

A photograph of three men sitting at a table, looking at a laptop. The man in the center is wearing a black t-shirt and glasses, and is typing on the laptop. The man on the left is wearing a white t-shirt and glasses. The man on the right is wearing a light blue button-down shirt. In the background, there is a bed with a patterned blanket and a box labeled 'Toomy'.

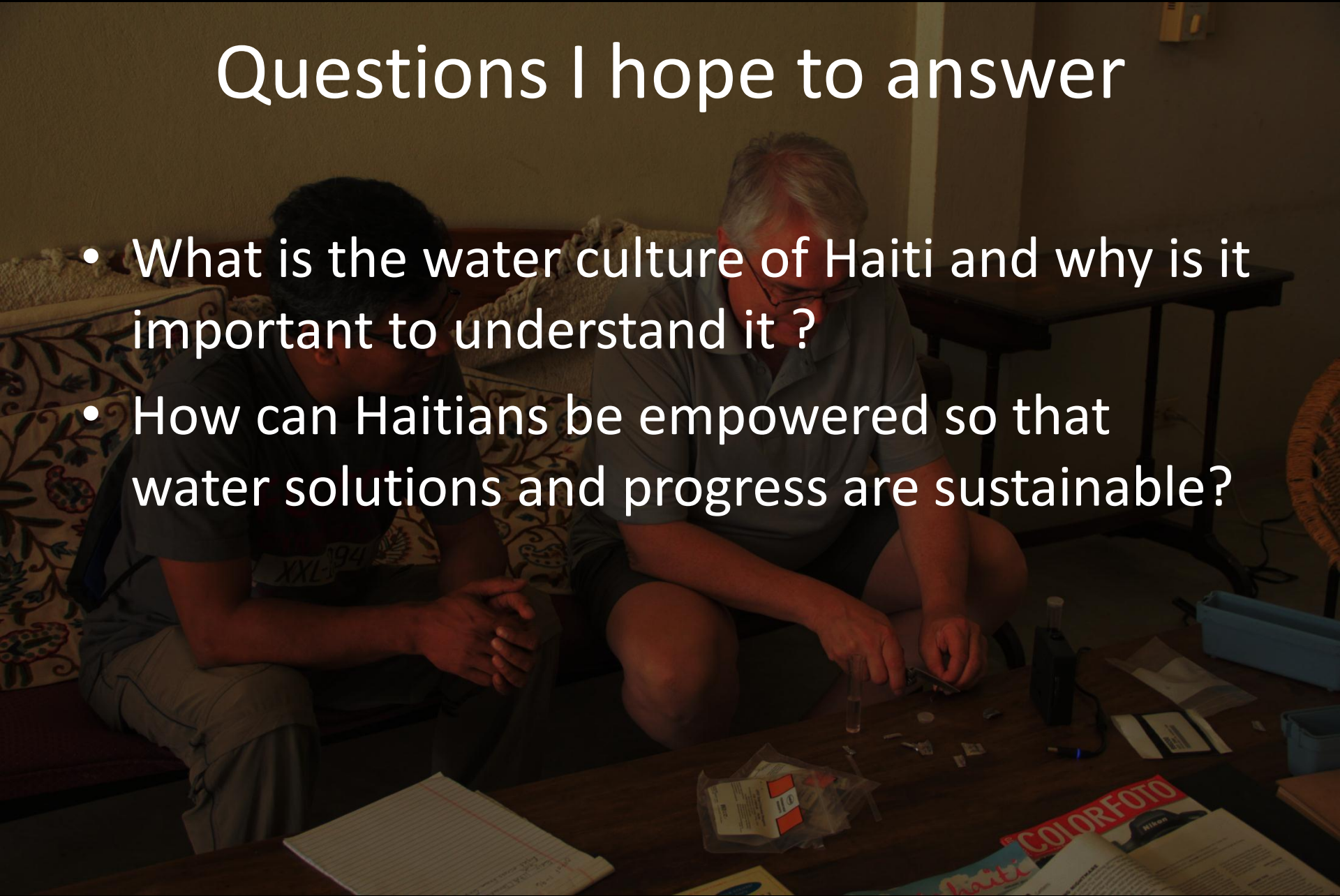
Sustainability of water supply in
Haiti and capacity building through
scholarships for Haitian students.”

