

Powering Pulucate

In July of this past year, I traveled down to Pulucate Sangolqui, Ecuador to deliver three portable solar panel powered light systems Feed Adam raised money for through New Vision Renewable Energy's Party in the Dark campaign. It wasn't until I had arrived to the country that I realized what great work God had already prepared for us in Pulucate.

This humble Ecuadorian community sits at 11,150 feet in the Andes Mountains. Various members of the community help plant and harvest Feed Adam quinoa among other crops. I was excited to be able to get to know the members, tour their cultivations, and donate the renewable energy systems. Our Ecuadorian partner foundation's president, Maria Eugenia, had explained to me a few weeks before that the community lacked electricity. After a five hour journey outside of Quito, the capital, we finally arrived and were greeted by the community's president, Francisco. A soft-spoken man, his smile radiated a certain joy and peace I wasn't accustomed to seeing in Ecuador. Francisco, his son, and a few other community members took us on a tour of their community and cultivations. The beauty of their land was breathtaking.



Towards the end of our tour, Francisco tells the driver to pull up to the "pozo" or well. As we get closer, I see a small structure of solar panels and cement sticking out of the ground. The truck stops and we step out to get a better look. Francisco then tells me of a serious issue the community faced a couple of years ago. They ran out of drinking water. In search of a short-term solution, they were granted permission from the local municipality to transport water from a nearby lake and use it for cooking and drinking, but the water turned out to be contaminated and couldn't be used for either. With the community's future on the line, Francisco then decided the only solution left was to search their land for another source. The search was complicated by the community's high elevation so they contacted an older gentleman from another nearby community who had previous experience searching for water sources in the mountains. He arrived in the morning a few days later, and began walking over the land, feeling for the presence of water. At the end of the day, he went to Francisco and told him there were five possible locations where water could be found and he pointed to one in particular as having the best chance. Francisco relayed the news to the other community members, and digging commenced. A month later they struck water. Now that they had a well, they needed to develop a means for pumping the water out. This is where the solar panel system comes in. Being that they are off the grid, the panels offer a sustainable means of powering the pump so that the water flows up to the tower at the top of the mountain and, subsequently, down to each household. This is a short-term solution as the well only has enough water to last this generation and that is where Feed Adam and New Vision Renewable Energy come in. The community needs to dig and power another well. Our goal for 2013 is to team up with the community and help power their second "pozo" through the construction and assembly of a second solar panel system. Join us in eating away at poverty and doing the good works that have already been prepared for us!



By: Curtis Bomgaars, Founder of Feed Adam