

DRAFT SUMMARY - PASOS III – Promoting Local Management and Governance of the Water and Sanitation Sector to Benefit the Poor

Start Date	2006-06-30	Total GAC Budget	\$5,000,000
End Date	2012-03-30	Delivery Mechanism	Contribution Agreement
Sector	Health (Water & Sanitation)		
Executing Agency	CARE Canada		

Rationale for Selection and Scope

rationale for selection

- to collect evidence on the **sustainability of results** in areas where GAC funding has ended
 - operational activities under PASOS III ended in December, 2011
 - achievements of the project perceived to have provided a good foundation towards increasing the likelihood of sustainability of impact in beneficiaries' communities and municipalities beyond the life-span of the project

scope

- site visits to two communities where water systems had been implemented
 - selected in consultation with CARE Honduras to include one community where implementation was perceived to have been very successful alongside one where implementation had been perceived to be more challenging
 - included group discussions with members of the water boards in both sites, along with a detailed walk around to observe water and related project infrastructure (e.g., eco-stoves) in one community
- an interview with the mayor of a third community (third site visit cancelled due to security concerns)
- interviews with former CARE Canada personnel and the former local project manager
- review of key project documents including: project approval document, final management summary report, final evaluation report, and CARE Honduras PASOS website

Sustainability Findings¹

- data collected from three communities/municipalities (JAA members + mayor) point to **high overall levels of sustainability and durability of results** relating to the provision of quality water services in beneficiaries' communities/ municipalities and improved health indicators
- **sustainability of gender equality results largely mirror results at project end** (e.g., community with strong gender results maintained results; community with weaker results showed no improvement)
- **sustainability of environmental results were notably strong** across both sites with continued progress and commitment to implementation of micro-watershed management plans
- **sustainability of governance results varied**
 - while water boards continue to function well, weak links between municipalities and water boards were noted in both site visits, alongside perceptions that municipalities may not be assuming their role
 - lack of leadership at municipal level in one community linked to failure to implement key sustainability measures (micro water meters and differentiated tariffs); while key results have been sustained significant challenges to ensure continued sustainability were noted
- perceptions that the **replication of the PASOS model** and continued use of capacity building materials (e.g., guides, manuals, protocols) by government institutions and other NGOs is contributing to the broader water and sanitation impacts at a national level

factors contributing to current sustainability

quality of capacity building and commitment of key individuals

risks to continued sustainability

weak governance links between municipalities and water boards

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> focus on capacity building and governance before implementation of infrastructure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strong local ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> continued relevance and importance to needs of communities/beneficiaries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> systematization of protocols and continued open access to guides, manuals (website) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strategic and concentrated investments (20+ years) ²	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> future renewal of capacity within water boards (over reliance on key individuals) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ability of JAA to adapt to continued population growth and lifecycle needs of infrastructure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unsustainable tariff system in one of the communities visited (insufficient to cover operation and maintenance costs)
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overview of project results at time of operational closure (December, 2011)

overall performance

- performed very well against approved project Performance Measurement Framework
- end of project external evaluation indicated a very high overall performance

outcomes achieved:

- 13 water systems out of 12 planned were completed and operational and a total of 2,787 water meters were installed, benefitting a total of 23,986 people in 29 communities in 8 municipalities
- improved technical and administrative capacities of the 8 municipalities to manage and provide water and sanitation services to their communities
- improved capacity of water boards (JAAs) in the sustainable management of their water and sanitation systems
- improved capacity of communities and municipalities for the sustainable management and protection of selected micro-watersheds

overview of sustainability of results at time of site visits (April, 2017)

- continued delivery of water services with high levels of satisfaction in terms of the quantity, quality and continuity of water
- perceived decrease in rates of diarrhea among children along with decrease in overall levels of diarrhea and respiratory illness – attributed to improved water quality, improved latrines, use of eco-stoves
- water boards (JAAs) functioning well and continuing to manage water and sanitation systems
- continued technical and administrative capacity of municipalities is inconclusive – more data needed
- communities continuing to manage and protect micro-watersheds

Sustainability of Results – water services and health indicators

quantity, quality and continuity of water services

- beneficiaries (JAA members + mayor) in all three communities all confirmed the continued functioning of the water systems
 - quality - perceived to be high; can drink from tap, no longer need to buy water for consumption; water quality monitored and treated with chlorine; one community noted need for water filter
 - quantity of water was noted to be sufficient with water arriving 24 hours/day
 - continuity of water throughout year, despite reservoir levels that are low in dry season

operation and maintenance of water systems

- tariff rates varied substantially across communities

¹ Note: findings based on limited data collection (as outlined in scope) and did not include a comprehensive review of all project results/outcomes

² Canada's contribution perceived to be instrumental in achieving 85% coverage of water & sanitation systems in country

