**H₂O: Haiti Hydration Outreach**

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**ABSTRACT:**
Three fourths of Haitian people do not have access to clean drinking water. Sources that are available are easily contaminated due to the effects of natural disasters and deforestation. Our goal is to create a rain water harvesting system that will establish a stable and clean water supply. The system will be community based, making this solution long-term.

**BACKGROUND:**
Political, social, economic, and environmental problems all contribute to Haiti’s issue of water pollution. Haiti is still struggling for stability today, due to the country’s history of political turmoil. Furthermore, the government is doing little to provide the people of Haiti with healthcare, security, transportation, and access to clean water. Most drinking water sources available to rural communities are infiltrated by containments brought in by natural disasters and runoff due to deforestation. The effects these factors have on water resources, are nearly impossible to reverse and prevent, due to Haiti being poverty stricken.

**METHOD:**
- Collect data on water quality to assess contamination and determine the root causes to this issue
- Identify problems with accessibility
- Contact experts of water quality projects from Seven Hills Outreach (Ashley Emerson) and Haiti’s Child (John Hurley) to prepare for possible issues we may encounter
- Contact EWB-USA/WPI about rain water harvesting systems and utilize their successful methodology

**PROBLEM:**
The people of Haiti don’t have access to a reliable source of clean water for drinking. In rural communities the sources of drinking water are at high risk for becoming contaminated. Because this is the only water source available, many citizens will become sick with water borne illnesses such as Cholera. Clean water projects are often short-term solutions for two reasons: the affects natural disasters can have on these devices, and the inability for community members to upkeep.

**SOLUTION:**
- Development of a rain water harvesting system utilizing roofs of buildings to store water before it becomes contaminated
- Rain will trickle down the roof, pool in gutters, and travel through PVC piping into filtered storage tanks for later use by the community
- Educate members of the community to maintain the system to ensure longevity

**REFERENCES**

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