



Located in Central America, Honduras is bordered by Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. The country's mountainous terrain and coastal plains are home to almost 8 million people. The people are almost entirely mestizo—a mix of Spanish and indigenous ethnicities—and speak Spanish as well as Amerindian dialects. Due to recent rapid urbanization, about half the population now lives and works in urban areas. However, high unemployment rates and unequal distribution of income mean that half the population lives below the poverty line.

According to the most recent Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) Report by UNICEF and WHO, 87% of people in Honduras have access to improved water sources and 77% have improved sanitation facilities. While these numbers seem impressive, they do not provide a complete picture of water and sanitation access in Honduras. In the rural areas where Water For People–Honduras works, many of the communities have water systems, but the water from these systems often does not meet government quality and quantity standards.

### Water For People in Honduras

Water For People first began supporting water and sanitation efforts in Honduras in 1997. From 1997 to 2006, Water For People–Honduras worked with partner organizations in over 90 rural communities. In 2007, it developed a regional strategy to target specific districts and to provide everyone in these areas (communities, schools, and health clinics) with access to safe drinking

water and sanitation. To achieve this goal, Water For People–Honduras partners with local governments, the private sector, and local NGOs to strengthen support for comprehensive water and sanitation services throughout the districts.

### Everyone Forever in Honduras

*Everyone Forever* is a unique programmatic effort to provide water and sanitation to *Everyone* in targeted districts and municipalities, *Forever*. It means these municipalities and communities never again need another international water agency to address their water challenges. And it provides a model for greater replication, leading to a push for national full water and sanitation coverage. Water For People–Honduras is focusing its *Everyone Forever* programming in the mostly rural municipalities of Chinda, El Negrito, Ilama, and San Antonio de Cortés. At the end of 2011, Chinda was the first municipality to reach *Everyone* | every family, every school, and every clinic | with safe drinking water.

### Regions

At only 43 square miles, the northwestern municipality of **Chinda** in the department of Santa Bárbara is composed of 14 rural communities totaling almost 6,000 inhabitants, most of them Lencan Indians who farm for a living. Rugged subsistence agriculture dominates the economy, but where they can, the farmers of Chinda grow coffee and grains to sell in regional markets.

Neighboring Chinda, the municipality of **Ilama** has a population of approximately 12,000. The majority of people in this rural municipality are subsistence farmers. Water For People–Honduras began working in Ilama in 2011.

**San Antonio** is a 114-square-mile municipality in the department of Cortés in northern Honduras. A population of approximately 27,000 lives in 45 rural communities in this mountainous region. Many San Antonians practice subsistence agriculture, raising beans and corn on small farms. Others work in sugarcane factories or raise animals for sale and consumption. Most villages have a primary school and some sort of health care center within several miles, but lack basic services like electricity, trash removal,



and dependable roads.

**El Negrito** is a 326-square-mile area in the Yoro department of Honduras. Almost 54,000 people live in mostly rural communities in this beautiful land, half of which is mountainous, while the other half is defined by the Sula Valley. El Negrito is one of the poorest and least developed areas of Yoro. Most depend on subsistence farming to support their families, raising beans, corn, and the occasional chicken or pig on small family plots.

## Partners

Water For People believes long-lasting water and sanitation solutions can be achieved when key local role-players—the local private sector, civil society, and local government—are supported. As such, Water For People is deeply involved with key local stakeholders, including the Municipality of Chinda, Municipality of San Antonio,



Municipality of El Negrito, Municipality of Ilama, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, SANAA (Honduras National Autonomous Water and Sewerage Service), and Honduras Public University (UNAH–Valle de Sula).

## Water For People–Honduras

### *Integrated Community and School Programming (School Water Sanitation and Hygiene Education plus Community Impact—SWASH+)*

Water For People is rethinking the way conventional school programming is implemented. Traditionally, school programs have not involved the surrounding communities because schools are frequently the weakest part of communities: teachers are often underpaid and overloaded with multiple activities; school administrations are weak and have a limited or nonexistent funding base; and teachers who have received hygiene education training often leave for better schools. As a result, programs focused on schools tend to have the greatest sustainability challenges.

In Honduras, Water For People treats schools as part of the wider community. It engages local leaders and organizations to build hand-washing stations and toilets in schools. Each school intervention is combined with solutions and education in the community, to help ensure that good hygiene practices learned in schools are reinforced at home. Responsibility for project implementation, finance, and maintenance of the school water and sanitation system is placed on the community and local government, thus taking the burden off the often overwhelmed and underfunded schools. In areas where water and sanitation infrastructure already exists, Water For People–Honduras works with the community to reinforce health and hygiene education messages and system management.

Rather than directly manage the construction of water supply, toilets, and hand-washing stations for schools, Water For People–Honduras directs the funds (usually supplemented by municipal government funds) to parent teacher associations (PTAs) to manage. Water For People–Honduras also provides training and mentoring on topics such as the basics of financial management and project administration. These skills translate into tools that community members can continue to use as they further develop their communities.

### *Watershed Management*

Water For People–Honduras has led Water For People as an organization in Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). Before working in a community, Water For People–Honduras delineates the watershed basin to better understand the available water resources and the impact usage will have on surrounding communities. Great emphasis is placed on sanitation and ensuring that



communities with households above the water source have proper latrines to avoid contamination of the water. Significant effort is also made to protect the community water source and to educate community members about the individual impact they have on water quality in their community. Water For People–Honduras is also working with the municipalities and communities to establish water resource management manuals and achieve legally protected status for water sources.

## Work in 2012

Water For People–Honduras is continuing to work with key sector actors at the local and national levels to increase access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation, and hygiene education. In Chinda, Water For People–Honduras will build the capacity of local institutions to maintain full water coverage for **Everyone** in the district. In the other three Honduran municipalities, Water For People–Honduras is continuing to lay the groundwork for **Everyone Forever** and in 2012, programming will take place in 24 communities and three schools.

