

WATER BRIGADES PROJECT PROFILE: LOS HUATALES, LAS PILAS, AND TIERRAS CHELES

INTRODUCTION

Los Huateles, Las Pilas and Tierra Chele are communities in the municipality of Amapala, in the department of Valle, in southern Honduras. There are roughly 600 people residing in 130 houses. Community members in these three communities cannot obtain enough water to meet their basic needs, meaning that they must forgo many basic hygiene and sanitation practices. Thus, common colds, skin rashes, parasites, and diarrheal diseases plague community members. Moreover, few homes have concrete floors, proper functioning latrines, adequate water storage, or efficient stoves with chimneys, which further

exacerbates their health problems. The closest health centers are in Los Langes and Puerto Grande, which are about a 40 minute walk from the communities. In regards to education, school is only offered until 6th grade in the communities and the closest secondary school is located in Coyolito, about an hour walk away. Many students leave school and begin working to support their families after completing 6th grade. Like their parents, they often work as fishermen and occasionally in agriculture and construction. Several families rely on money sent back to them from relatives who live abroad in places such as the United States and Mexico.

Community Snapshot	
Population	532
Homes	130
People/Home	4
Electricity	Yes
Municipality	Amapala
Department	Valle
Health Center	Los Langes and Puerto Grande
Distance from Compounds	40 minutes
Road Condition	Good



WATER IN LOS HUATALES, LAS PILAS, AND TIERRA CHELE

No centralized water system exists that provides access to all members of the three adjoining communities. In the largest community, Los Huatales, there are 5 public wells and six private wells in which the water is not purified or regulated. Because of its proximity to the ocean, many of the wells blend with salt water. Likewise, during the dry season, most of the wells run dry. When water is not suitable, community members must walk approximately 40 minutes to the nearest source in Los Langes. Most families fill one 5 gallon bucket per day at the most accessible water source, and chlorinate the drinking water for sanitation.



THE WATER SOLUTION IN LOS HUATALES, LAS PILAS, AND TIERRA CHELE

In order to ensure that all community members have access to an adequate supply of clean water, Global Brigades is planning on building a new water system in the three communities. The best water source exists underground outside of the school. A large well will be dug at the community's school and a pump will drive the water to a 20,000 gallon chlorination tank located 83 meters above sea level. The chlorination tank stores and purifies the water, eliminating harmful bacteria and parasites. Gravity then propels the water to each house in the community through approximately 10 kilometers of piping. When the system is finished, all homes in the community will be equipped with access to clean, potable water.



To fund this project, a partnership has been made with Foundation Miguel Facussé, and the National Congress of Honduras. Foundation Miguel Facussé will donate the funds for the purchase of the well and for the construction and labor of the pump. The National Congress of Honduras, has also committed around 178,000 Lempiras (about \$8,000) for the purchase of the pump. A Water Council of seven community members will be

trained on water treatment and system maintenance, administration, and operation. A community plumber will also be identified and trained on the same topics. Upon completion, a monthly water tariff will be established by the community in order to pay the Water Council for water treatment, maintenance costs, and system sustainability. A Basic Sanitation Committee consisting of community volunteers will also be established and trained to present educational workshops in the school which teach children about water and health-related topics.



EDUCATION IN LOS HUATELES, LAS PILAS, AND TIERRA CHELE

There are two separate primary schools for the communities of Los Huatales and Las Pilas. Students in Tierra Chele attend school in a nearby community. In Los Huatales, there are two classrooms and two teachers that serve grades 1-6. Each classroom contains three grades, split into 1st-3rd and 4th-6th. Similar to North American schools, most students are 6 years of age when they enter the 1st grade and are 13 years old when they are done with the 6th grade. For grades 7 - 9, students can go to Puerto Grande, and the closest high school is in San Lorenzo, about an hour away. Many students leave school and begin working to support their families after completing 6th grade. Like their parents, they often work as fishermen and occasionally in agriculture and construction. Only about 30% of children will attend high school.



EDUCATION SNAPSHOT			
	Huatales	Las Pilas	Tierra Chele
#of Students	56	20	40
#of Teachers	2	1	0 nearby community
#of Schools	2	1	0 nearby community
Age Range	6-13	6-13	6-13
Electricity	Yes	Yes	Yes

