Community Needs

The village of Valle Bonito consists of various neighborhoods, only some of which are served by the water distribution system. Recently renovated by the VHCMB / EWB partnership, this system now provides chlorinated drinking water to those homes connected. Unfortunately, more than half of the Community remains to be served by this system. These residents siphon their water from nearby streams using garden hoses. These streams are contaminated by agricultural runoff (primarily pesticides and pulp from coffee farms), sewage (resulting from the lack of proper sanitation facilities) and natural surface water pathogens (e.g., parasites). Waterborne illness is highly prevalent in the community, resulting in diarrhea, high infant mortality rates, parasitic infections, and skin problems.

The Plan

The community seeks the optimal technical solution to their public health problems, which includes construction of a new water system, to serve the balance of the community, and new sanitation facilities. These activities are complemented by the design of a community driven public health education program, promoting water use that prevents spread of water-borne disease by human activity. The VHCMB / EWB partnership is assisting Valle Bonito in achieving sustainable health improvements from these infrastructure and education goals.

Valle Bonito Community Partners

- **VHCMB**, founded in 1999, improves the health of underserved communities in Honduras through high-impact short-term mission trips and long-term capacity building programs in remote villages. The Remote Village Project empowers villages through Community Health Worker training, health education, and the provision of sustainable, public works improvement projects. (www.virginahospitalcenter.com)
- **EWB-DC Professional Chapter** is a group of engineering and public health professional volunteers with a mission to empower and assist communities to develop appropriate solutions to their water and sanitation needs. (www.ewb-dc.org)

Next Steps

- EWB-DC technical team, with support from Fondo Hondureño de Inversion Social, will begin construction of the new water and sanitation system in Summer 2008.
- EWB-DC public health team will begin working with newly trained Health Promoters, as well as the existing Community Health Workers, to implement the water use and hygiene education plan.
- EWB-DC public health will support a year-long volunteer in the community to facilitate the educational efforts.

To make a tax deductible contribution to this project: please send check or money order to EWB-DC Professional, Valle Bonito, 1800 Industrial Circle, Suite B-3, Longmont, CO 80026. Or donate online at: http://www.ewb-usa.org/donate.php (Search “Water Supply Project”, DC Professionals, La Libertad, Honduras).