

## ETHOS INTERN PROGRAM

CEDESOL Weekly Status Report

May 16<sup>th</sup>-May 30<sup>th</sup>

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### Week 1:

Once I arrived in Cochabamba, Bolivia, both hungry and sleep deprived from a series of long flights, David Whitfield, of the CEDESOL foundation, drove another ETHOS participant, Miguel, and I around the Cochabamba area where we would be living for the next 8 weeks. We were shown two cooker workshops and introduced to a few workers before arriving in David's office where we were briefed on our individual projects. I was given a packet of information, which would assist me in putting together a plan of action for the Climate Care project in efforts to produce 50,000 wood cookers on an industrial level.

A few hours later, we were introduced to our host family, the Ponce's, who have two young kids and a dog. Communicating with the family was difficult due to my lack of ability to speak Spanish but they were very friendly and welcoming. After a few more hours of work, we came back to the house and I almost immediately fell asleep.

After being well rested, the next day at work went much smoother. I skimmed over the packets I had read the previous day and began taking notes for the Climate Care project. Throughout this week, I have been working on this project in addition to practicing my Spanish.



On Monday morning, we traveled to Cliza to do a demonstration of the solar and wood cookers for the community. Having neither seen a demonstration of the cookers before, nor knowing much about how they worked, made this a very interesting experience. I was amazed by the crowds of people who were intrigued by the cookers as they eagerly asked several questions, touched the cookers, tasted the food, and got themselves involved in the demonstration, such as one community member who eagerly opened the retained heat cooker



containing rice.

Though I did not understand much of what was said at this demonstration, the crowds of people and list of names of those interested in purchasing a cooker, gave me the impression that it went well, despite a few organizational details. At the end of the day we shared our thoughts on the demonstration and came up with simple solutions that would better organize the demonstration and help to reduce repetitive questions by community members.

Later in the week, we traveled to Anzaldo to do another demonstration. This city was further away and seemed much more secluded than Cliza. The people here were more skeptical of the stoves and asked more challenging questions, but were as equally amazed with the resulting food made using these cookers. We were applauded after serving the beef, rice, and potatoes to the community members. We returned the next day to do another demonstration for the mothers of this community, which began slowly, but ended with several spectators.



I have been learning a lot during my first week living in Cochabamba, Bolivia. I have seen from the demonstrations that the people in the communities are very willing to help, especially with translating from Spanish to Quechua for other community members, and are also very skeptical, needing to see the cookers work first hand to believe it. I look forward to learning more about Bolivia, the people and communities, and the cookers, as I push forward on the Climate Care project for the next 7 weeks.

## **Miguel Arzate** WEEK ONE



Upon arriving to Cochabamba, Bolivia I was picked up by David Whitfield and Mike Vehar. These two people along with Chris Phillips a former ETHOS student were the only people that I was able to communicate with in English. My first day working started off quite slow due to the lack of sleep that I received from flying on the airplane. After trying to read my first assignment I was out cold within an hour's worth of time. The next day ran much smoother, consisting of meeting more people, including David's wife named Ruth who runs a company called Sobre La Roca.



My impression of what CEDESOL is doing to help out communities is great. I feel that CEDESOL is very supportive and helpful to people that need alternative ways to cook food. Most people in the communities that we (CEDESOL) have gone to see use either a combination of gas and wood or just wood to cook their meals each day. With the help with either Rocket Stoves or Solar Cookers or both, it can help out people by reducing the amount of wood they need to find or purchase; also it can help them out with indoor air pollution. Most people realize how much indoor air pollution they are receiving but they can not do anything without the help of us.

It was very interesting travelling to various communities around Cochabamba. Within our first week we went to Cliza and Anzaldo to show the communities how rocket stoves and solar cookers function. Most of the people seemed more than grateful to see new ways and technologies that we were showing them. They were very interested in trying to learn more information about the stoves along with the prices. It appeared that the majority of the people wanted a Rocket Stove. Though some people wanted a solar cooker, it was a 60/40 ration between people wanting the rocket stove compared to the solar cooker.

After the first presentation we came back to David's office and talked about all the thing's that we should change in the way that a demonstration is completed. Most of the ideas were to either have the correct prices known prior to the demonstration and also if we were able to create flyers. The next day we created flyers which included prices of all the information we needed to know. This helped out a great deal on our next demonstration because then instead of all the same redundant questions we started receiving much more intelligent questions. This was helpful because we were then able to give more insightful knowledge about the cookers rather than just prices.



Overall I enjoyed my first week working for CEDESOL, we did many different things that I thought would help me out in my future. First I have been working on my Spanish. This will help me in the future because I feel that being bilingual is very useful not only in the workforce but also in my daily life. Along with learning Spanish I feel that reading documents and going to demonstrations will help my mind realize how fortunate I am and how I should help out the rest of the communities that are not as fortunate as I am.

