

Meet Alfonso Juma... Chota, Ecuador - Northern Andes



Alfonso, his wife Olga, and their children live on a farm in the high arid hills of Chota, Ecuador in the Northern Andes. **According to Alfonso, access to water was his biggest challenge to feeding his family.** Alfonso said, "I was so poor that I was embarrassed when my children looked at me." **Peaks Over Poverty's local partners developed a series of educational exercises to teach Alfonso how to find "hidden" sources of water and how to store it.** Alfonso persuaded nearby farmers to join together to tap a water source further up the mountain. They each invested about half of their hard-earned annual income and worked together to run hoses



A "minga", or community work day in Quichua is organized to prepare a storage pond.



Alfonso (left) explains how to make a rainwater harvesting tank with used tires.

from the water source to storage ponds they built near their farms. **One year later, life for Alfonso's family has been completely transformed.** With water, he was able grow alfalfa, a valuable crop for feeding guinea pigs (a traditional food). From the profit he made from selling alfalfa, he invested in his farm. **Soon, he was growing enough food to feed his family and had extra to sell at the local market.** He quickly made back the \$200 he invested in the new water system. **Alfonso proudly says "my farm has become an oasis ... I no longer feel embarrassed to be a father."**