Dr. Peter Wampler

CLAS Research Colloquium- October 19th 2012

Questions I hope to answer

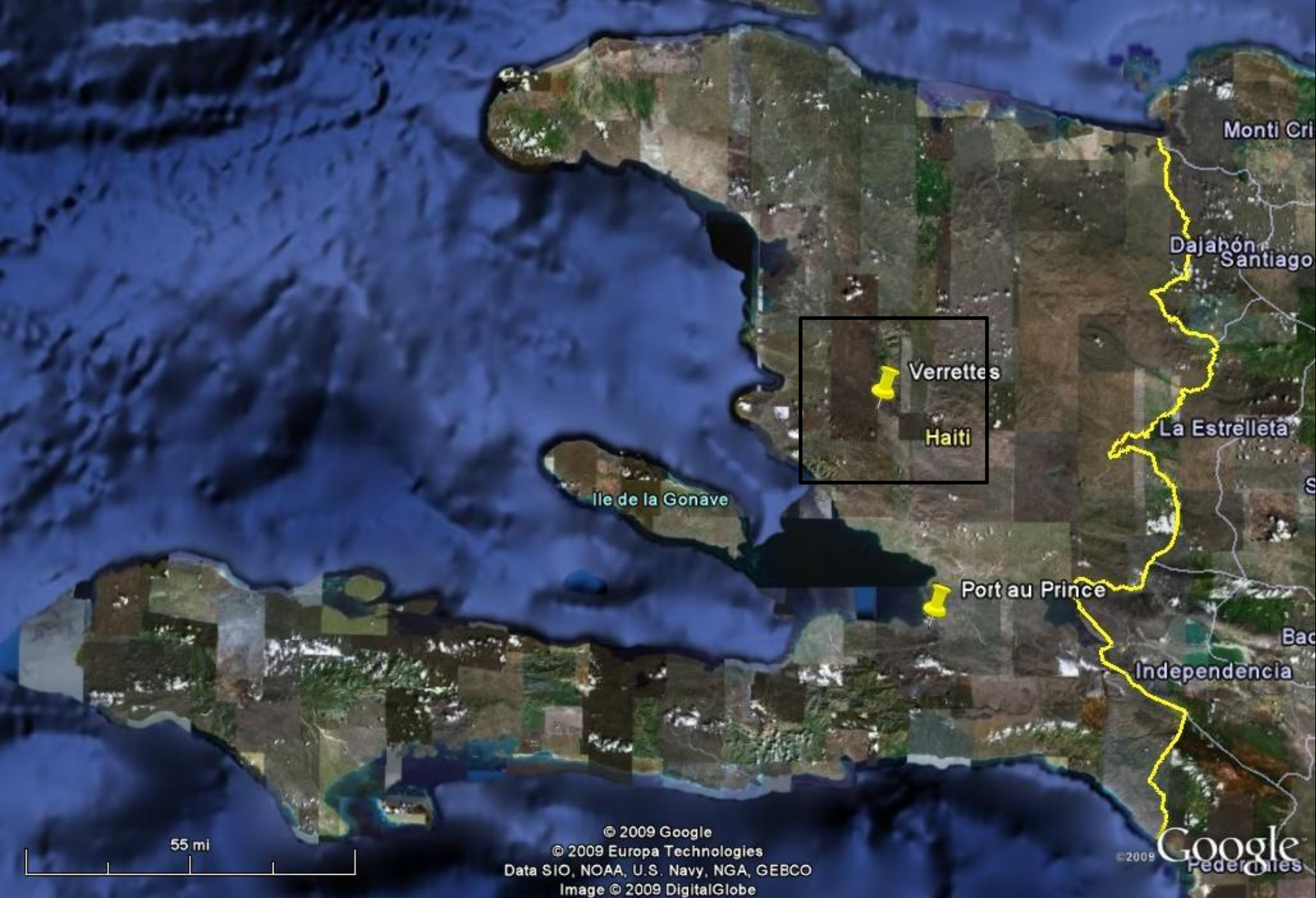
- What is the water culture of Haiti and why is it important to understand it ?
- How can Haitians be empowered so that water solutions and progress are sustainable?



