

# APTA

"Agua para TODOS y TODAS"



## Sustainable Management of the Cocoyagua Micro-basin through the Good Governance to Access Basic Water and Sanitation Services

The integrated management of water resources allows an approach for the management and sustainable use of the resources of the micro-basin with the participation of local actors, which allows the population access to basic services, especially water, sanitation and hygiene, for 34,000 people from 5 municipalities that are supplied from the Agua Cocoyagua producing area (Dolores, Dulce Nombre, Trinidad, Veracruz and San José) and the municipality of Concepción Copán in the department of Copán, in western Honduras.

The APTA "Water for All" project contributes to strengthening weak governance in the management of water resources in the micro-basin, the main problem identified in the project design, strengthening the capacities of local actors, promoting spaces for participation, dialogue and concertation between civil society and local governments for the protection of the micro-watershed, empowering the population to demand their right to water, and at the same time, assume their co-responsibility in the management of the micro-watershed and implementation of good water use practices.

However, the weak articulation between the actors of the territory still persists, limited application of regulations by local governments, coffee producers with inadequate practices that contaminate the resource and limited planning and investment focused on the provision of basic services.

According to the prospective evaluation of the first phase of the APTA Project (2018 - 2022), it is considered that the project is in a development stage, therefore, in a second phase, the same structure is maintained, the consolidation of processes will be sought. developed, to systematize the water governance model for the sustainable management of natural resources, where the actors of the system (local government, institutions, civil society, health sector, education, private sector, producers) assume their responsibility and co-responsibility that allows the population equitable and sustainable access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (ASH) and solid waste services, contributing to improving their quality of life.

### DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

Contribute to improving the health of the ecosystem and living conditions of the population of the most vulnerable communities through integrity and co-responsibility in the management of the Cocoyagua micro-watershed.

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. The system, the municipal governance process of the authorities and the process of transparency, accountability to civil society, in their participation and water planning in the management and sustainable management of the Cocoyagua micro-watershed have been strengthened.
2. Access to water in quality and quantity for the population has improved sustainably due to the incidence of communities in participatory processes, water planning and adoption of good ecological practices for the Cocoyagua micro-watershed.



HELVETAS



## RESULTS

To achieve the results of the project, work will be carried out on three major components:

- The **Governance of Water Resources** that will promote spaces for participation, articulation, dialogue, agreement, decision-making, accountability and incidence between civil society and local governments for the design and implementation of ordinances / municipal and regional policies that promote comprehensive management of water resources, which guarantees the access of the vulnerable population to basic WASH services (quality and quantity).
- The **Provision of Service/Integrated Planning** through the relationship with the National Drinking Water and Sanitation Councils (CONASA) and the Regulatory Entity of Drinking Water and Sanitation Services (ERSAPS) that promotes the institutionalization and technical assistance to local instances of the sector of Drinking Water and Sanitation (APS), the Higuito Intermunicipal Council (CIH) will strengthen knowledge and implementation of the existing regulatory framework of the sector (ASH + solid waste), organizational, technical, administrative capacities, of municipal and community structures such as JAAP (rural providers ) for the delivery of better quality and efficient services, improving the application of the Water Framework Law and the preparation of local regulations; and water plans that ensure the sustainable management of the micro-basin and services..
- **Social Co-responsibility** through communication and awareness campaigns that promote changes in thought and behavior in relation to practices for the proper use of water and access to services, linking the participation of networks of women and young people from educational centers.

## IMPLEMENTATION APPROACHES

- **Inclusive systemic approach:** Helvetas maintains its role as facilitator of natural resource governance processes for the delivery of sustainable basic services, articulation of alliances and coordination with other actors in the system, which allows generating changes at the level of individuals, organizations and sustainable management of the micro-watershed.
- **Human Rights Approach:** The project focuses its intervention on people, promoting sustainable changes from the actors as agents of change, who actively participate and who assume their co-responsibility in the management of water and services.
- **Integral Management of Water Resources (GIRH):** Citizen participation and responsibility will be promoted in the planning, management, use, protection and conservation of the resource for the provision of basic WASH services.
- **Management of Conflict Sensitive Projects (GPSC):** It is considered to carry out an approach including the GPSC to contribute to the generation of strategies aimed at reducing tensions in conflicts that are generated locally by the use, management and inequitable distribution of water, developing capacities in the Helvetas technical team to transfer to implementing partners in order to strengthen community and municipal structures.

## FAST FACTS

### Geographic location:

6 municipalities: Dolores, Dulce Nombre, Veracruz, Trinidad, San José and Concepción in the Department of Copán, Honduras CA

**Thematic Focus:** WASH and Water Governance  
Voice, Inclusion and Social Cohesion  
Resilience to Climate Change and Disasters.

**Phase and duration:** 3 years

**Start date:** January, 2023

**Finish date:** December, 2025

**Phase budget:** CHF 750,000.00

**Target group:**

- 4,760 families (23,800 people).
- With a target population of 34,187 people from 6 municipalities, of which 19,487 people (57%) are in extreme poverty.
- 6 local governments, five current in the intervention area and a new one to be identified.
- 1,200 young people from educational centers.
- 500 women organized in networks in the municipalities.
- 280 producers in the micro-basin, mapped in Phase I of the project.

### Partners and Strategic Actors:

- Mancomunidad Intermunicipal Council Higuito (CIH)
- PILAR Association Local Projects and Initiatives for Local Self-Development in Honduras
- Local governments and technical units
- Drinking Water Administrative Boards (JAAP)
- Association of Cocoyagua Water Administrators Boards (AJAAC)
- Citizen Transparency Commission (CCT)
- Health Center Staff
- Educational Centers Staff
- Coffee Producers Associations
- Regional Government Institutions (Institute of Forest Conservation (ICF), Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment (SERNA)

### Donor:

- This project is funded by various donations.

### Implementers:

- Helvetas
- PILAR Association
- Mancomunidad Intermunicipal Council Higuito



**HELVETAS**



Learn more about us:

**Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation**

Col. Tres Caminos, 5th street, block 1, house 3565,  
Post Office Box 3585, Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
Phones: +504 2231-1800, +504 2232-6898 |  
honduras@helvetas.org | www.helvetas.org/es/honduras