

CULLUCTUS (COLTA)

HYGIENE PROJECT

COMPLETED
NOVEMBER 2012



Culluctus sits high up in the hills of the Chimborazo region at 3,585 meters. There are two school houses about a 5 minute walk from one another for nearly 200 students, ages three through 17 years of age. The newer school house, with four classrooms and two stories, previously had no bathroom at all. Each classroom houses about 26 students.

When we first arrived at the bathroom construction site, the school grounds were deserted due to a death in the community. In indigenous tradition, the entire student body is at the cemetery paying their respects and showing support. Yet, two volunteers dotted the hilly landscape. Maria Rosa Paguay Ortiz, a mother of a 10-year-old student at the school, and Rodrigo Yopez, older brother of two students at the school ages 9 and 10, were digging a large hole where the septic tank would eventually be buried. The doorless bathroom structure itself was completed, awaiting the arrival of toilets.

Maria gestured to the bumpy field in front of the school house, where chickens squawk and roam. She tells us that previously, her son would have to scout for a bush or tree behind which to relieve himself, interrupting classes and without any way to clean himself.

"Bathrooms are the first necessity for a school. How can they [students] do their school work without them?" she said. In agreement with Maria and her fellow community residents, MEDLIFE inaugurated the completed bathroom facilities -- benefitting over 200 children -- in January, 2013.

Read more about this community [on the blog](#).

