



Sustainable management of the Cocoyagua micro-basin through of good governance to access basic water and sanitation services.

WATER FOR ALL PROJECT

Water access and availability in quantity and quality are basic human rights. Helvetas works with local partners to strengthen capacities and empower the actors involved at different levels, to achieve individual changes in the population through practices of good use and care of water, organizational changes in the provision of quality and sustainable basic services; and in the context of the rational use of the resource and the protection of the Cocoyagua micro-basin.

Cocoyagua is a source of vital importance for the municipalities of Veracruz, San José, Trinidad, Dolores, and Dulce Nombre, in the department of Copán, since it provides water to more than 30,000 inhabitants. The geographical area of the micro-basin includes the Cerros de Eramola, Las Cuevas, and Guamaira, with a total area of eight hundred and seventy-two hectares.

The water from the micro-basin is used for human consumption and by the productive sectors. 86% of the population accesses water through a pipe system without treatment; 12% through a hose; and 1.9% through a well. The population with access to excreta disposal services is approximately 59%.

In the micro-basin, a governance problem is identified in water management, leading to conflicts over the use of the resource: at the local level, coffee producers with inadequate cultivation and processing practices, which pollute the water; water boards and boards with uncoordinated agendas, with little participation and incidence in municipal development agendas.

At the inter-municipal level, there is a lack of real commitment from the municipal governments to protect the micro-basin. At the national level, productive economic development policies are inconsistent with the conservation of natural resources..

In addition to these, there are the challenges posed by climate change due to the increase in temperature (pests and diseases), droughts, and soil erosion that threaten the loss of the main livelihoods of the population.

APTA's intervention strategy is aimed at strengthening spaces for dialogue and agreement between the actors that allow it to contribute to improving the governance of the Cocoyagua area, promoting changes in the population's behavior and enhancing the skills of partner organizations and their contribution to improving ecosystem services and their provision to the population efficiently.

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

Contribute to improving the health of the ecosystem and the living conditions of the population of the most vulnerable communities through integrity and co-responsibility in the management of the Cocoyagua micro-basin.

EXPECTED EFFECTS

The system, the municipal governance processes of the authorities, and the process of transparency and accountability to civil society, have been strengthened in their active participation in the management of the Cocoyagua micro-basin.

The population's access to quality and quantity of water has been improved in a sustainable way due to the involvement of the communities in the participatory processes and the adoption of good ecological practices for the Cocoyagua micro-basin.



ACHIEVEMENTS

- » 22,268 people live in improved framework conditions that changed due to Helvetas' contributions.
- » 552 households now have better quality water at the point of use.
- » Following the passage of storms ETA and IOTA, 15,000 people (7215 M and 7785 W) now have direct access to water from a new or rehabilitated source.
- » 1,427 people have an improved community drinking water system; the construction of 2 intake works (Dolores and Trinidad), a storage tank (Veracruz), and the provision of prefabricated bathtubs to 30 families (Dulce Nombre).
- » 6,404 people (3,165 M and 3,239 W) have direct access to new or rehabilitated sanitation and hygiene facilities.
- » 18 government organizations and 25 COs actively participate in promoting governance in water management (financial support and technical assistance).
- » 987 people (222 M and 765 W) were strengthened in areas such as quality water management, co-responsibility for their rights, disease prevention, system disinfection, capacity in sources, management and management of micro-basins, organization, planning, service management, leadership, PSC, and social audits.
- » 1,700 people strengthened with skills in management and disaster risk management.
- » 765 women were empowered with co-responsibility in water management.
- » 35 people from 4 health establishments were strengthened with the delivery of personal protection, hygiene, and cleaning equipment.
- » 600 people (100 vulnerable families) were strengthened with the delivery of personal protective equipment, safe water storage containers, hygiene and cleaning kits for the prevention of COVID-19.
- » 16 JAAP were strengthened with the delivery of personal protection equipment and supplies for the disinfection of community water systems.
- » 8 basic sanitation committees organized and trained in the Healthy Home and School Methodology (ESCASAL), implemented in a pilot community.
- » 1 Implemented a communication and awareness campaign on hygiene promotion and behavior change to prevent diseases.
- » 20 quality analyses of water systems were carried out.
- » 600 trees were planted in the recharge zone of 4 micro-basins with the participation of JAAP, municipalities, schools, and ICF.

SOLUTIONS AND KEY ACTIVITIES

- » Planning, management, and participatory execution to help strengthen the governance of natural resources for access to basic services.
- » Greater availability, quantity, and quality of water, sanitation, and hygiene services through the improvement of WAHS facilities in communities and health centers.
- » Provision of supplies for water disinfection
- » Delivery of hygiene, cleaning, and safe water kits to health centers and vulnerable families.
- » Awareness campaign on hygiene promotion and disease prevention.

FAST FACTS:

Geographic Location: 4 municipalities in the department of Copán (Veracruz, Dolores, Trinidad and Dulce Nombre)

Thematic Focus WASH and water governance

Voice, inclusion and social cohesion

Resilience to climate change & disasters.

Duration I Phase: 2018 - 2022

Start date: January 2018

Finish date: December 2022

Phase Budget: CHF 1,000,000

Target Group:

- 30,000 inhabitants who live in the municipalities of Dolores, Dulce Nombre, Veracruz and Trinidad, in the department of Copán.
- 4 local governments (UMAS, UTM, OMM)
- 1 Micro-basin Co-management Committee
- 16 YAP
- Staff of health centers and educational centers

Partners and Strategic Actors:

- Association of Higuito Intermunicipal Council (CIH)
- Western Regional Space (EROC)
- Local governments and technical units
- Drinking Water Management Boards (JAAP)
- Association of Boards of Water Administrators of Cocoyagua (AJAAC)
- Micro-basin Co-management Committee (CCMC)
- Citizen Transparency Commission (CCT)
- Health center staff
- Educational center staff
- Coffee Producers Associations
- Regional government institutions (Forest Conservation Institute (ICF), Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment (MIAMBIENTE))

Donor:

- This project is funded by various donations.

Implementers:

- Helvetas
- Western Regional Space
- Higuito Intermunicipal Council Commonwealth



Learn more about us:

Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation

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