Collaborators

- Dr. Richard Rediske GVSU (AWRI)
- Dr. Azizur Molla GVSU (Anthropology)
- Dawn Johnson Hopital Albert Schweitzer (HAS)
- Rony Saint Armand (HAS)
- GVSU students Andrew Sisson, Jared Kohler, Renato Delos-Reyes
- Funding through CSCE Interdisciplinary Grant





Monti Cri

Dajahón
Santiago

Verrettes

Haiti

La Estrélléta

Ile de la Gonave

Port au Prince

Independencia

55 mi

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2012 CSCE Interdisciplinary Grant

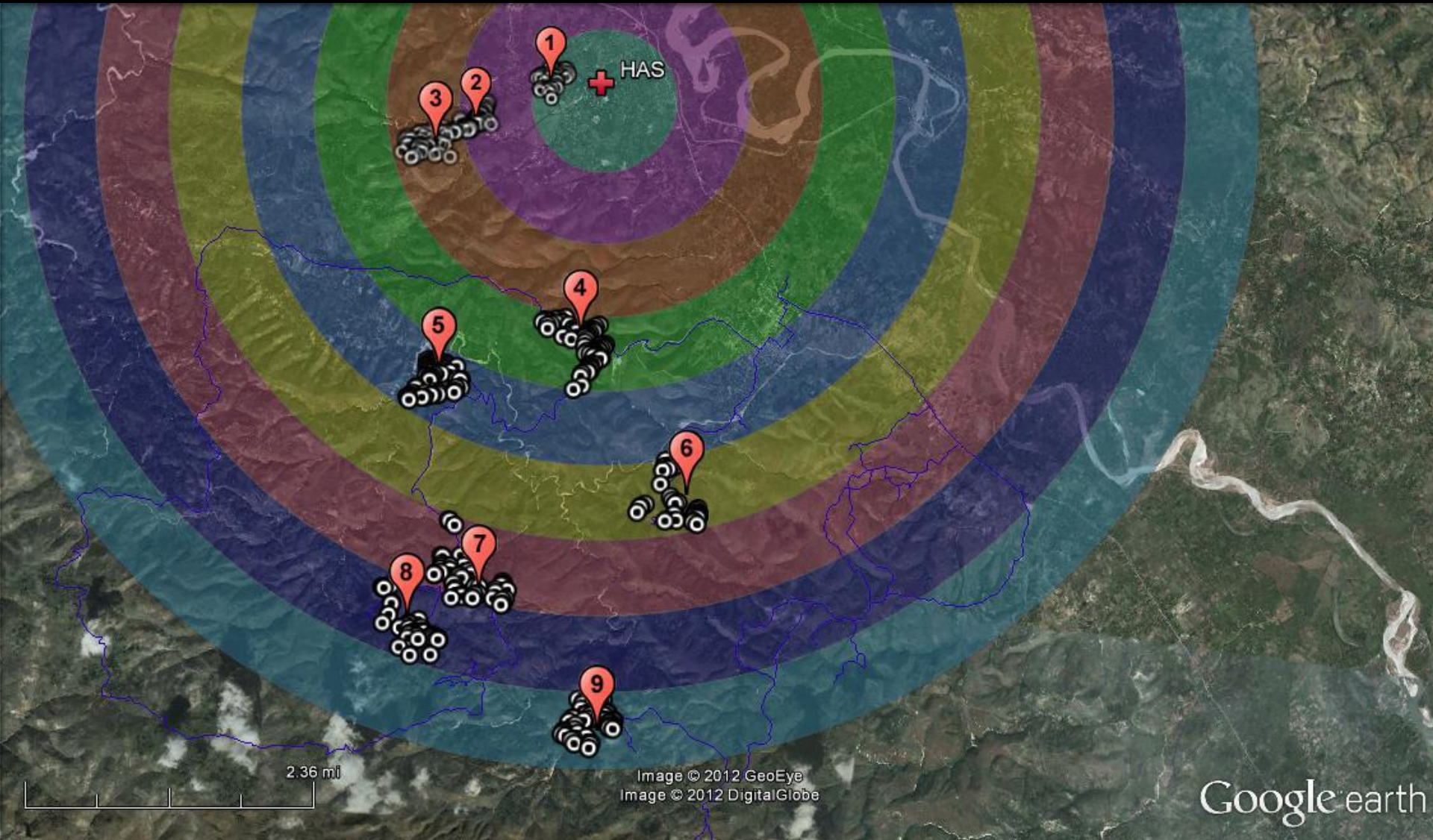
- Interdisciplinary Assessment of Water Resources and Water Quality Interventions in Haiti
 - A geologist, a microbiologist/chemist, and an anthropologist
- Study set out to answer three questions:
 1. How important are sociocultural factors in developing effective programs for sustainable safe water resources in Haiti?
 2. Do data regarding perceptions of water safety correlate with water quality?
 3. Can the combination of water quality and ethnographic data provide actionable strategies for addressing water resource problems in Haiti?

