

## WATER BRIGADES PROJECT PROFILE: LA CONCEPCIÓN

### Introduction

La Concepcion is located in the municipality of San Matías of the El Paraíso department in Honduras. People's health in the community suffers from lack of proper water and sanitation infrastructure, healthcare, and education. Common cold, pharyngotonsillitis, diabetes, and blurred vision are common health issues within the community. School is offered until 6<sup>th</sup> grade at which point children either begin to work in agriculture to support their families, take classes through the 9<sup>th</sup> grade within the community from local volunteers through the EDUCATODOS program, or seek higher education outside the community in the San Matías municipal center. There is a community health center located within La Concepción, but it occasionally struggles with consistent staffing and medication stocks. The average family income is estimated at 1200 Lempiras per month which calculates to less than \$1 per person per day.

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT	
Population	~640
Homes	160
People/Home	~4
% Children (0-14)	30.8%
Electricity	Yes
Municipality	San Matías
Department	El Paraíso
Health Center	La Concepción
Distance from Compounds	1 Hour
Road Conditions	Good

### Water

In La Concepción, addressing the community's water issues is a priority. With no central community water system, the people in La Concepción use one of the six shallow wells within the community, drawing water out with hand pumps. Not all six wells are public, and people sometimes must pay up to 60 Lempiras just for a trip to bring water from the well. A large storage tank was built at an elevation above the community about three years ago, with the idea of connecting it to a pump-powered water system for the community, but the project was never completed and the tank has been sitting empty ever since.



View of La Concepción from site of the Water Storage Tank

Without a central storage tank used for distribution throughout the community, there is no way for the people of La Concepción to centrally and consistently treat their water. In an effort to address this, about eight years ago Rotary International donated household Bio-Sand Filters to every home throughout the community to allow families to purify their drinking water before consumption. However, community leaders still state that constructing a water system that



Children collecting water from a local hand pump.

brings water to the homes and uses an improved water source is one of the highest needs within the community.

La Concepción is a organized community with a functioning community bank, educational programs, and a basic sanitation committee, among other public services. The community has a Water Council; however, they are not properly trained due to the lack of a community-wide water system. There is also no monthly water fee established to assist with maintenance and administration of existing water infrastructure.

## Solutions

There is no potential surface water (stream, spring) source in the surrounding area of La Concepción sufficient enough to serve the population. In order to access sufficient water, a pump must be installed in one of the existing wells. The community has electricity so a pump could be powered using the existing grid.

The community has been working with a local branch of World Vision and their municipal government for years and they have been able to obtain a pump and the majority of the piping to build their system. At this point they need a last push towards the actual implementation of the project. That is where Water Brigades can step in. The community needs Water Brigades to manage the project and do all of the actual installation of the piping and materials that they already have plus any additional materials that Water Brigades would

provide. With the labor, management, and technical assistance that Water Brigades can provide, the community will be able to gain access to water.

A pump will be installed and connected by a pipeline to the existing storage tank. That storage tank will need to be repaired because it is cracked after sitting empty in the sun for years. A treatment system will be installed at the storage tank to provide people with safe water to drink. Piping will be installed from the storage tank down into the community making up the distribution network. Faucets will be installed in each individual home preventing community members from having to walk long distances to retrieve their water. In order to ensure the sustainability of the water project, a new Water Council and Plumber will be established and trained.



Woman carrying water back to her home from a pump in La Concepcion



Water tank in need of repair