From: ADRA International [mailto:adraresponds@adra.org]
Sent: Thursday, September 08, 2011 6:25 PM
To: Carol Williams
Subject: Colombian Refugees flee to Ecuador and find hope and an chance to rebuild

"ADRA came with food and medicine at exactly the right moment," says Jose Moreno, a Colombian refugee who fled to Ecuador two years ago.

"For more than 40 years, I had a good farm in Colombia. We were never in need. Then, when I was 68 years old, the rebels came and forced my wife and me off our farm. We fled to Ecuador with the money in our pockets and the clothes on our back.

"Never did I think I would have to start life again at my age," Jose exclaims. "I am hard of hearing and was very sick in my chest when we arrived. I was depressed to lose my home, and depressed to have nothing. ADRA gave my wife and me hope. To see that there were people in the world who did not know us, yet they would give us food and help us get back to good health-this inspired me.

"As I wandered the streets of the city, I noticed that no one was selling coconut water," Jose shares. "Making friends with
one of the shop owners, I convinced him to lend me a table to set up outside his store. Buying just a few coconuts, I was able to sell a few cups of coconut water each day. Some days I made nothing; other days I made $2.

While we are providing care and training to Colombian refugees living in Ecuador, more is needed. Will you invest today to begin changing the future of individuals who are living in poverty?

"For two months, I saved a bit here and there. You see, I had a dream growing inside me," says Jose. "I knew I could build a small vendor cart. Visiting the junkyard, I bought parts here and there and built my cart. Today, I go through 20 coconuts daily, selling coconut water. I buy them directly from the growers outside the city. While I built a portable cart, I found my own street corner. If I am not here one day, people look for me. They tell me that I must return to my corner, as they depend on me to be there.

"My favorite customers are the children who come after school to buy a drink on their walk home." Jose smiles while thinking of his young clientele.

"I tell them, 'Do not be a rabbit—you do not need to have everything at once. Work little by little, and work hard like a turtle; go slow but sure. Honest, hard work is the best way, and then be sure you are always helping others.' If I tell them this regularly, and share my story of how I did this, hopefully it will inspire them to make a better world."

"If ADRA had not found us … I don't even want to think of what would have happened to us," says Blanca, Jose's wife. "Do you know what is right down the corner from Jose's cart? A Seventh-day Adventist church! We chose this corner because we believed it would be a blessed place. A few
weeks ago, the Adventist church members were taking up a collection for the poor. We still do not have much, yet we gave to them. Why? We have to say thank you for all that ADRA has done for us. It is important to give and show thanks."

**Send a special gift to ADRA today to bring hope and healing to those who are suffering around the world.**