2012 Interdisciplinary Research

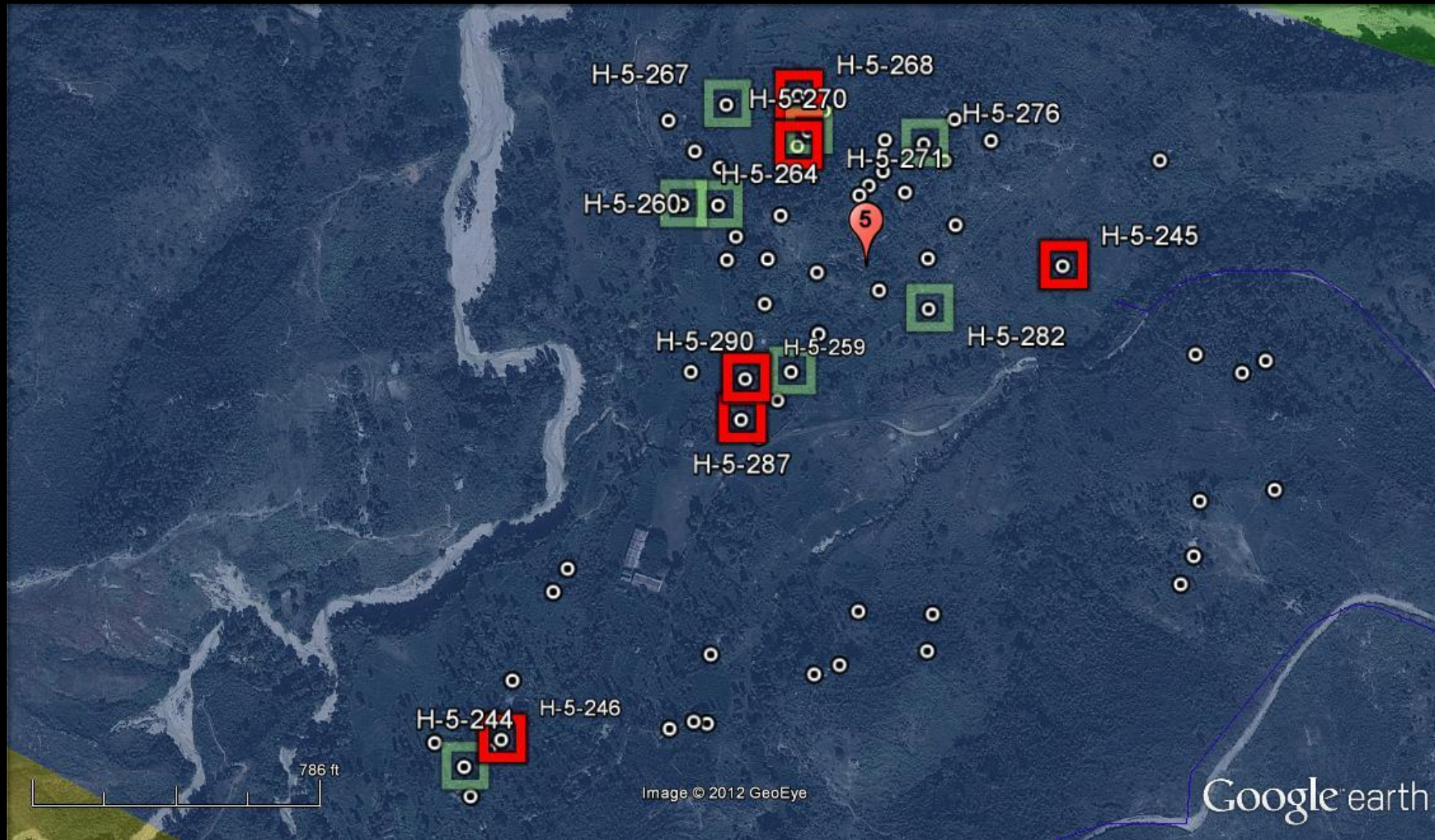
- Fieldwork accomplished between May 1-May 12 (~ 10 days)
- Collected > 100 samples from water sources and treated water
- Visited 60 homes to conduct interviews
- Conducted 6 focus group interviews



