

Expedition Overview:

What we achieved:

The project was run with great success with 18 volunteers from Imperial College travelling to Honduras and carrying out the hybrid Water and Public Health Brigade. On the first day the team was introduced to the community of La Campos and explained the design of the water system. For the next 3 days, it proceeded to carry out the building of a water distribution network that will reach 154 houses which involved digging the trenches where the pipes for the water system would be laid out and placing the pipes in them.

Thanks to the hard work put in by the group and the community we were finished with this portion of the project in time for the deadline and had enough time to prepare our education session for the children in the community which involved explaining some basic but important hygiene habits. On top of this, we were able to make a surprise piñata party for the children as the education session took place on Children's Day and had an 'exchange of cultures' celebration where different members of the community, mostly children, performed some traditional Honduran dances and songs for us as we gave them a performance of Bohemian Rhapsody in return.

On the 8th day of the project the team arrived in La Concepción, where we met the families we would be working with during the Public Health Brigade. The morning was spent meeting the families and then we set to work on the construction of three sanitation stations (including a latrine, shower and pila) for a catholic church, an evangelical church and a house. By the end of the two days all construction was completed and a real bond had been formed between volunteers and the families.

What went well:

Overall, the project was a huge success and delivered everything it planned to for the two communities in Honduras. What was especially successful was how well volunteers communicated and connected with locals. This is something that is hugely important to the Global Brigades core belief of empowerment; by working alongside locals, despite any language barriers faced, this shared experience genuinely inspires community members to strive for more and take ownership of their projects leading to a far more sustainable development in the community.

What we learned: Seeing both communities really involved in the projects reinforced our belief that what we were doing in Honduras was not charity work but rather cooperation work together with two empowered and ambitious communities who wanted long and sustainable development for themselves. Knowing children are the first beneficiaries from these projects further motivated us to work harder as we knew improvements made on their lives will help their education and have a huge impact on the future of the communities.

