

**LA/HON/42:** **Support decentralization with focus on poor in Honduras**  
**Year:** 1 of 3  
**Task Team Leader:** Rafael Vera  
**Client:** CONASA, ERSAPS, SANAA, FHIS, local governments (municipalities)  
**Country:** Honduras  
**Partners:** RASHON, SDC, SIDA, CIDA, UNICEF, WB, CARE and NGOs

**Desired Project Outcome:**

The WSS in Honduras owns and implement a strategy for rural and small towns to improve the access of the poor to quality and sustainable WS services under the decentralized legal framework.

**Project Description:**

Even high rates of WS services coverage are shown in national statistics a significant proportion of the urban and rural poor do not have access to quality and sustainable WS services in Honduras. The adoption of the WSS framework law approved in Oct 2003 was expected to change this scenario; however the Law has slow implementation speed because political interferences and financial limitation, even high pressure exists from civil society, some government agencies such as Ministry of Finance (SEFIN) and cooperation agencies. Funded by the World Bank the Strategic Plan for Modernizing the Water and Sanitation Sector” (PEMAPS) is under implementation with focus to support the decentralization of 9 urban WS systems. IDB is also financing the decentralization and strengthening of WS services of additional cities. However, no specific strategy or plan exist to improve the access to WS services in rural, small towns and periurban areas where sporadic interventions are not enough to reach MDGs as expected.

The current project would make focus in promoting between national and local government agencies, donors table and urban and rural community organizations the development of a WSS strategy specific for rural and small towns, including institutional framework, management models, financial policy, low cost technology, post project actions to strength sustainability. A second project pillar would be the TA provision to improve access to sanitation in periurban areas and rural communities by advocating the use of low cost technology as condominial and simplified sewage, as well as the small scale local entrepreneurs (SSLE) participation.

Key stakeholders for the current project would be CONASA, SANAA and ERSAPS as government organizations. RAS-HON would play the role of civil society representative and SDC together UNICEF as partners and co- financers.

**Assumptions:**

1. Political willingness of GoH to maintain the interest in developing a WSS strategy and commit financial resources to support the access of the poor to quality services.
2. Tripartite table (Government – Donors – Civil society) and Donor’s table have the commitment to support the increase of WS services in rural and small towns as a priority.
3. Local governments and periurban and rural community organizations agree and adopt the proposed strategy.
4. Close coordination with WB TTLs is effective
5. The WSS network RAS-HON is active representing the civil society and leading the resource management center in Honduras

**Start Date:** Jul 08

**End Date:** Jun 11

**Project Milestones:**

1. A strategy document to improve the access of WS services in rural and small towns in a decentralized framework is available and adopted by the government – Jun 10
2. WS service innovative management models are identified and promoted to strength decentralization - Jun 10
3. A financial policy including cost recovery concepts for rural and small towns WS services are participatory prepared and adopted by government and financial agencies – Dec 09
4. A specific strategy to promote sanitation prepared with participation of WSS institutions, cooperation agencies and civil society is in place and adopted as guide to reach sanitation MDGs – June 10
5. Successful experiences by using low cost technologies on sanitation are identified and documented – Jun 10
6. Innovative approaches to improve access to sanitation are identified, documented and promoted – Jun 10
7. A modern SIS for WS is designed by CONASA and development is under implementation – Jun 08
8. RASHON capacity to lead the resource center initiative is strengthened and operating – Dec 10

**Indicators of Outcome:**

1. Government agencies (CONASA and ERSAPS), main NGOs and the Donors' table are aware and adopting the new WSS strategy for rural and small towns. – Jun 11
2. At least 20 municipalities are familiar and trained on new management models to strength the quality of WSS - Jun 11
3. A financial policy document including cost recovery concepts for rural and small towns is printed and disseminated among WSS institutions in Honduras – Jun 10
4. A Sanitation Strategy document to guide the sector for new investments oriented to reach the poor with quality services are disseminated in two national workshops with participation of WSS institutions, cooperation agencies and civil society – Dec 10
5. At least three successful low cost technologies on sanitation are shared with WSS institutions in two workshops hosted by RAS-HON – Jun 11
6. Two Innovative approaches to improve access to sanitation are adopted by main WSS institutions – Dec 10
7. CONASA, ERSAPS and FHIS with support of INE implements a modern SIS – Jun 11
8. The Resource Center performs at least three training activities to RAS-HON stakeholders - Dec 10

**Project Update:** New project oriented to promote innovative approaches for improving the access to quality WSS services in rural and small towns.

**Project Activities and Outputs:**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Output(s) and their Deliverable Dates</b>
<b>1. Promoting the development of a WSS strategy for RWS and small towns</b>	
Meetings with WSS Table “Mesa tripartite” and donors table to get support for developing the strategy	Tables report – Jun. 09
Installation of a working group with WSS authorities, NGOs and donors as members to lead the strategy preparation	Working group meetings report – Aug 08
Sharing of experiences and basic principles in a RWS and small towns strategy	Consultant report including participants feedback – Jun 09
Two workshops to discuss content and advances of strategy preparation	Workshop memoir Feb 09 – Jun 09.
Dissemination of results	Publication – Dec 09
<b>2. Supporting the adoption of innovative management models in small towns</b>	
Validation WSP study	Consultant report – Dec. 08
Workshop to promote new management models	Workshop memoir – Feb 09
Workshop to disseminate proposed management models between municipalities	Publication – April 09 Workshop memoir Jun 09
<b>3. Assisting to develop a financial policy for RWSS</b>	
Documenting experiences and principles as background for a financial policy	Consultant report – Mar 09
Workshop to share study report	Workshop memoir – Jun 09
<b>4. Advocating the development of a concerted national strategy for sanitation</b>	
Support to consolidate the sanitation working group	Meeting memoirs - Sep 08
Sharing experiences from LAC countries and developing principles for a sanitation strategy document	Consultant report - Mar 09
Workshop to present strategy proposal prepared by working group	Workshop memoir – Apr 09
Dissemination of sanitation strategy document	Publication – Jun. 09
Workshop with RAS-HON to promote innovative low cost technology	Workshop memoir - Dec 08
Promotion of new approaches on sanitation (sanitation as a business)	Workshop report – Mar 09
<b>5. Development of Sector Information Systems</b>	
Support to CONASA in designing a SIS	Consultant report – Apr. 08
Workshop on SIS advance	Workshop memoir – May 08
Evaluation of WS coverage	Consultant report – Jun. 08
<b>6. Knowledge management and networking</b>	
Support to development of Resource Center based on RAS-HON	Consultant report – Jun 09
Workshop on development of the Resource center in Honduras	Workshop memoir – Apr 09
Attendance to workshops and field visits	BTORs – Jun. 09
Sharing knowledge on Periurban and RWSS	Workshop memoir – Apr. 09
Workshop on networking experiences	Workshop memoir – Mar 09
Support to RAS-HON magazine publication	Three issues – Jun 09