

It is an exciting moment for SWASH+ Central America program as the partners are busy completing activities in Phase II schools and preparing for two potential funding sources in 2010: the Dow Live Earth Run for Water with GWC and a partnership between The Coca-Cola Foundation and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).



The partners have advanced with field work to the extent that at the end of January they had completed construction activity in 143 schools targeted over both phases. The MWA and its partners hosted a delegation of IDB representatives in Central America in September, and in October and November our partners met with Health and Education Ministry officials at the national level to refine program activities in each country for the potential expansion of the program in 2010. Funding from The Coca-Cola Foundation has already been approved. Approval from IDB is expected in the coming weeks. Also, at GWC's request MWA revised and re-submitted a two-year proposal for program expansion to GWC Live Earth. Both proposals are based upon the concept paper that program partners developed together in early 2009 to guide program expansion.

A broader alliance has been established to coordinate school WASH activities throughout the region. This alliance includes UNICEF (regional and country offices), Plan International, the Pan American Health Organization, and the Dominican Republic and Central American Forum for Drinking Water and Sanitation (FOCARD – of the Central American Integration System). The activities of this broader alliance, supported by staff at the Secretariat hosted by Water For People in Honduras, have included:

- Regional Symposium on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Schools, which was held July 28-30, 2009 in Nicaragua. More than 60 professionals from 15 countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean participated, and several SWASH+ schools were featured during a field visit.
- Development of a school WASH website for professionals throughout the region (to be launched in February).
- Development of a compendium of school WASH materials from around the world for professionals throughout the region (to be included on website – disc to be distributed throughout the region in February).
- Development of a video with clips from the regional symposium and elsewhere that will serve as an advocacy tool throughout the region (DVD to be distributed throughout the region in February).
- Planning of Global Handwashing Day activities at the regional level.



Other activities of the SWASH+ Central America Honduran students celebrated Global Handwashing Day in SWASH+ schools supported by Water For People.

- Development of concepts for advocacy
- Planning and co-facilitation of the August 2009 PMG meeting with CRS Guatemala and their local partner Caritas Verapaz.
- Presentation of SWASH+ at WEFTEC 2009 and facilitation of a school WASH workshop with Diana at the 1st International Water Association Development Congress.
- Review of recently uncovered school WASH standards in all four countries and revision of the SWASH+ minimum technical standards document.

- Collection of materials for development of a *PEC* (Spanish abbreviation for “Community-Executed Projects”) in *Schools Training Manual*, for professionals throughout the region based upon the Water For People—Honduras direct transfer implementation strategy.
- Presentation of Concept Note of Regional Alliance for WASH in Schools at February 2010 IRC/WSSCC Seminar on Governance for Sustainable Sanitation Services, Central America.

Finally, in early October the World Water Corps® completed all 2009 mapping and monitoring field work and the report is currently being finalized. The next SWASH+ Central America PMG meeting is currently being planned for Honduras in March 2010.