



# HONDURAS

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## THE PROJECT

**Project Location:** Trujillo, Colon, Honduras

**GPS Coordinates:** Latitude:15 47.858 N Longitude:085 58.975 W

**People Served:** 300

**Report Presented To:** St. Andrew United Methodist Church

## THE COUNTRY

According to the 2009 UNDP report, Honduras is ranked 112<sup>th</sup> out of 182 countries in the United Nations Human Development Index. The economy relies on a narrow range of exports, notably bananas and coffee, making it vulnerable to natural disasters and shifts in global commodity prices. Half of the nation's population still lives below the poverty line, and Honduras is considered one of the least developed and least secure countries in Central America.

In recent years, Honduras has been hit hard by tropical storms and hurricanes. Hurricane Mitch devastated the country in 1998, leaving 5,000 people dead, 70 percent of crops destroyed, and damage estimated in the billions, setting back development by decades. Endemic poverty, chronic unemployment, and the prospects offered by drug trafficking have contributed to a crime wave conducted mainly by youth gangs known as "maras."

In Honduras, infant, under-five, and maternal mortality rates remain high. More than one third of Honduran infants are malnourished. HIV/AIDS prevalence among adults is 1.8 percent, the second highest in Latin America. Each day, nine Honduran children lose one parent to AIDS.

Poverty in Honduras is primarily a rural problem. While populations are evenly divided between rural and urban areas, poverty is not. About 74 percent of the country's poor people (86 percent of the extremely poor) live in rural areas—areas where Living Water International works.

## OUR WORK IN HONDURAS

Since beginning operations in Honduras in 1997, Living Water has completed more than 240 water projects along the north central coast of the country. Living Water International is a registered NGO in Honduras with an established team of trained nationals implementing water solutions for communities in need. In the La Mosquitia region of Honduras, villages have reported an almost immediate 75 percent reduction in illnesses after well completion. Each year, dozens of new wells are drilled in Honduras by Living Water mission teams. In 2010, Living Water plans to lead 20 mission trips to Honduras, with hopes of expanding production in the future. Headquartered in La Cieba, Living Water Honduras also rehabilitates broken-down wells.

## THE DATA

**Population:** 7.2 million

- 16% without access to an improved water source
- 34% without adequate sanitation services
- 50% living below the poverty line

**Life expectancy:** 72 years

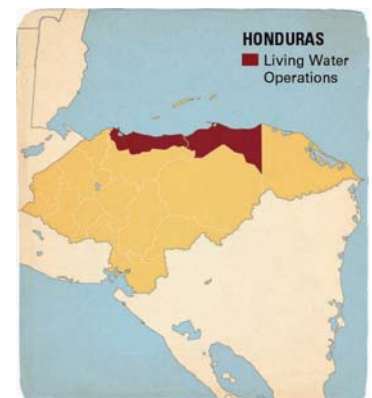
**Infant mortality rate:**

28 per 1000 live births

**GNI per capita:** \$1800 USD

Sources: World Bank, UNICEF, USAID, CIA World Factbook

Official statistics often understate the extent of water and sanitation problems, sometimes by a large margin. Insufficient resources for monitoring population and/or coverage as well as varying definitions of coverage and access contribute to statistical variability.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

The school and the local church worked together in this project. The local church members volunteered to learn the oral Bible stories, because they wanted to participate in the Gospel teachings. When the team arrived, community members were using a river located one and a half kilometers away from the community to meet all of their water needs and because of this, residents were suffering from malaria. During the team's stay, community members assisted the team with the water project whenever possible, provided any materials they had available, made lunch for the drill team and provide security over the water project during the night. Most community members sustain a living by farming and selling their produce at local markets. The nearest school is located in the community whose students, teachers and administrative personnel all have access to the new, safe water source. Before leaving the community, the team provided community member, Jose Luis Cordova, with a LWI Honduras contact number in case their well were to fall into disrepair, become subject to vandalism or theft.

## TESTIMONY

The team had an opportunity to meet with forty-one year old community member and water committee member, Jose Cordova, who stated, "We have had our water committee for many years and until today, we felt like all our efforts to get better water had failed. Thank you."

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WELL

### Project Details

Community name, Type of location	Honduras
Region/Province/District	Trujillo, Colon
GPS Coordinates	Latitude:15 47.858 N Longitude:085 58.975 W
Altitude	64 m
Total depth	17 m
Static level	11 m
Diameter of casing	100 mm
Casing material	PVC
Pump type	India Mark II
Depth of cylinder	15 m
Well yield	48 liters per minute
No. of people served	300

## HYGIENE TEACHING

This well was drilled at a school, where health and hygiene education took place. The team taught children and students in the morning, teachers and parents in the afternoon. The teachers were encouraged to have somebody to support them in helping transform the health and hygiene habits in the community. The team left several resource books with the community, so the teachers can use them. During the hygiene education, the team addressed: Disease transmission, germs, hand washing, proper water saving techniques, healthy and unhealthy communities, causes of diarrhea, identifying good and bad hygiene behaviors, clean hands and clean hearts, how to keep the water clean, how to take proper care of the pump and dental hygiene.

## CHRISTIAN WITNESS

LWI Honduras team member, Alfredo Lopez, met with the local pastors and leaders every morning to teach them the oral Bible stories, so they could teach the kids in the afternoon. Before leaving the community, the team had an opportunity to establish a partnership with the local church and distribute 65 Bibles to community families.

## PHOTOS



Previous water source.



Project in process.



Community member, Jose Cordova, interviewed by LWI Honduras and who stated, "We have had our water committee for many years and until today, we felt like all our efforts to get better water had failed. Thank you."



Water committee members responsible for maintaining the well and who were provided with a LWI Honduras contact number in case their well were to fall into disrepair, become subject to vandalism or theft.



Completed water project.



Close up of plaque.



Community member pumping clean, safe drinking water.