Report on the visit to the Awajun community.

1. Identification of the visit.

Responsible for the Visit:	Civil Engineer. Julio Jesús Sánchez Fuentes.
Dates of the visit:	03/13/2026 – 03/20/2026.
Institution served:	Congregation of Sisters Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in Awajun.
Location:	The Congregation of Sisters Daughters of Charity in Awajun is located in the municipality of Naranjillo Bajo, District of Awajun, from the city of "Rioja", in the department of "San Martin", in Peru.
Objective of the service:	Monitoring the operation of the implemented systems and field visits to nearby communities.

2. Development.

We visited the sisters in Awajun and found some surprises, such as a new construction or environment for the adaptation and cleaning of the bottles, new bottles, spare parts of the same and a cart for transporting bottles.

They were also able to generate their brand, a differentiator that will help a lot, even if it is not possible to have an operating license since the objective is not to profit and the congregation is not under a profit system.

The operation of the purification plant is given correctly, complying with the basic safety regulations, for the moment the person in charge is Sister Violeta, who knows very well the operation and will be in direct contact with both the technician who installed the plant and myself.

The bottles that previously existed in the classrooms were renovated, putting new bottles in the classrooms and shared places.

At the time of the visit, the school was getting ready to receive the students, since on March 15 classes began in Peru and it was very satisfactory that the students are received in a school that prioritizes hygiene, hydration, and sanitation.

Not only were some gifts waiting for them from the teachers but also purified water to hydrate themselves.

On March 15, an event was held for the start of classes where we participated as well as the local authorities who were able to see the rain harvesting system as well as the water purification plant.

Reviewing the rainwater harvesting systems we could see that improvements were also made, such as the roofing of the tanks, ditches, or drainage channels, and in the case of the harvesting system that is inside the school they installed an enclosure or protection with metal mesh.

This improvement was made thinking about the protection of the tanks against deterioration due to the intense sun, but also so that the children at school cannot manipulate any element of the system, something that was necessary and they did it very well.

However, we could see that the filters were not in the drive line, so we asked them to install the filters to guarantee proper operation.

During the visit we were able to evidence that there was again no water in the municipal system, this because the rains that existed days before again cut the supply line of the municipality, on Tuesday, March 16, the visit was made to the Sol de Oro community, which is 40 minutes from Awajun, On the way up we could see that the adduction line, in many places is exposed due to the washing that the runoff does when it rains, since the rain is very heavy in these places.

And even the overpasses are improvised, but it is due to the constant repair work, as it is a constant problem.

In the Sol de Oro community, we met with the representatives of the community, with whom we were able to analyze the need they are going through in relation to water.

For this meeting, the chapel of the sisters that is in the place was used. The

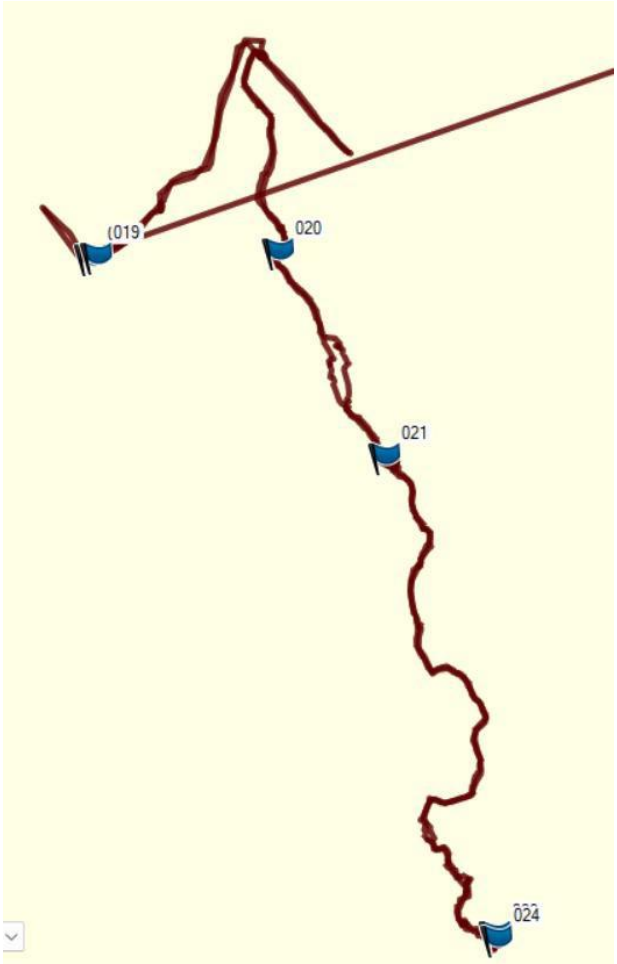
following was known:

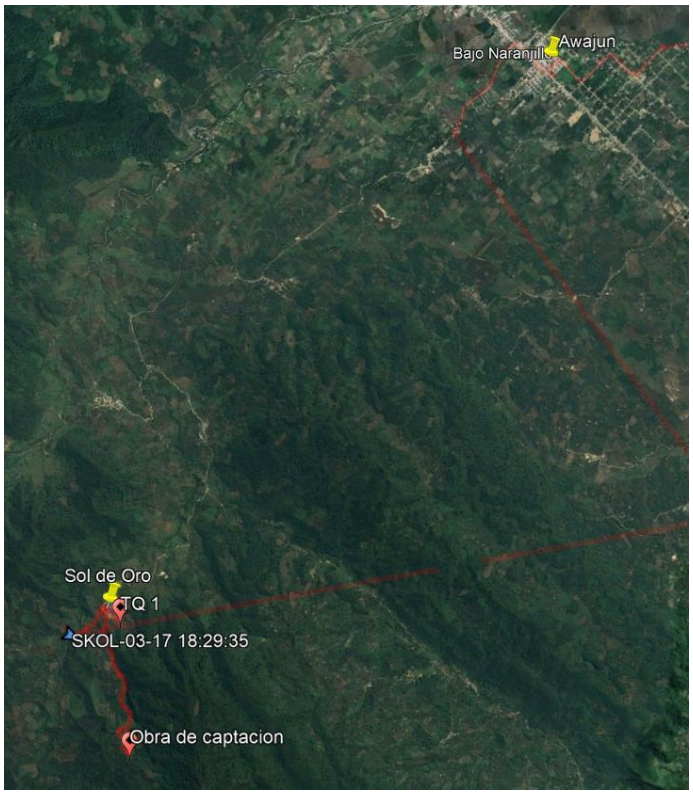
The Sol de Oro community has a drinking water system with 2 faults in particular, the first is that it does not have a physical treatment system and disinfection, that is, it does not have a sedimentation, gravel filter, or chlorinator. For this reason, they constantly resorted to a nearby system in the Nueva Santa Cruz community to provide themselves with water, but today it no longer supplies it.

This community consists of 80 families, who are dedicated to agriculture, with the production of coffee, cocoa, and dragon fruit, they are families of a low economic level that live in several cases without access to electricity and gas. Some of them use solar panels due to the lack of electricity networks.

To analyze this problem, it was decided to visit both the storage and distribution tank, as well as the collection system in high mountains.

A GPS was used to record the improvised access road (it is a road that is only traveled by people and mules that they use to transport their crops), as well as the adduction line.





The distance between the Sol de Oro community and the catchment work is around 2.4 kilometers, the difference in elevation is as follows:

Catchment work: 1496

meters above sea level Storage tank: 1175

meters above sea level **Difference from:**

321 meters

To get from the community to the catchment site it takes between 1 to 1:30 hours of walking, along a steep and clayey path that is difficult when it is wet.

But it is really difficult to move or descend when it rains, as was our case.

After the entire journey, the catchment work was reached, which needs maintenance and improvement, which includes a sedimentation capture and the expansion of the catchment.

The intake is clogged; the height of the receiver / sediment capture is 60 centimeters.

There is space before this sediment capture to implement one more work, since the water runs between the rocks 30 meters from this capture.

The pipe used at this point is 3 inches which reduces after 300 meters to 2 inches and then to 1 1/2 inches reaching the storage tank with that diameter.

The concentration of total solids at this point is 46 ppm, which tells us that it is good water.

A temperature of 21.4 ºC, crystal clear water without odor or color.

With a pH of 8.5.

In short, it is a water of excellent quality, safe and with characteristics of bottled water of the "very weak mineralization" type.

However, it requires a protective fence, livestock and people were observed frequenting the fountain and can easily contaminate.

The line or pipes that go down from the catchment to the storage tank are in good condition, however, the weather did not allow a more detailed inspection, we had to seek shelter, since much of the road is on clay slopes or steep slopes.

Once we returned to Sol de Oro, we visited the storage tank, which is very close to the community, and it was observed that it does not have disinfection and needs to be repaired.

This system is about 10 years old and was built in a brief time and without much advice with a government fund.

The following days it rained and a new visit to the place could not be resumed.

Resuming monitoring in Awajun, it was possible to give new training in the operation of the harvesting and water purification systems, in addition to filling the school and plant tanks with water from the rainwater harvest.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Conclusions and Recommendations.

The filters were installed and it was verified that the operation of the rainwater harvesting systems has a correct function, being able to guarantee the supply of water in the school and the purification plant, even when the municipal network is not working, during that first week of classes, there was no lack of water having as its only source the rainwater harvest, which proves its effectiveness.

Training was given to the new technical team that will accompany the sisters in this new year.

The sisters had a demonstration of reinforcement in the operation and preventive maintenance of the purification plant.

It was confirmed with the visit to the Sol de Oro community, that they need collaboration to improve their water collection, storage, and disinfection system, to guarantee access to water, an action that the sisters are willing to collaborate in social work with the community.

The families request collaboration with these actions to improve their drinking water system and advice for the generation of a water cooperative, tariff analysis, and statutes so that this system can be sustainable.

It is recommended to carry out the work in the dry season, since with the rainy season access is difficult.