Bolivia Interview Summary

Bridge Uses
- Mostly to take their vegetables to the city. (Obrajes 3)

Background Information on the known communities

Obrajes
estimated number of families: 40 families
political leaning:
Officials: Don Walter (alcalde policial)
School: escuela primaria

Iruma
estimated number of families: 80 families (Iruma 2)
Officials: Damián Lopez (Junta Escolar Educativa) (Iruma 2)
School: escuela primaria and secundaria

Jachuma
estimated number of families: 60 families (Jachuma 1)
Officials: Tiburcio Mendoza (corregidor)
Basilia Vida Mandoza (Alcalde policial)

Condor Chinoka
estimated number of families: 70 families
average income: 10,000 Bs/año (Gernan Lopez Lopez)
Officials: Gernan Lopez Lopez (corregidor)

Tontoco
School: children go to escuela primaria in Condor Chinoka.

Soracachi
Officials: Agustín Cruz (Alcalde) (FIC)
Comments: Does not need a bridge as they have a direct road to the carretera to Cochabamba
municipal government headquarters of Visión Mundial

Paria
Comments: has a bridge

Pisacueri

Tulalpalca

Notes on Optimal Bridge Location:

We surveyed 5 different possible places, as marked on the maps. [maps]
(1) There is the Obrajes crossing, closest to the Termas de Obrajes baños.
(2) The second is not too far from the first (about 1 km away), dubbed the first Iruma river crossing.
(3) The third one is much further, in the heart of the community Iruma, behind their escuela primaria. This river separates the community of Iruma.
(4) The fourth is the Jachuma river crossing, which must be crossed to reach the community Jachuma as well as the communities behind it.
(5) The last is in the heart of the community Condor Chinoka.

Stephanie and I stood at the Iruma river crossing (2) and asked taxis passing by questions about the best location to build a bridge. Out of about 3?? taxis, 2 of them recommended the Iruma crossing because it is deeper, wider, and more dangerous than the first crossing (1) as there are a bunch of rocks next to the crossing path. One of the two did say that more camiones got stuck on the Obrajes crossing because the soil there was muddier. The third person (the man who brought us back the GPS!!) said he only crossed the Obrajes so he could not compare the two. He did mention that because there is a hill (the one with the Inca Tomb) behind the Obrajes crossing, a lot of rain water flows down from it to the road.

There has been talk about the prefecture already having plans to build a bridge in Obrajes. (1,2?)

Iruma 1a said that he would like the bridge to be in (3) , but the most important would be a bridge in Obrajes (1 or 2??), and then after that another bridge in Iruma for the children. He talked about a footbridge (puente grande peatonal) for the children but said a “puente grande” would be better so that both children and trucks can pass. (Sí, tenemos, tenemos lo más importantes un puente, el río de Iruma necesita un puente en Obrajes. Lo más urgente; después, otra puente aquí en Iruma. Para los niños.) A bridge in Obrajes (1 or 2) would not help the students get to school, but would help with transporting products.

Iruma 2 said that the most communities would benefit from a bridge in Obrajes (1 or 2 though??).

Condor Chinoka 1 said a bridge at (5) would be best. He also said that one at (4) would be good as well, although not as good as in (5).
Condor Chinoka 2 said that he would like the bridge to be (5). But if a bridge was built in (4), he said that he would help with the construction because a lot of people pass by there. He also mentions Obrajes. PDA is going to help them build a footbridge for the children at (5). We did see stones piled up where the bridge theoretically would be.

Tontoco 2 wants a more secure bridge across the Iruma River (3?) and a big one in Obrajes (1,2?). The one in Obrajes is more important. She says that is what all the people of the "pueblo" wants.

We will choose based on feasibility of the construction of the bridge as well as how many people the location will benefit.

