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ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS

[UC BERKELEY]

The UC Berkeley Engineers Without Borders chapter was founded in 2009, and we obtained our first project (the Peru Project) in 2011.

We exist to bring together talented students – both engineers and non-engineers – to work towards a common goal of philanthropic engineering abroad. We strive for sustainability in all of its forms: ensuring our projects utilize materials from the community, and guaranteeing that the necessary infrastructure and community acceptance is present to sustain the project after its implementation. The EWB Berkeley model emphasizes working with the community – the project belongs to the community members and it is essential we work together throughout the process.

OUR MISSION

The UC Berkeley Chapter of Engineers Without Borders works with diverse communities to develop sustainable engineering solutions that meet basic health and sanitation needs. By providing students of all backgrounds with hands-on experience, we bridge our community with others around the globe, fostering cultural awareness through social and technological innovation.

780 MILLION PEOPLE DO NOT
HAVE ACCESS TO AN IMPROVED
WATER SOURCE.

BASIC
HUMAN
NEEDS

2.5 BILLION PEOPLE DO NOT
HAVE ACCESS TO IMPROVED
SANITATION.

*According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

THE NICARAGUA PROJECT

[SANITATION]



SANITATION EDUCATION



Compose education material to teach the community about the importance of proper hygiene and the effects it has on personal health and wellness.

LATRINE DESIGN



Design and implement approximately 60 long-lasting latrines in the community that can withstand the high amounts of flooding and water damage associated with the region. After implementation, the latrine can be operated and maintained by individual households.

Our project works to address sanitation inadequacies within the rural community of Cuyali, Nicaragua. The current number of working latrines is insufficient for the 305 members of the community and is the cause of numerous health-related issues. They were originally provided by the government over 10 years ago, but are no longer safe for use, and there are several reports of community members getting sick or latrines physically collapsing on them. Our main goal is to build approximately 60 more latrines for the community of Cuyali so that each families will have their own working latrine, thus lowering the risk of contracting sanitation-related illnesses in the community.

In order to accomplish this project, our team is collaborating with the Nicaragua-based non-governmental organization (NGO) Unión Nacional de Agricultores y Ganaderos (UNAG) Madriz, who is providing us with in-country communication with the community and other engineering support. UNAG has worked with the community members previously through projects such as seed banks, production support and agroforestry systems, and thus have a good working relationship with the community. In addition to our NGO partner, we are also working closely with EWB-USA's in-country office staff and program engineers to facilitate progress on our project before we travel for our assessment trip. They already collected data for our project detailing the residents in each household, their access to working latrines, and the GPS coordinates of each home.

Our team has two tasks: to show the community the importance of sanitation and to design a long-lasting latrine that can withstand the climate of Nicaragua. Once the latrines are complete, the individual families will be responsible for maintenance and repairs of the latrines throughout their twenty year life span, and will be trained by the travel team and the NGO on how to do so.

THE NICARAGUA PROJECT

[WATER]



SYSTEM DESIGN



The scope of this project is to construct a gravity-fed water distribution system for the 1200 residents of El Llanito, Nicaragua. Construction of the system will include installation of an electric-powered pump in place of their hand pump, installation of water storage tanks, and construction of gravity-fed water distribution pipelines and tap stands. Based on data collected during a 2016 assessment trip conducted by SFP as well as information collected through regular communication with the community via Alcance Nicaragua, our team has spent the last year conceptualizing the design options to ensure that our solutions meet the needs of the community and beginning final designs for implementation.

El Llanito is a community of around 1200 people in mountainous rural Nicaragua. The community collects water from a central well, and some community members have to walk as much as two hours a day to collect water. Community members have been working to gain more consistent access to water since 2000. In order to increase local access to potable water, UC Berkeley students are working with an interdisciplinary team of experts from across the US to design and plan a water distribution system. This project is done in collaboration with the San Francisco professional chapter of Engineers Without Borders and with Alcance Nicaragua, an NGO based in the community.

