The Agua Tuya Program
A local action in Cochabamba - Bolivia

Harnessing local providers to provide water for all

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http://aguatuya.com
The need

- The 80’s and lack of access to water in peri urban Cochabamba
  - District 9 (productive district)

- The water committees
  - Civil society organizes around the water problem
  - Private (community) investment
  - Solve their problem on their own
  - Short term solution
Our response (from the private sector)

1. The pipes (PLASTIFORTE)
2. Technical advise
3. Installation
4. Training
5. Alliances with NGOs and/or foundations
6. …The Agua Tuya Program
Concrete results (decentralized systems)

- Creation of over 158 water distribution systems ("local providers") that service over 80,000 users 24/7.
- Total local investment of 3 Million USD made by the users.
Concrete results

Groups of decentralized water systems
Built by the Agua Tuya program.
The Agua Para Todos Project

- Cochabamba city (Bolivia)
- 600,000 inhabitants
- SEMAPA is the Municipal Utility
- Its concession area has been recently increased from 5,000 Has to 15,000 Has
- SEMAPA has very tough expansion goals to meet
- The expansion area is comprised of low income population that currently buy water from water trucks at very high prices (2.5 USD/cubic meter)
Centralized water system

- Peri urban areas grow chaotically
- The utility cannot reach them due to:
  - Lack of investment capacity
  - Low water consumption that makes investment recovery take too long
Organizing the demand

The water committees within the concession area

Water Committee #1

Water Committee #2

Water Committee #3
Now interconnection is feasible because:

• Demand is organized and ready to receive municipal water
• The utility knows where to direct its mains
• Investment in secondary networks has already been made
• The utility signs a contract with each WC instead of each user
Interconnecting the Utility

Utility Mains

Interconnection at ONE water entry point
Interconnection with utility

Interconnection at ONE water-entry point
Interconnection with utility

Interconnection at **ONE** water-entry point
The means

Multi sector approach

CIDRE (NGO)  →  Municipal Government

Water Committee

Agua Tuya  →  Municipal Water Company
## The partnership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actor</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Participation in partnership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water Committee</td>
<td>Community-based organization</td>
<td>Genuine demands. Investment capacity when credit available. Self organizing capacity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agua Tuya</td>
<td>Private water program</td>
<td>Technical expertise. Engineering design and civil construction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIDRE</td>
<td>Non government organization</td>
<td>Micro credit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEMAPA</td>
<td>Municipal Water Utility</td>
<td>Technical supervision. Interconnection to main water system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAM Cbba</td>
<td>Municipal Government</td>
<td>Government funds.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Why a multi-sector approach

● Innovative approaches to the challenges of sustainable development
● Different capacities can be used towards common and complementary goals more effectively that when each sector operates separately
● Access to more resources
● Greater capacity to influence policy agenda (through new networks)
● Greater understanding of the value, values and attributes of each sector thereby building a more integrated and more stable society

Source: The Partnering Toolbook
Written by Ross Tennyson
7 projects built with the partnership

Name: "Barrios Unidos"
Total cost: USD 19,000
Cost/household: USD 175
Serves: 1000 People
Date: 12/20/2004
Projections and MDGs

Projection 2005-2009

- Number of new household connections
- Cumulative number of connections
Key factors for enabling/disabling model

Factor #1
The provider’s relationship with local authorities

The positive:
- New laws recognize the water committees
- Concerted efforts (such as our project) are starting to take place

The negative:
- There is no support
Factor #2
Financial Framework

- Joint investment is a must (govt + people) in order to reach more people and reach MDGs
- People have investment capacity when micro credit schemes are provided
- Incremental investment is an appropriate financial model for unstable economies
Factor #3
Interpretation and design of regulatory framework

- New regulatory framework is needed
- Regulatory framework must go hand in hand with support
Key factors for enabling/disabling model

Factor #4
Skills and capacity available

- Solved by involving the local private sector in the process
- Non existing capacities will be rapidly developed by the private sector when needed
Key factors for enabling/desabling model

Factor #5
Multiple Use Services (MUS)

- Water distribution systems in peri urban and rural areas should take MUS into consideration  [http://musproject.net](http://musproject.net)
Recommendations

1. Use a multi sector approach in order to influence policy
2. In order to have appropriate and effective regulation, it must go along with support
3. Support/Resource centers are needed to guarantee water committees’ sustainability and boost optimal performance. The Agua Tuya Program is looking for partners to create such a Resource Center
4. Govt. and Municipal Utilities should invest in catchments, mains (large infrastructure) and get very efficient at conducting water to the peri urban areas. Communities can effectively own and operate secondary distribution systems.
5. OWNERSHIP vs. sense of ownership
6. Local private sector can act as development agent (not necessarily as operator!) Developing appropriate technologies, creating and enhancing local capacities.
7. MUS (Multiple Use Services) should be taken into account when designing new systems
Thank you

For more information, please visit: http://aguatuya.com
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