**Description of the Rainy Season/ Other Temporal Problems:**

- **rainy season from January to March (Jachuma 3) December - March (Iruma 1a)**
- **During the rainy season, it doesn't rain every day. It varies from day to day. (Obrajes 3) Sometimes it hails. (Iruma 1a)**
- **The land lies fallow in May, June, and July and then start to plant in August, September, October. (Iruma 1a, Condor Chinoka 2?? I didn't understand what he said.) During this time, they get ready for the next harvest or they get another job, as a taxi driver.**
- **drought from October to December (during which they irrigate with energia de bombas, bombas de gasolinas y agua from wells about 5 or 6 meters deep.) (Jachuma 3, Iruma 1a) This is the time when the crops are flowering.  (Iruma 1a)**
- **The cars get stuck in the mud.  ("se plantan" Jachuma 3, Iruma 1a, Condor Chinoka 2, Condor Chinoka 3)**
- **It has been mentioned in Tontojo that they want "repressas"**

**Jachuma 3:**
- 2 meters deep, “rápido”
- waits no more than 24 hours to pass

**Obrajes 1:**
- says cannot grow crops during the rain
- during the rainy season, it's hard to get access to her land. (she was sitting right in front of crossing (2)) because she can't pass the river
- livestock gets enough food to eat during rainy season
- right now, only trucks can pass, but only barely during the rainy season. She would like cars to be able to pass as well.
- River (2) is about 1 meter deep during rainy season.

**Condor Chinoka 1:**
- When it rains, they have to wait 2 hours before they can cross
- the rain comes at 3 in the afternoon until 12 at night.
- It is better to cross the river in the morning, before the water comes.
- When it rains, he can't cross the river

**Condor Chinoka 2:**
- Jachuma river is 150 meters wide and during the rainy season, it can go up to 5 meters deep. Average though would be about 1 meter deep.
- During the rainy season, two or three times a week, he and his son cannot pass the river.
- He needs to take his products to the city (oruro) by the highway but during the rainy season cannot. The trucks get stuck in the mud and all night, they have to work to free it.

**Iruma 1a:**
- During the rainy season, the rain carries away crops such as potato, bean (haba), onions. The rain and hail also destroy their crops, lettuce, turnips, wheat.
- says the river is 5 or 6 meters deep during the rainy season, but which river??
- He says that nothing can pass until the water lowers. Generally they wait two or three days. He talks about children, so assuming that is is (3).

**Iruma 2:**
- width of (3) is almost 30 meters, in other parts up to 40 meters. The height is almost 5, and in other places 3 meters.

**Tontoco 2:**
- during the rainy season trucks can pass, but small taxis cannot.
- They use a "bomba con gasolina" to get water from well during drought. But they want a dam.
- They lose money because seeds are expensive, and they don't produce well in the cold and when there is no rain.

**Work/Money:**

- Most of them grow carrots and onions to sell (Jachuma 3, Obrajes 1, 2, Condor Chinoka 2). Potatoes are a more sensitive crop (Condor Chinoka 2) and are more often used for eating.
- Ganados seem to be used mostly for the household (vacas- leche, ovejas). After about a year, they sell the vacas.
- Trucks from cities (Cochabamba, Oruro, La Paz, Santa Cruz) come fairly often to pick up crops. (Obrajes 3) At least 3 times a week ???????
  Frequency is fairly the same throughout the rainy season as well. They have agreements with them. According to one person in Jachuma (Gregorio Vasquez), they pay the trucks per bag to take it to the city. After the trucks will return and give them their earnings ?????????????
- 7 Bs/bolsa Cochabamba
- 10 La Paz
- 5 Oruro
- 15 Santa Cruz
• Also, one man has said that sometimes he has to wait for the trucks to come, and because he has to wait, the crops are not as fresh when they are sold and cannot get as much money.

Jachuma 3:
• he is an agricultor, wife is a comerciante in Oruro (lives there)
• invests his money in bombas eléctricos and seeds for cultivation
• crops: zanahoria, cebolla, ajo (sells the majority)
• corderros are for eating, cows are for selling
• Market: sells in Oruro mostly, but also in La Paz and Santa Cruz
• during our visit, 30 trucks passed river daily
• ??? during days of VEGETABLE??, almost 10 trucks pass??

Obrajes 1:
• market: primarily in Cochabamba, mentioned La Paz, Santa Cruz, and Oruro as well
• crops: zanahoria, cebolla, papa, haba (sells the majority)
• livestock: cows and sheep (sells all of them)

Obrajes 3:
• crops: zanahoria, cebolla, papa
• they sell the majority of their crops, eat only a little (LOOK AT FAMILY SIZE)
• gets about 40 Bs per bag of carrots
• livestock: has 4 cows, 2 for milk and 2 for meat ... which doesn't make sense???
• market: Oruro, *Cochabamba, **Santa Cruz, *La Paz
• they don't save money. They use it to live, to eat, buy clothes, etc.

