Hydrophilanthropy in Honduras: Potable Water Systems in Rural Northwestern Honduras

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Talk Organization

- Purpose, Location, Climate, etc.
- Why Work in the Sierra de Omoa?
- Honduras Project
- Honduras Project – Future
- Conclusions
- Readings
Hydrophilanthropy

A Definition: Altruistic concern for the water, sanitation, and related needs of humankind, often manifested by contributions of work, money, or resources. -- M. Campana
Purpose – Potable Water

• Since 2001: worked with Honduran villagers & agencies in the Sierra de Omoa to construct and maintain simple drinking water systems
• Villages: 100 – 350 residents and up to 50-60 or so houses
• Basic system: small dam, piping, tank, chlorininator, and distribution lines to houses
• Worked with friends Alex del Cid Vásquez and Rolando López, and local political leaders
• Training and experience for US students
Villages located in the Sierra de Omoa, a rugged mountain range ~30-40 km NW of San Pedro Sula

Climate: Warm and humid with distinct wet and dry seasons. Average annual rainfall of 250 cm (~100 inches)
According to my Honduran friends:

- Relatively few people – little political power
- Rugged topography, poor roads – politicians, civil servants don’t often want to make the effort to visit or work there (except during election season)
- NGOs (charities) don’t want to work there – risk of failure is too high

So why work there?

*People need potable water!*
Rugged Topography, Remote Locations
Honduras Project – 1

- Alex del Cid Vásquez: former Municipio de Omoa city councilman
- Alex convinced mayor Prof. Ricardo Alvarado to implement a rural potable water supply policy (= votes)
- He indicated to the mayor that water is an important issue for women and girls: *they collect the water (= more votes)*
- Related issues of education and sanitation: important to women and girls.
Honduras Project - 2

- Partnered with Municipio de Omoa
- Completed systems in Brisas del Rio Cuyamel, Los Mejias and Las Palmas
- Identified more villages needing potable water systems
- Municipio has provided support: road maintenance, vehicles, running interference with officials, escorts, etc.
Prof. Ricardo Alvarado, Mayor of Municipio de Omoa, with Michael Campana & Rolando López
Tank at Brisas del Rio Cuyamel
Morality Play – Brisas del Rio Cuyamel, June 2012
Tank at Los Mejias - July 2013
Celebration - Los Mejias, July 2013
Bienvenidos sean a la aldea de:
LOS MEJÍAS

Ann Campana Judge Foundation

A 800 metros SNM
Productos del mejor café del parque Nacional Cuyamel - OMOA
3 DE JULIO DEL DOS MIL TRECE
Junta de Agua: Las Palmas
Honduras Project – Future

• Recently started project in El Tamarindo in the Municipio de Choloma, which is providing tank
• Choloma is larger than Omoa (220,000 to 30,000) and wealthier
• Overall: political climate is uncertain – November 2013 elections
• New political party: PAC
• Violence – student participation?
Conclusions

- ‘Handshake’ partnership: worked well, all parties benefitted
- Based on trust and mutual benefits
- Essential for small foundation to accomplish its objectives
- Ancillary benefits to villages – education, economics, etc.
- Future?
Readings

1) September 2010
Water Resources IMPACT

2) August 2010 J. of Contemporary
Water Research and Education
(http://is.gd/hK4ge8)

3) ‘Hydrophilanthropy’ category at:
http://www.waterwired.org
Thank You!

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WaterWired blog:
http://www.waterwired.org

WaterWired Twitter:
http://twitter.com/waterwired

ACJF:  http://www.acjfoundation.org

”The road to help is paved with good intentions.” – Tracy Baker