FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM HONDURAS VOLUNTEERS

HOW WAS PURE WATER FOR THE WORLD STARTED?

In 1994, a dentist from Brattleboro, Vermont travelled to a small village in El Salvador to provide medical services. Moved by the poor living conditions, he vowed to make a difference. After rallying colleagues in his Vermont-based Rotary Club, he returned with a mission to bring potable water solutions to villagers. The success of this movement outgrew the Rotary Club’s capacity, and, in 1999, Pure Water for the World, a 501c3 organization, was born. Pure Water for the World is based in Rutland, VT with offices in Tegucigalpa and Trojes, Honduras, and in Port au Prince, Haiti.

WHAT RESULTS DOES PURE WATER FOR THE WORLD EXPERIENCE?

From the beginning, Pure Water for the World (PWW) has focused on sustainability; delivering holistic and sustainable clean water solutions to rural and remote communities across Central America and Haiti. Through the use of bio-sand filters, latrines, and a comprehensive education program, PWW has effectively reduced the incidence of illnesses caused by contaminated water.

To date, PWW has delivered a permanent supply of clean water, latrines, and hygiene education to more than 750,000 individuals across more than 200 communities.

Additionally, follow up evaluations and monitoring programs ensure filters and latrines are working properly, sanitation and hygiene practices are in place, and communities are experiencing positive health results with significant reductions in waterborne illnesses.

HOW DOES PURE WATER FOR THE WORLD SELECT A COMMUNITY?

Community selection includes a full assessment by the PWW Honduras team, including:

- Interest expressed by community members;
- Acceptance of ownership by the community;
- Source of water and type of distribution system.

Projects are most successful when community organizations act as a distribution and support center. Community ownership is essential to success.
WHAT IS PURE WATER FOR THE WORLD DOING IN TROJES?

Pure Water for the World’s work in Honduras is currently focused in the Municipality of Las Trojes. This area is known as the “recovered zone of El Paraíso”, as it once was part of the Republic of Nicaragua. This is one of the poorest regions of Honduras. Due to the influx of contra rebels into this area in the 1980’s many people fled the area causing land values to decrease. This region has been left without any support from the central or regional government.

Almost half of the population of Trojes is without proper sanitation. The water sources are often superficial or very close to ground level. As rainwater travels over land, it picks up bacteria, parasites, and other impurities, ultimately contaminating the source. Further contamination occurs through inadequate piping systems and improper storage, both at the community and household level.

Pure Water for the World has been working in Honduras since 2001, and in Trojes since 2009. Thanks to so many generous supporters, PWW has:

Since 2009, PWW has:

♦ Installed 5,111 clean water filters and 2,267 latrines in family homes;
♦ Delivered 725 hygiene programs to residents; trained 1,518 Community Agents;
♦ Served 93 schools with water filters; 62 schools with latrines and/or handwashing stations;
♦ Reached 127 of the 300+ communities...resulting in permanent change for more than 26,800 people.

WHAT WILL WE BE DOING IN TROJES?

The actual schedule for your time in Honduras will be shared with you upon arrival. Logistics, poor road conditions in the mountains and weather may influence the workload and schedule.

Generally speaking, your trip will consist of a combination of building latrines and installing water filters at schools and in individual homes, as well as helping with deworming campaigns.

Additionally, you will have time to interact with the local community members, get to know the local PWW team and your fellow volunteers, learn about the local culture and language, and eat Honduran cuisine. You will experience life in this beautiful, yet rugged and underserved, region of Honduras.
HOW WAS UNICEF INVOLVED WITH PURE WATER FOR THE WORLD IN TROJES?
In 2009, UNICEF approached Pure Water for the World to implement a bio-sand filter project in the Trojes region. UNICEF conducted an initial local needs assessment to determine the solution that would be accepted by the community. The bio-sand filter was selected for water treatment due to its simplicity and long-term sustainability.

Pure Water for the World wanted to provide more than just clean water, as improving the long-term health of the community requires sanitation solutions and hygiene education. PWW added these critical elements to the project with UNICEF.

WHAT LOCAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS DOES PURE WATER FOR THE WORLD PROVIDE?
Pure Water for the World is committed to sharing knowledge and expertise. PWW Health Promoters offer water, hygiene and sanitation education programs that provide thorough training about the causes of waterborne diseases and how to prevent them in simple, sustainable ways. These programs extend to educators, government agencies, public health officials, NGOs, clinic workers, and other local businesses. Trainees apply the practices both within their organizations and among their customers, patients and communities, and the overall health benefits are multiplied exponentially.

Additionally, Pure Water for the World's WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) training teams deliver educational workshops and consulting services focused on the prevention and elimination of waterborne illnesses in Central America and the Caribbean.

WASH Teams work with local and international NGOs, government agencies, health officials, educators and other organizations, providing fundamental training about the causes of waterborne diseases and how to prevent them in simple, sustainable ways.

Participants learn the steps to implementing sustainable WASH programs, and apply the lessons in their own organizations and among their communities. Programs are taught in a manner that supports the adoption and sharing of knowledge among communities for future generations.