

Needs Assessment - Aldea los Corrales - Report 2019

Overview

[Project name] is a collective effort, led by Maya Pedal, involving the Itzapa Municipality, Pure Water for the World, and Rotary Oeste Guatemala to deliver communities with quality of life improvements that holistically cover: health, education, environment, and more. [Project Name] envisions the development of a model for community improvement that combines national and international charity, local government funding, and micro-financing, to deliver meaningful, sustainable developments. These include, water filters in homes, community-owned bici-maquinas, and rocket stoves.

At the current time, [Project Name] is in its infancy, and we are conducting a micro-project as a “proof of concept” to act as a base from which to scale up and secure future funding. The Micro-Project is limited to 10 homes, and will deliver on water filters, WASH education, and a small-range of bici-maquinas. This document covers the needs assessment of the Micro-Project, which was conducted between October and November 2019.

Location

To begin the development of [Project Name], a community local to Maya Pedal was selected. Maya Pedal is located in the small, rural town of San Andrés Itzapa, near Chimaltenango in Guatemala, and has 9 aldeas - small villages. Corrales was selected as the community in which to start the project. It was chosen with the guidance of the Mayor Elect of San Andrés Itzapa - Francisco Tojin. Corrales has a strong community, a quality deemed important to the success of the project. It also has had less projects aimed at community improvement compared to similar aldeas in Itzapa.

Stakeholders engaged

A wide variety of stakeholders were engaged for the Micro-Project. As part of the model that we are trying to develop here, stakeholders are brought in to help shape and influence the project as much possible.

- Maya Pedal - In addition to leading the project, Maya Pedal has over two decades of experience working as an NGO dedicated to building machines for communities with no access to electricity or for whom electricity is expensive. Over these years they have become an active member of the community, involving themselves in many social projects to the benefit of Itzapa and elsewhere.
- Las Niñas Lideran - An organisation that works towards the empowerment of young women and girls.
- Itzapa Municipality - Mayor elect, Francisco Tojin, will be taking office in January 2020. He is committed to the vision of the project, has provided valuable insight, and has offered to provide support for the delivery of the project.

- Rotary Guatemala West - Rotary has a long history of supporting projects that seek to benefit and empower local communities. Rotary Guatemala West has previous experience of supporting water projects in Guatemala.
- Pure Water for the World - Pure Water for the World's mission is to improve lives by empowering people with access to life's most basic necessities; safe water and sanitation.
- COCODES - The Community Councils of Urban and Rural Development, a statutory body that fosters the effective organization and participation of the community and its organizations, as well as, support coordination between community authorities and other organizations.
- Corrales community members - Beneficiaries of the project were engaged in the process of the needs assessment, through a focus group and surveys.

Method of the Needs Assessment

The needs assessment was undertaken over a month and a half period. The initial stage involved discussions with community leaders - such as the Mayor Elect of Itzapa, and COCODES - who were able to identify broader problems that the community of Corrales face. These conversations were able to shape and focus the areas of relevancy for the further two stages of the needs assessment. Two principal methods were employed in the needs assessment: a focus group, and a survey. Both were conducted on 17 November 2019.

Home selection

The 10 families to be part of the micro-project were chosen by COCODES. They were chosen from across the aldea of Corrales. Members from the family were invited to the aldea community centre, where they were given a short presentation about Maya Pedal and the vision for the project. The focus group followed after.

Focus Group

From discussions with COCODES, it was decided that only two bicimaquinas were potentially suitable for the initial 10 homes: Desgranadora y Molino de Granos; and the Bici Molino de Nixtamal. Each machine was presented by a staff member of Maya Pedal, and the community was invited to discuss the machines. As part of the facilitation of the focus group, the families that lived closer to one another were put into groups to discuss the sharing of potential machines.

Survey

To evaluate the need for water filters and bici-bombas, a survey of each of the 10 families was conducted. Here guidance was taken from Pure Water for the World, with questions from their survey being adopted and adapted to the specific context and solutions that are deliverable at the Micro-Project stage. The surveys were conducted by 'Community Champions', young

women and girls local to Itzapa who will be advocates for the project and act as points of contact with the community. The community champions received training in research method prior to the surveys.

Results

Through the conduct of the needs assessment, a number of problems were identified, some being outside the scope of the solutions that are deliverable from the Micro-Project. One of these is the limited access to water by many families within Corrales. The limited access to water means that bio-sand water filters are not suitable for all homes at the current time. Maya Pedal is in conversations with the Mayor Elect on possible solutions for this, including shipping water to Corrales in a tanker (this would increase the viability of bio-sand water filters). As noted below, not all the homes surveyed appear suitable for a bio-sand filter due to their infrequent access to water, but this could change if the aforementioned solution comes to fruition.

Filters: Of the 10 homes surveyed, there are two homes where a bio-sand water filter would be suitable. These homes have access to water daily, and indicate they would use a filter¹. A further 5 homes could potentially need water filters - here there are problems with their water supply. For example, they may only have access to water once every 2 days, or have multiple water sources which stops the bio-sand filters being as effective. Further investigation is required with these homes to check their suitability. 2 homes were deemed unsuitable for a water filter due to inadequate water supply. A final home already has a biosand filter - this home already has a suitable water container and indicated no interest in receiving WASH training.

Containers and WASH education: Half the homes have safe water storage containers already. However only one family cleans their water container with treated water, indicating need for WASH education.

Bicimaquinas: The focus group initially determined a need for three Desgranadora y Molino de Granos, these are to be shared among the community with machines in specific homes. The machines are to be shared amongst the 10 homes, but responsibility for their maintenance belonging to those who have the machine. There was identification of a need for the Bici Molino de Nixtamal, however once the total cost was taken into consideration, the focus group agreed that it was too much at the Micro-Project stage.

¹ Whilst stating an intention to use does not mean that use would actually occur. Other areas of the Micro-Project are designed to increase use and maintenance of the interventions delivered.

Below is a table of the needs, and potential needs.

Intervention	Needed	Potentially Needed (in addition)
Bio-sand water filter	2	5
Safe water storage container	5	1
WASH education ²	8	0
Desgranadora y Molino de Granos	3	0
Bici Molino de Nixtamal	0	1

Recommendations

Based on the results of the needs assessment, the following is recommended:

- Inform all homes of the result of the needs assessment, as it pertains to them (i.e. what we've concluded they need individually).
- Deliver all items listed in the 'required' column of the table above
- Conduct follow-up interviews with the five homes identified as having a 'potential need' for a water filter, but for whom there is doubt over their access to adequate water supplies to make the filters a viable option for them. Interviews should consist of an explanation of the requirements of the bio-sand filters (e.g. how much water is needed) and a discussion as to whether they are able and willing to meet these requirements.
- Conduct follow-up interviews with the two homes indicating an insufficient supply of water to make the bio-sand filters a viable option. As above.
- Provide filters to those who are able and willing to meet the necessary requirements of the filters.
- For those who are unable to do this, offer them contact details of Maya Pedal and ask them to contact us if their situation improves (hopefully as will occur as a result of efforts to improve the water supply in Corrales).

² This is separate to the WASH education specifically included as part of the bio-sand filter installation.