- 2 JAAs had differentiated tariffs based on socio-economic situation and consumption levels (water meters); one community base rate of 50 Lps, other between 120-150 Lps (higher due to well system – electricity costs)
- both JAAs perceived that there was continued acceptance of the tariff system and that the use of water meters increased awareness of water consumption
- both JAAs perceived rates were sufficient to resource ongoing operation and maintenance of systems but concerns raised about need to look for new water sources as population increases
- 1 JAA used base rate of 30 Lps (+tariff for environmental fund) – no water meters and tariffs not differentiated (except for minor subsidy for elderly) or based on consumption
- lack of water meters linked to low awareness of water consumption/waste (community members suspicious that meters meant privatization and resisted when introduced, no support from mayor); currently exploring ways to raise build buy-in for use of micro-meters
- recognition that tariff rates are not sustainable and cannot cover cost; no contingency funds and JAA currently in debt; exploring ways to raise awareness of costs and need for tariffs to increase, as well as implementing differentiated tariffs
- maintenance of systems
 - all three communities perceived they have the skills and capacities to respond and find solutions to ongoing maintenance issues; examples of past and current maintenance/repair issues they have/are responding to - tubes breaking due to trees, water pipe hit by lightning, need to relocate filter

health indicators

- communities noted continued use of latrines and eco-stoves
- anecdotal information (from health centre monitoring and community perceptions) that levels of diarrhea in children has decreased and can be attributed to increased water quality (perception that remaining cases largely related to viruses); beneficiaries noted that before water consumed from river/gullies that were contaminated
- anecdotal information (and household visit) that eco-stoves and improved latrines continued to be used

Sustainability of Results - gender equality

implementation roles - women plumbers

- at project closure - 28 women from the 13 water system projects were certified as plumbers and at least 30% had been hired by municipalities to work as plumbers – the importance of women plumber's work was noted to have been key in advancing the role of women in the community regarding traditional male-oriented trades; noted that women plumber program sparked participation of women and they subsequently gained respect/empowerment in community
- at site visit – sustainability of results in two of the three communities
 - community one – 4 women trained as plumbers, 2 of which remain employed by the JAA as plumbers (one in maintenance and one in water meter reading); of the remaining 2 it was noted that one moved to Mexico and the other was no longer interested in plumbing
 - community two – 2 women trained as plumbers but are not working in sector (may sometimes help households with minor issues); no opportunities for them to become employed as plumbers as president of JAA is/ has been assuming this role
 - community three – 4 women trained as plumbers and continue to be employed as plumbers (based on information provided by mayor)

decision making roles – administrators/managers in water boards

- at project closure – JAAs board of directors – 40% members were women, with the position of vice-president being occupied by women in 25% of cases and president in 8% of cases
- at site visit – in one community women occupied 3/6 active positions in JAA, with the vice-president occupied by a woman, in the other community women occupied 2/7 positions in JAA (ordinary member and secretary)

community mobilization and buy-in – women's leadership

- at project closure – strong women’s leadership in community mobilization and buy-in noted to have been instrumental to completion of water system construction
- at site visit – in one community women noted their active and continued participation in project; perceived to have raised their self-esteem in community and continued recognition that construction could not have been completed without participation of women; noted that it was not difficult to involve women as project responded to their need for water

Sustainability of Results – environment

implementation of micro-watershed management plans and environmental funds

- at project closure - all JAAs had a micro-watershed management plan and an environmental fund was included in tariff costs with the aim of subsidizing the costs of micro watershed management and protection
 - the promotion of micro-watershed management and the introduction of environmental funds to buy land was noted as an innovation of the project
- at site visit – discussions with two JAAs confirmed continued implementation of micro-watershed management plans and use of environmental fund to purchase land
 - one JAA noted environmental funds have been collected over 4 years and they have been successful at purchasing 21/25 plots identified (395/465 manzanas); purchase of remaining 4 plots is planned (well within expected timeframe of completing purchases within 6 years)
 - second JAA noted environmental funds have been used to purchase 6 properties to protect watershed and this had led to decreased contamination (not confirmed if additional properties were identified in plan)
 - mayor of third community noted increased awareness of the environmental importance of micro-watersheds and their conservation (details of plan/environmental fund not discussed)

Sustainability of Results - governance

PASOS III focused on improved governance of the water and sanitation sector, including strengthening the capacity of municipalities and community-based organizations (e.g., water boards) to provide services to communities and to develop conditions for economically sustainable development of micro-watersheds.

water boards (JAAs)

- at project closure - 100% of water boards (JAAs) had obtained legal status and had a functioning board of directors
- at site visit – discussions with 2 JAAs confirmed continued functioning of JAAs and support committees (see gender results for membership); noted continued impact of project in increasing their capacity (e.g., in transparent use of funds), assemblies held to elect JAA members but in many cases they have stayed the same (if they do a good job they can be re-elected), heavy reliance on will of committed individuals

municipalities

- at project closure – improved capacity of 8 municipalities to manage and provide water and sanitation services
- at site visit
 - discussions with 2 JAAs – noted weak governance links with municipalities (e.g., meetings not inclusive) and perceptions that municipalities are not assuming their role (e.g., not providing technical assistance, logistical support), turnover in municipal staff trained by project noted along with lack of strong municipal leadership
 - in third community (represented by mayor) perception that municipality is assuming their role and ensuring continuity and sustainability (note – mayor the same as at time of project and personally committed)