For People will also conduct in-depth evaluations of our program work, looking more deeply at program impact. Evaluations will be staggered throughout our five country

Volunteer, continued.

programs, with two evaluations planned for 2007, two in 2008, and a further evaluation in 2009.

- **Mapping/Needs Assessments**—Water For People country programs are becoming more strategic. We will no longer support scattered projects throughout each country, which are costly and difficult to support. Rather we will focus our efforts at the district/municipal level to efficiently and effectively reach more communities and show that our approach is scalable. For instance, Honduras will be focusing on three municipalities and trying to help significantly raise the water and sanitation coverage rates in these areas. Impact will thus be greater. Volunteers are needed to help each country clarify the needs of each of the identified districts/municipalities over the next five years. What is the actual coverage rate? How many communities have water systems requiring rehabilitation? What is the sanitation coverage of the district, and what services should be built or strengthened to meet the needs of all families in these areas?

- **Scoping Studies**—Water For People will expand its work to 5 additional countries by 2011. We have identified 10 countries



A Water For People volunteer checks system functionality in Honduras.

to consider, but need help in deciding which of these should be selected for support. Volunteers will be recruited to visit countries under consideration to evaluate which should become official country programs of Water For People.

Visit the Water For People website at www.waterforpeople.org and click on the "Water Corps" link to see how to apply for these critically needed services.

Please note that Water For People is seeking skilled volunteers with specific expertise that is applicable to the above-mentioned programs. Volunteers will be expected to cover travel expenses.

We hope that the new Water Corps program can put the extensive knowledge and talents of our many supporters to work for Water For People.

Welcome to Bolivia!

I am Abraham Aruquipa, country coordinator for Water For People—Bolivia. I have been working with Water For People since 2000 and have seen the organization change and grow over the last six years. Since Water For People opened an office in Bolivia in 1997, we have completed 148 projects, assisting more than 37,000 people gain access to water and sanitation.



©Water For People / by Kate Fogelberg

Bolivia is a very diverse country, home to approximately 9 million people who live in three distinct geographical regions: the high altiplano, the fertile valleys, and the tropical lowlands. Within Latin America, Bolivia has the largest proportion of indigenous people comprising around two-thirds of the total national population. It is one of the poorest countries in Latin America, with average income in rural areas at only US\$150 per year.

The 2001 census estimates that 73% of Bolivians have access to safe water and 42% have access to adequate sanitation. But the situation in rural areas is much worse, where one in five people do not have access to a sanitation facility and one in three do not have access to a safe water source.

These statistics—and the harsh reality they represent for Bolivians—are why we do what we do. Bolivia is one of the few countries in Latin America that is not on track to meet the sanitation goal of halving the proportion of people without access to sanitary facilities by 2015. Sanitation is a huge challenge in Bolivia, and part of Water For People—Bolivia's new five-year strategic plan is to promote awareness of sanitation issues and increase the number of options available to communities.

Over the next five years, we will work with our local government, NGO, and community partners to improve the coverage rates of water and sanitation and hygiene behaviors, and also to ensure that our partner organizations have the skills and capabilities to plan, maintain, manage, and monitor water and sanitation projects after completion.

Your support translates into an improved quality of life for thousands of Bolivians each year. We cannot tackle these problems alone and appreciate all you do to support Water For People's work.

Gracias,

Abraham Aruquipa



6666 W. Quincy Avenue
Denver, CO 80235
Phone: 303.734.3490
Fax: 303.734.3499
info@waterforpeople.org
www.waterforpeople.org

Our mission: Water For People helps people in developing countries improve their quality of life by supporting the development of locally sustainable drinking water resources, sanitation facilities and health and hygiene education programs.

Our vision is a world where all people have access to safe drinking water and sanitation; a world where no one suffers or dies from a water- or sanitation-related disease