Condor Chinoka 1:
- Income depends on season
- On average, he makes 15 bolivianos
- After the harvest, during June and July he works as a taxi driver.
- When the cars can't come because of the rainy season they save their harvest.
- Buyers are in La Paz, Oruro, mostly in Santa Cruz.
- The government is not too helpful irrigation system doesn't work very well

Condor Chinoka 2:
• crops: zanahoria, cebolla, papa (says he sells them!), haba,
• a little bit of quinoa
• ¼ of the land is for zanahoria and papa and a small ¼ of the land is for papa because they are more risky because they are more sensitive.
• He has 2.5 ha of land, but at that time, he only had a fourth of his land in fallow or in use??, Either way it is clear that when there isn't even rain, he doesn't have enough water to cultivate 100% of his land.
• he irrigates his land with canals and wells with pumps. Bombas/pozos?
• His family is part of the system of irrigation built by the government. He gets 6 hours of water a week.
• Livestock: has 2 cows (for work and one is for milk) and 20 sheep.
• He says others have 100 sheep.
• Truck comes 2-3 times a week Jan, Feb, March, April, May, until June. (isn't that during the rainy season?)

Condor Chinoka 3:
• market: Cochabamba, Oruro, La Paz

Iruma 1a:
• livestock: 6,7 cows and 70, 80 sheep. Cows are for the family, sheep more for selling.
• they earn more money from crops than from livestock. They earn little from livestock.
• There is a lack of pastureage because they can't cross the river. They need their barley (cebada).
• He raises money for sustenance and a little more for his sons (but he only has one?), he says he generally doesn't save money. He invests his capital back into agriculture.
• -- generally, they plant once a year (because there is only one growing season a year). Then they wait eight months until the next harvest.
• He sells most of his products. He saves potatoes for "chuño" and a little bit of wheat.
• They don't have a lot of land. Many children, by lack of land, go to work in Argentina. There is land in the hills, but it is hard to irrigate?

Tontoco 2:
• trucks come daily at the moment
• crops: carrots, onions, potato, habas, nabu?, lettuce
• they use the little money they earn to buy food from Oruro and materials like clothes.

Schools:
• All children go to at least escuela primaria (confirmed in Obrajes??)
• There seems to be a very high possibility that they will go on to escuela secundaria as well.
• Escuela primaria and secundaria are all free, but there are transportation and living costs to be considered if they attend school in Oruro.
• Most parents seem to want their children to go to a university and get a professional job (doctor, dentist, lawyer), but there is not always enough money (or labor??) in the family to afford it for all the children. (always mentions sacrifices)
• A man I talked to at the baños told me that 4 communities have schools, Condor Chinoka, Obrajes, Paria, Iruma, and Jachuma.
1. Obrajes - escuela primaria
   a. Lack of computers, only has 2 borrowed from baños
   b. A little less than 30 students, ages 4-12 (schoolteachers, Obrajes 1)
   c. Feb - Nov, 9 am - 4 pm (break around 12)
   d. Obrajes 1 said that he would like it to be bigger

2. Paria - escuela

3. Jachuma -
   a. escuela primaria, 36-40 students (Jachuma 1)

4. Iruma- escuela primaria, escuela secundaria
   a. Escuela primaria built by Prefectura, junta escolar said that escuela secundaria has about 15 computers of which the majority was bought by the alcaldias.
   b. Feb - Nov (Iruma 2), Mon-Fri
   c. They have a lot of trouble (at night he mentioned especially) passing (3) to go to school during rainy season. (Iruma 1a, Iruma 2) The kids don't come during the rainy season.

