

# 1     **Developing Rural Water Systems in Haiti: An Evaluation of the** 2     **First Chlorinated Municipal Water System in the Central Plateau**

## 3 4                                     **Summary Paper**

### 5 6     **1     TARGET AUDIENCE**

7     Individuals and organizations working on water and sanitation projects in rural areas in  
8     developing countries, individuals and communities desiring clean water for their region,  
9     policymakers seeking to increase public access to clean water in rural and impoverished areas.  
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### 11     **2     BACKGROUND**

12     Over 663 million people still lack access to clean water despite the best efforts of multilateral  
13     organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and governmental agencies that have  
14     sought to fix this problem for several decades. Since the first coordinated efforts to enhance  
15     water and sanitation indicators in the developing world, it has been acknowledged that the  
16     local community must play a larger and more important role during the development,  
17     installation, and operation of public rural water systems.  
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### 19     **3     PURPOSE**

20     This paper presents a case study of Haiti’s first municipal chlorinated water system in the rural  
21     Central Plateau and critically examines its effectiveness. The system represents a highly  
22     technological engineering project but a lack of community development has damaged its long-  
23     term viability and sustainability.  
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### 25     **4     METHOD**

26     The original water system in Cange, Haiti was designed by professional engineers in the United  
27     States and funded entirely through a partnership between a church in Haiti and an Episcopal  
28     Diocese in the United States. This method proved to work effectively for constructing the initial  
29     system but lack of community involvement jeopardizes the system especially with regard to the  
30     operations and maintenance. Since the system was renovated in 2012, it has been managed  
31     increasingly by a team of local individuals but external entities remain heavily involved day-  
32     to-day.  
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### 34     **5     RESULTS**

35     Most of the problems with the Cange water system are related to the fact that the community  
36     is not responsible or accountable for their own water supply. All these community  
37     development issues with the Cange water system can be traced back to the development  
38     philosophy of the original sponsors and the methods of other similar organizations during the  
39     1980s, when providing water to developing countries was seen as a project rather than a  
40     service that required long-term planning and development.  
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### 42     **6     IMPLICATIONS FOR TARGET AUDIENCES**

43     Once established, a relationship with a developing community is very difficult to alter, as  
44     evidenced by the struggles of CEDC to mount effective change. Future efforts to deliver  
45     drinking-water to rural communities must learn from the lessons here concerning community  
46     development by involving the community as much as possible in funding, decision-making,  
47     and design.