



Agua Para Todos / Water for All

Cochabamba, Bolivia



Partners

Agua Tuya/PLASTIFORTE (Private Consortium)

SEMAPA (Municipal Water Company)

Water Committees (Community-based organizations)

Pro Habitat (Non-profit Foundation)

The municipal water company, a private consortium, the local community and a non-profit foundation form an entrepreneurial partnership to greatly extend access to affordable water in peri-urban areas of Cochabamba, Bolivia.

In the suburban areas of Cochabamba, Bolivia, the municipal water company, SEMAPA, lacks the finance to build secondary water distribution networks, leaving hundreds of homes without a connection to the main water supply. In response, local communities have organized themselves into "Water Committees", but their attempts to build their own water networks have taken place in an uncoordinated, inefficient way. Agua Tuya/PLASTIFORTE, a private consortium, has been manufacturing pipes and building water distribution systems for the Water Committees for the past eight years, but the work has not been coordinated with the water company.

The Agua Para Todos initiative takes the pieces of the puzzle and recombines them in an innovative partnership model. By combining its partners' resources, the partnership overcomes the problem of the prohibitive costs of new secondary water connections, and reduces end-user water cost. Further, by embedding the participation of the people directly in water provision, the partnership creates socio-political stability in an area known previously for its volatility.

Agua Tuya/PLASTIFORTE will construct secondary water systems on behalf of the Water Committees, while coordinating with SEMAPA so that it may plan where to direct its main water pipelines. The Pro Habitat foundation will provide a loan to each Water Committee to finance the cost of construction, which they will then repay in twelve monthly payments.

Each system (comprising 100 – 500 households) requires a single main water entry point. SEMAPA can connect its network to this point, and sell water in bulk through one contract with the Water Committee rather than a contract with each household. Since the Water Committees themselves own the secondary distribution system, this results in a radical reduction in the cost of water to the end user.

Three out of five pilot systems have been completed as of March 2005, benefiting over 3000 people and halving the unit cost of water. Once the municipal water supply connects this sub-network to its main pipeline, the cost will be further reduced to just one-tenth of the original price per cubic meter.



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