

## **DRINKING WATER SYSTEM FOR THE RURAL COMMUNITY MIRADOR DE LAS PALMAS, SITUATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PEÑA HERRERA, COTACACHI, ECUADOR.**

### **1. PROJECT SUMMARY**

This proposal seeks to deepen the actions undertaken by Concern America and ITACA together with the communities and their representatives, as part of the development of basic infrastructures that impact on improving people's health and their socio-economic conditions.

This project seeks to promote sustainable development in rural communities by providing drinking water to the Community of Mirador Las Palmas in Peñaherrera, Cotacachi, Ecuador.

This proposal is accompanied by a technical support component for the training of a Water Committee in Mirador de Palmas, along with an awareness-raising component in Water, Gender and Environment.

The involvement of community members in the formation of the Water Committee and the expressed commitment of the authorities in the proper use and maintenance of the system ensures sustainability of the project and a positive impact on strengthening the autonomy of the community.

The provision of drinking water in the community has direct implications in improving the sanitary and hygiene conditions for the population as well as an effective reduction of general workloads, especially for women, who carry water for daily consumption.

### **2. PROJECT LOCATION**

Mirador de las Palmas is located in the Intag Zone, 8 km from Peñaherrera, Cotacachi, Ecuador.

18 families live in the village and around it. They are farmers, growing coffee, beans and corn, and they have some cattle. This photo shows the centre of the community, with school and the church.



### **3. ESTIMATED BUDGET**

**Proposed execution period:** 3 months, January- March 2009

**Total Project Cost:** £2700

- Construction Materials: £2200
- Transport and Fuel: £115
- Travel and Food Expenses for workshops: £320
- Administrative Costs (telephone, internet, stationary for workshops):£65

**Community contribution:** Land and labour.

### **4. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT INFORMATION**

Ecuador is one of the smallest countries in Latin America, about the size of the United Kingdom, and is situated between Colombia and Peru on the Pacific coast. Like too many countries in Latin America, the poverty index is high: 60% of Ecuadorians live in poverty, and a full 32% in extreme poverty; poverty statistics are much higher for rural and Indigenous/Afro-Ecuadorian peoples. Of the 13 million people in Ecuador, more than 60% live in urban areas, and this number is growing: between 2000 and 2003, three million people emigrated from rural areas to cities. The communities in the Intag area in which Mirador de las Palmas is located have mobilised in recent years to prevent the opening of a copper mine by a Canadian copper multinational company. As a result of this campaign the company was expelled from Ecuador last year.

Mirador de las Palmas' water situation is desperate. They have an old water system, made between the government and them 22 years ago. The system never really worked. As the name says, Mirador is located uphill and it is difficult to find water which will get there by gravity. So their primary water source is the river, which lies 400 meters below the community and is contaminated by cattle and mud.

Many surveys were done around the village and a way was found to get clean water there. A spring was located that gives a good flow rate (0,9 litre/second) and lies above the village level. The owner of the spring agreed to give the water to the village. About 200 people would benefit from this project.