5. Condor Chinoka - escuela primaria (some Tontoco children go here)
   a. Monday - Friday
   b. Oriuro - (children go to Oriuro for escuela secundaria)
   c. Leaves at 7 am, comes back media hora by minibus (12) (Obrajes 1)
   d. Feb to November (Jachuma 1)
   e. until 22 years old??? (Obrajes 1)

Jachuma 1:
   -- daughter, 9, goes to primary school in Jachuma
   -- daughter, 13 and sons, 16, 19, go to secondary school in Oriuro

Jachuma 3:
   -- wife can read, "primer medio"
   -- he can read, "tercer medio"
   -- son, 29, is studying law to become a lawyer in a university in Oriuro called Alberto Mendoza, a technical university
   -- other children: military (military), police, secretary (the girl)

Obrajes 1:
   -- he, 22, goes to Oriuro for school, going to be an agricultor.
   -- his two sisters (18, 16) go to Oriuro for secondary school
   -- parents cannot read

Obrajes 3:
   -- she, 44 (an agricultor), cannot read, but her husband can
   -- her son, 27, is studying engineering at the university
   -- her other sons, 21 and 18, are agricultors (I think I remember her saying she didn't have enough money to send all of them)

Iruma 1a:
   - He says that the earnings are not secure and he does not have enough money for his other son to study. (he said he only had ONE son????)

Condor Chinoka 1:
   - He has completed primary school and half of secondary school.
   - His children go to the primary school in the village
   - 15 year old son goes to high school in Oriuro, he gets there by bike (3 kilometers). It is a government school
   - students get back at 3 pm, they must cross the river
   - During the rainy season, sometimes they cannot cross river to get to school

  Go to school Feb. November/December.
  - Not enough money to pay for higher education

Condor Chinoka 2:
   - his three older children go to secondary school in Oriuro. They live there. Costs about 120-200 Bs to rent for all three?? It varies on the house, which changes every year. He will send their youngest too later.
   - He has enough money to send all his children to university, but he will have to sacrifice.

Tontoco 2:
   - children currently go to primary school in Condor Chinoka.
   - For secondary school, they will go to Oriuro. She said it is 5 kilometers away. He will go by bike and it takes 10 minutes.
   - She said that there is a little cement/rock bridge that is not secure across where children can cross the Iruma river to get to the school in Iruma and cars. It was built this year by the alcalde of Soracachi. (We never saw it!!!) She wants a more secure bridge there.
   - They can afford to send her two children to university in Oriuro.

Health
   - Mostly illnesses especially in the winter ("fuerte" Jachuma 3, Obrajes 1), Tos mentioned almost every time. (Condor Chinoka 2)
   - There aren't that many illnesses (Obrajes 3)
   - Posta Sanitaria in Iruma and Paria
     - Has been said that there is a lack of doctors (Jachuma 3)
     - "No es rápido" (Jachuma 3)
     - lacks medicine (Iruma 2)
   - Many go to the hospital in Oriuro (Jachuma 3, Condor Chinoka 2) (has to cross Jachuma River to get there)
     - they get water from grifos/spigots outside their house. The source are water tanks (tanques grandes) where the water is filtered. There is never a lack of water to drink. (Obrajes 1)

Obrajes 1:
   -- goes to the clinic at least once a year in Paria, can reach even during the rainy season
-- he got vaccines
Iruma 1a:
-- the children are not well nourished.

Condor Chinoka 1:
- there are no stomach problems due to water contamination
- When a person is sick they go to the hospital in Oruro.

**Lifestyle**

- no containers of trash, just throw in river and ground
Obrajes 1:
-- has a cellphone (we saw), television, radio, but no newspapers
Obrajes 3:
-- doesn't have a telephone, electricity, newspapers, television. Has a radio.
-- She said that all people have latrines.
Condor Chinoka 2:
- has a car
Tontoco 2:
- they have a car and they go to Oruro once a week for food such as rice, sugar, noodles.
- most people in tontoco do go to Oruro, sometimes even twice a week depending on family size.

*notes about gender equality:
There seems to be equal opportunity for females and males. For example, the alcalde policía of Jachuma is a woman. Agricultors are both men and women. Although, the teacher in the Obrajes school said that men have a better chance of obtaining a professional job because they are more likely to be allowed and be capable of surviving in the city. Iruma 1a: "Mi esposa es ..., también de acá, el pueblo y es agricultura trabaja igual que hombre, no? También más, más, poco más porque sacrifica también para sus hijos. Más hay que valorar las señoras."