Throughout the past decade, access to water has been a problem that affects 100% of the community, but it also has been a rallying point around which the community has come together to look for solutions. Over the past few years, they have collectively managed a water system of communal wells. Access to water is one of the community's highest priorities, and the community has been working to address the issue of water access for over 20 years. In 2016, El Llanito partnered with NGO Alcance Nicaragua and the San Francisco Professional EWB chapter (SFP) to begin this project. In early 2018, the UC Berkeley EWB Student Chapter and members of the Chicago-based firms, V3 and Williams Creek Consulting, joined the project to aid with design and organization efforts.

This semester, our team will be concentrating our full efforts on finalizing designs (tank site, trenching, etc.) and completing the required documentation for implementation, with the goal of beginning construction this summer. Access to clean water is a basic human right and not all have easy access to it. Our goal is to make clean water accessible to all in the community of El Llanito and end the need of hours of commute just to get water.

THE PANAMA PROJECT



SYSTEM DESIGN



The system will consist of two networks, colloquially named “Chicken Coop” and “India,” each with tanks connected to communal taps. During the academic year, members of the Panama Project design different parts of the system with the aid of professional mentors. During trips to Panama, team members build the system with community volunteers.

SUSTAINABILITY



Project members will continue to build the water system and work with community members to ensure that the system is completely owned and managed by San Francisco residents. The completed project will give San Francisco residents a system with access to clean, safe water for years to come.

El Valle de San Francisco, Panama, a community of 1100 people, is a short drive from Panama City, but residents of San Francisco lack access to basic water and sanitation systems. Due to intermittent water supply, residents must store water for long periods in home storage containers, which easily become contaminated and lead to water-borne disease. EWB-Berkeley collaborates with Footprint Possibilities, a Panama-based NGO, to construct a distribution system that will provide access to running water for San Francisco.

The Panama team collected data during a series of assessment trips during 2015 and 2016, and completed the Chicken Coop network during our first implementation trip in August, 2017. Chicken Coop is currently providing water to one sector of the community of San Francisco, and includes three tanks and seven tap stands. Team members will return in Winter and Spring 2018 to build the India network and monitor the Chicken Coop network.

San Francisco has elected a water committee to manage the distribution system. Project members conduct biweekly phone calls with water committee leaders to stay up to date on events in the community and collaborate on design. During trips to Panama, team members gather data about community health and water use and hold community meetings.

Data collected in August 2017 showed high coliform counts in the water stored in residents’ homes in contrast to the low count found in the tap stands. Following the test results, our team is developing a manual to educate the community on water storage, and planning sanitation workshops for future travel trips. We collaborate with EWB projects across the country on our education plans.

TAKING ACTION

HONORARY LEVEL

[>\$250]

- Invitation to EWB National Conference for a member
- Social media shoutout

BRONZE LEVEL

[\$250+]

- Company logo featured on EWB-UC Berkeley website (small)
- Invitation to Donor Appreciation Banquet
- All benefits of lower tiers

SILVER LEVEL

[\$500+]

- Access to EWB Resume Book containing resumes of members
- Invitation to Donor Appreciation Banquet
- All benefits of lower tiers

GOLD LEVEL

[\$1000+]

- Opportunity to host workshop/info session
- Company logo featured on EWB-UC Berkeley website (large)
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- All benefits of lower tiers

PLATINUM LEVEL

[\$2500]

- Scholarship in your name
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DIAMOND LEVEL

[\$5000]

- Opportunity to be a keynote speaker at the Donor Appreciation Banquet ++
- Invitation to Donor Appreciation Banquet
- All benefits of lower tiers

YOUR DONATION GOES TOWARD...

[\$250]

Building a tap stand

[\$500]

Building a latrine

[\$500]

Sponsoring a traveler

[\$2500]

Purchasing a water tank

[\$5000]

Purchasing a water tank site



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