AguaClara: Preparing for Multidimensional Scale-up

- The AguaClara program is using a novel approach to develop and disseminate sustainable water treatment technologies. The approach incorporates open source engineering, web-based delivery of customized engineering designs, and a strong research program. Cornell designed AguaClara municipal water treatment plants in Honduras are providing over 13,000 people with drinking water.
- The AguaClara program is much more than engineering. AguaClara infrastructure implementation in Honduras is managed by a non governmental organization that emphasizes community participation and education, collaboration with government agencies concerned with public health and water supply, and training workshops for continuing education at national universities.
- The AguaClara program is beginning to spread the technology to additional countries. We now have the opportunity to create broader visions and to add expertise to handle the challenges of scale-up. The objectives of this faculty luncheon are to broaden the scope of the AguaClara team and identify associated research and outreach opportunities that cut across disciplines and departments. There are great latent questions about multidimensional impacts including disease burdens, child growth and health, time use, expenditure patterns, willingness to pay, sustainable technical support systems, strengthening institutions, etc. The challenges of scale include appropriate implementation methodologies for communities of different sizes as well as the scale-up to multiple countries and global regions.

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