

LA TRINIDAD, HONDURAS

Rural community needs water supply, sanitation

Current Situation in La Trinidad: In this rural mountain community, the people struggle to meet their daily water needs. The 179 residents retrieve water from small springs and waterholes that form close to their houses during the rainy season.

Forty of every 1,000 Honduran children die before the age of 5. ■ These are usually contaminated by animals and agricultural runoff. During the dry season, these water sources dry up and families must walk long distances to obtain water from larger streams. The community also lacks any kind of sanitation facilities, meaning they have to practice open defecation.

The Solution: The residents of La Trinidad are prepared to provide some of the construction costs and all of the maintenance costs for a new water system, but they lack the financial resources to get started. With financial support from our donors, WaterPartners International and our Honduran partner organization will work with the people of La Trinidad, a community that has demonstrated a commitment to improving their water supply.



A young Honduran girl collects water from a hole in the ground. Her family will use this water for cooking and drinking.

Proposed new water system description:

The water source will be a capped and protected clean mountain spring named “La Trinidad” located 1.6 km from the community. The community will own the land that the spring is located on and will obtain the right-of-way for the transmission pipeline. Water will then be piped from the distribution tank to a patio tap at each household.

Proposed sanitation facilities: Household pit latrines.

Project implementation schedule: Project will take approximately 1-1/2 years to complete.

Goals of the La Trinidad water project:

- Eliminate hours of labor by women and children who collect water every day;
- Ensure that residents use improved hygiene practices;
- Provide enough safe water to meet every resident's personal needs for drinking, cooking and washing;
- Ensure that every household has access to a latrine; and
- Protect the new water source.



La Trinidad is located 3 km north of the municipality of La Virtud, Department of Lempira, Honduras

The water crisis in Honduras

In Honduras, 19 percent of the rural population does not have access to safe drinking water and 41 percent does not have latrines or toilets. Drinking from and bathing in polluted water supplies are among the most common routes for the spread of infectious disease. Access to safe water is directly linked to the survival of children under age five. Many poor households are forced to rely on contaminated water supplies, and the prevalence of waterborne diseases like cholera is increasing. An epidemic of cholera swept through Latin American in 1991, causing thousands of deaths -- the majority of the cases occurring in communities lacking safe water and proper waste disposal.

