

ALABAMA-HONDURAS MEDICAL EDUCATIONAL NETWORK

“AHMEN”

MONTHLY REPORT

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SPECIAL REPORT

“ESPARTA PROJECT”

Several months ago our program in Honduras, based in the relationship with UNA (Agricultural University) students who were supporting the follow up to the graduated Community Agents from the AHMEN Training Program, was invited by one of them, now the Engineer Luis Beltran to know and explore possibilities for new agents to be trained in the Municipality of Esparta.

The Municipality of Esparta belongs to the Department of Atlántida and has one of the best profiles we could find to develop a very successful training program.

It is a very fertile land growing several products like palm oil with around 20,000 hectares, cacao and cows. It is very important that despite this fact still poverty is one of the main problems that the communities are facing.

Historically, Esparta was one of the main bases of the International Companies producing banana, and the exploitation of labor registered many violent conflicts and repression that cost many lives that were killed and repressed for protesting against the selling of land to big international companies.

Because of this historical presence from Europe and the US, we can find many villages with names like Alabama, Dakota, Tacoma, Colorado or European names like Paris and Esparta.

This one of the most reach areas with water, like the Lagoon of Zambuco were we can observe a specie in extinction, the beautiful Manati, known as the “Marine Cow”.

PICTURE: Engineer Luis Beltran and Byron Morales AHMEN’s Representant. Luis has been the key person and contact developing the relationship with the Municipality to promote the training program. In front of the Catholic Church, one of the potential partners whose priests are committed with the spiritual and social development of families and communities.



THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

The proposal from AHMEN's initiative is to count with a strong and organized partner to start the training program in the Municipality. and we have agreed with the Mayor, Mr. Edgardo Ramirez a allianze to promote Community Development to high levels based in the training of local leadership.



With the 70% of people's support and acceptance, the Mayor has developed a model of intervention and investment in Education, Health and as an example recently 20 students were full granted to study in the National University of Catacamas. Also in the conversations of the Agreement of Cooperation among AHMEN and the Municipality, the Mayor has already committed the support of the Municipality and funding all the costs of the program.

The Mayor's office is concentrating in the development of a new young generation committed with honesty and capacity to transform the reality of the communities.

One of the very important departments that we interviewed was the Office for Environmental Care. Mr. Tom Kelly, who explained us the commitment he is working on with the communities and all the authorities to protect, preserve and produce in rational and healthy ways the land.



He has committed his support and orientation to us in managing our training program based in the environmental reality and needs of the area.

Since environmental care is going to be one of the main subjects in the proposed training program, Mr. Kelly has committed his voluntary support training the participants on these subjects. All this subject is very relevant in area where

Because of the long and unjust land exploitation from international companies since 1902, the people lost the sovereignty and security of production and feeding.

PICTURE: One of the ancient and typical houses where the companies' chiefs or supervisors used to live.



ASOCIATION NEW HORIZONS

We were invited also by a grassroots Organization. They have been organizing the families in worst conditions and created a model of community where we observe organization, commitment and production to overcome poverty and community conflicts.

They have a very well organized women's group and have successfully developed proposal for latrines, purified water and conventional energy.

We presented the training program to the Association leadership and they have welcome the program and ready to start the training at any time.



They are willing to attend the training program quarterly during three years once AHMEN and the Municipality signed the agreement of cooperation and the Municipality provides the necessary funds.

The projects and community life model that the Association has developed has been challenged by AHMEN to serve as a demonstrative project for the CAs and communities come to visit and be trained by them with the success they have had in community development.

PICTURE: The main leaders group responsible for the development and 29 families concentrated in this area and impacting and interacting with families around the area from other villages.



As we have said, the draft of an agreement of cooperation with the Mayor's office is on his desk. WE plan to sign the agreement during September and be ready to start with the first workshop next October!

Pray for this promise and the impact this might cause in other communities and Mayor's offices to implement the training program, self sustained and in a larger scale.

Peace!