

ABSALÓN ALARCÓN III

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT 07

COMPLETED
JANUARY 2011



"Sheyla slipped and fell while trying to climb up the terrain that surrounds our house. She spent four days in the hospital".

Nora Lovera - Sheyla's mother.



AS A 16-YEAR OLD Nora Lovera Huaymani left her home town and set out for Lima. Nora was born in the rural province of Pichanaqui -- a jungle region covered in vegetation, full of rivers, and rich in cacao. Opportunities to work and study were few in Pichanaqui, and Nora left her childhood home in search of city life and the broader range of opportunities that would come with it.

Yet, without a place to live or a single contact in the city, the transition to life in Lima was difficult. After spending some time searching for a place to live, Nora accepted a plot of open land in the Nueva Rinconada area of Pamplona Alta.

Although she would not have to pay rent to live on the invaded land, her plot was located on the side of a steep hill, and it took her several rounds of work to level enough ground on which she could build a house.

Nora is now 26 and has spent eight years in her community with her husband, Walter, and her four-year old daughter, Sheyla. Several months ago, her daughter slipped and fell while trying to climb up the

steep and rocky terrain that surrounds their house. She spent four days in the hospital and today is fully recovered -- yet, her accident filled her parents with worry over Sheyla's safety.

When MEDLIFE staff members met with Maria Falcon, the local leader of the district, Maria told us about the difficulties that her residents -- including Nora's family -- were having in navigating the dangerous terrain.

MEDLIFE pledged to build three staircases in the community of Absalom Alarcon, with the commitment of manual labor from the community members.

The first staircase built in Absalom Alarcon runs alongside Nora's house, offering her greater peace of mind that accidents such as the one her daughter suffered will not befall her neighbors.

She is also thankful for the way her neighbors all pitch in to clean and maintain the stairs -- a communal effort to continue to look out for the safety of all residents.