Home Selection



Home Selection







Typical Interview Setup at a home



One of our more interesting interview locations...a vodou church



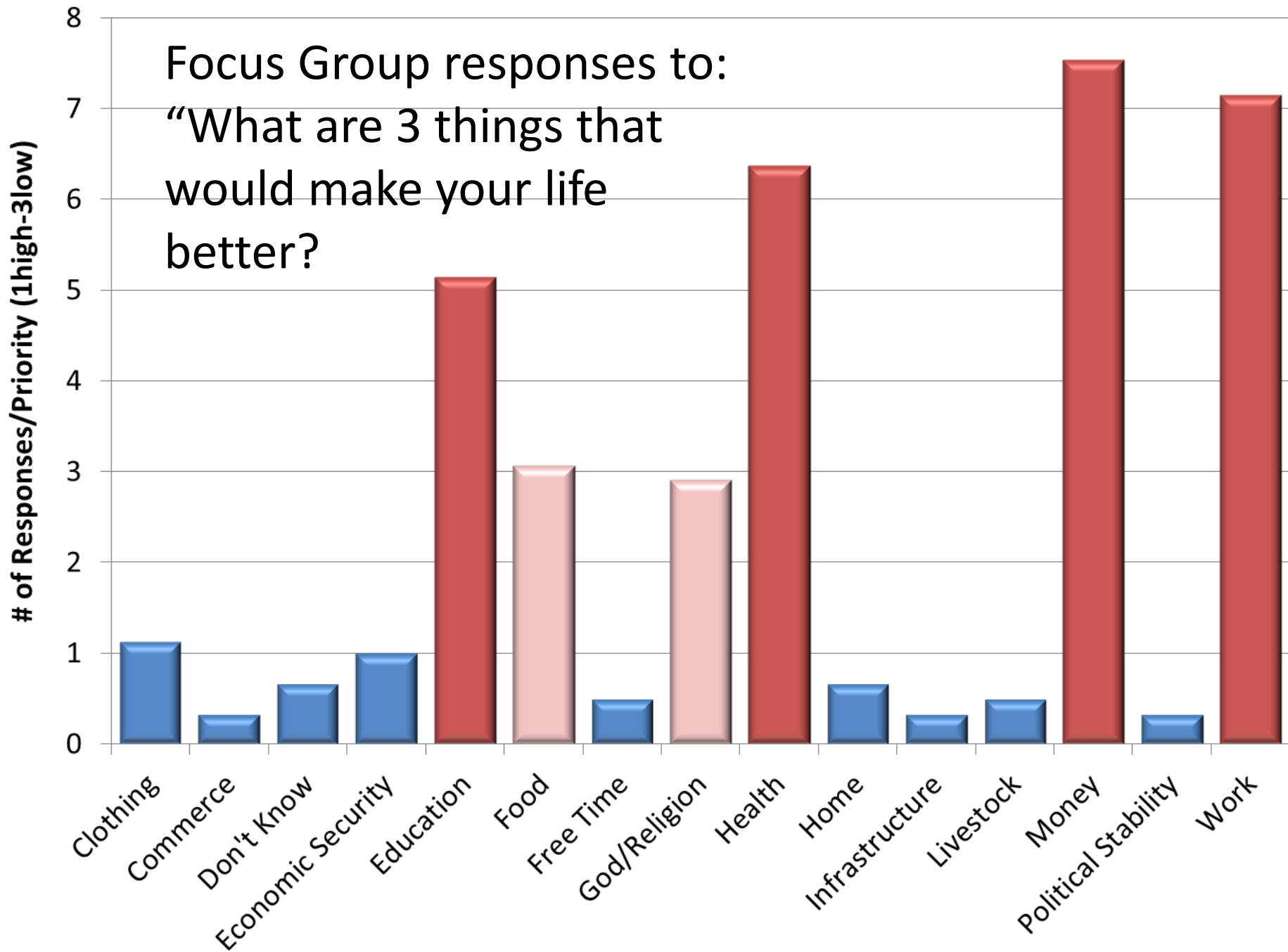
Interesting Quotes from the Focus Groups

- “people who have income (means) can have safe water, poor people must drink whatever is available”
- “sometimes people are embarrassed about being sick”
- “People would drink clean water if they had the means”
- “Rich people have choices”

Interesting Quotes from Individuals

- “Hungry dogs don’t play”
- “You can tell if someone is rich if they get more than one meal a day”
- “We would use water treatment tablets if we had them”
- “People should stop putting garbage in streams and rivers”

Focus Group responses to:
“What are 3 things that
would make your life
better?”



