An Analysis of Constructability Strategies in Project Delivery: Making Infrastructure Construction Sustainable in Copán Ruinas, Honduras

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Many organizations are addressing water and sanitation infrastructure needs in Honduras and other developing countries. Infrastructure development is a process which involves many participants and many phases. Because international projects face more logistical challenges, projects often are not built to the level of quality expected in industrialized nations. Projects are also initiated in a top-down fashion, not allowing communities to participate in the decision making process. This can result in a low quality project that may not meet the needs of the community and is not sustainable. Community initiated projects which utilize local knowledge can be maintained by the community and achieve sustainability.

While working with the Peace Corps as a water and sanitation volunteer in Honduras, I was involved in infrastructure development projects from initiation to community turnover. Working with the municipal government in Copán Ruinas, Honduras, I was able to collaborate with different organizations and analyze the approaches taken and their effectiveness.

This report analyzes many of the challenges that must be overcome to achieve sustainability in infrastructure development projects in Honduras. Comparing project delivery approaches used in industrialized nations and those used in Honduras, many similarities can be drawn. This report discusses how strategies common to known delivery approaches can improve project efficiency in international development work and improve the chances for project sustainability.