**Politics:**

http://www.laprensa.com.bo/noticias/26-10-07/26_10_07_1por2.php
http://www.eldiario.net/noticias/nl080424/5_11mas.php

Condor Chinoka 1:
- There is enough communication between individuals of Condor Chinoka and the government
- There are meetings.
- The community worked with the government on the irrigation system
- People are elected by vote.

**Partidos/Agrupación (so far):**

- Unidad Nacional (UN, Daniel Flores)
- Acción Democrática Nacionalista (ADN, Virgilio Mamani)
- Movimiento Al Socialismo (MAS, Casilda Flores Clemente)
- Movimiento Nacionalista Revolucionario (MNR, Victor Paz, dead according to Wikipedia, former president of Bolivia)
- Fuerza de Integración Campesina (FIC)
- Podemos?? Democratic and Social Power (Jorge Quiroja)

**Prefecture**

- There are nine department prefectures (governorships), but MAS only won three: Oruro, Chuquisaca(Sucre, constitutional capital and seat of the Supreme Court), Potosí. (Wikipedia, MAS)
  - The other 7: Cochabamba, Beni(Trinidad), La Paz (administrative capital), Pando, Santa Cruz(petroleum rich), Tarija (petroleum-rich)
  - JUST RECENTLY WON LA PAZ and COCHABAMBA in a referendum deemed unconstitutional by some. The governor of Oruro also lost. Under rules, Mr. Morales can appoint successors.
  - Four recent wins in the referendum (for the governors) claim that they are now entitled to more autonomy.
- Under departamentos/prefecturas, provincias, municipios, cantones
- The Oruro prefecture is not concerned with the problems related to the rainy season. They make a lot of promises but do not carry them out. Confirmed though that they have not taken money from them. (Condor Chinoka 3)
- Personal note: I don't think the Oruro Prefecture means to come off as disinterested, but they seem to have a backlog of numerous projects that need to be completed. And they have only so many engineers. They have proved their intent to carry them out slowly one by one with their carpetas."

**Evo Morales**

- Popular with the campesinos (Jachuma 3, Condor Chinoka 3 "Evo está ayudando bien")
- He is providing the money, so he is "bueno, excelente." He is saying that the problem is with the "dirigentes?" and prefecture. The money stops at the prefecture. (Condor Chinoka 3)
- The Popular Participation Law of April 1994, which distributes a significant portion of national revenues to municipalities for discretionary use, has enabled previously neglected communities to make striking improvements in their facilities and services.
- read more about what he's been doing to help make things equal for indigenous pp: state cement company, redistribution of petroleum royalties and private farmlands, land reform project in Santa Cruz, to pay for a new pension for the elderly, it took over hydrocarbon tax revenues due to regional governments
• The rich don’t like his relationship with Hugo Chavez who recently

Soracachi Municipal Government

• Bolivian cities and towns are governed by directly elected mayors and councils. Municipal elections were held on 5 December 2004, with councils elected to five-year terms. (Wikipedia, Politics of Bolivia) **Elections for alcaldía of Soracachi happens every 4 years, and the candidates must be from Soracachi. (Jachuma 3)
• municipal government is in Soracachi. They seem to control the flow of funds into the pueblos. People have described the municipio as corrupt. (Jachuma 3??)

Pueblo Government

• Authorities are elected every year by vote (both women and men adults). (Obrajes 1, fair)
  • Corregidor in Jachuma changes every year in December (Jachuma 3)
• Each pueblo has their own set of authorities
• “Los Autoridades” are:
  • Corregidor (highest)
  • Alcalde mayor/menor (also there is one for policial as well???)
  • Junta escolar educativa mayor/menor
  • Secretaria General

Visión Mundial:

• Visión Mundial is in two locations: Soracachi and ????
• The one in Soracachi is corrupt, (they are not dispersing the money??)
• 80,000 Bs monthly is the salary of the workers (“a nombre de los niños”). (Iruma 1a)
• they give pencil, eraser, candy to the children, but it is a lie because they don’t really help anyone. They are the only ones to gain. He wants the sponsors in the United States to cut funds. (Iruma 1a)
• Parents send pictures of their kids and hopefully they are matched up with a padrino.
• One girl in Tontoco (Jenny) is said to have received a computer among others (clothes, money) from an ingeniero in Soracachi.
• Visión Mundial donates money to school for materials - books.