General Findings

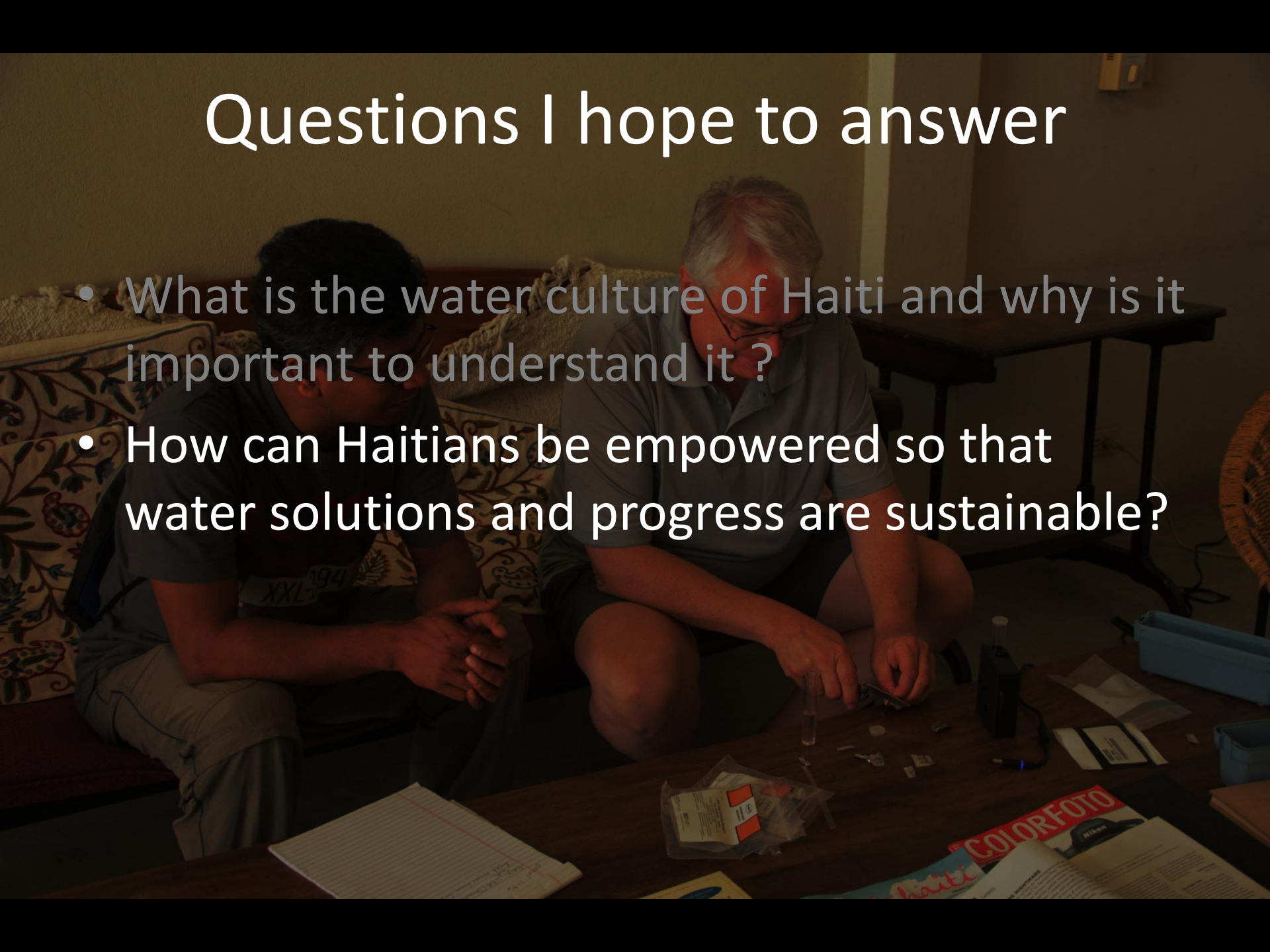
- Most Haitians know that it is microbes that make people sick, but many still retain a belief that some illness has a spiritual component
- Many people use herbal remedies (Dokte Fey) in addition to doctors and “traditional medicine”
- Many people said they were treating their water with chlorine – most were not.
- Most people do not use latrines.
- Many people lack the “means” to properly treat their water to make it safe.

Future Plans

- The research team hopes to continue and expand efforts over the next 3 years.
 - Installation and tracking of communities where new water sources and treatments are provided
 - Training of “water workers” to live in communities and provide help and expertise
 - Collaboration with HAS in Deschapelles
 - More accurate data on contamination pathways

Questions I hope to answer

- What is the water culture of Haiti and why is it important to understand it?
- How can Haitians be empowered so that water solutions and progress are sustainable?



Sustainability of water solutions

- Water knowledge, education, and support for water treatment **from people who live in the communities.**
- More resilient water sources are needed in many villages (wells whenever possible)
- We need to have a better understanding of the contamination pathways and sources

Education

- Educational opportunities are needed for a broader spectrum of Haitians.
- Opportunities for GVSU:
 - GVSU students for Haiti (new student club)
 - Future study abroad or honors programs
 - Empowering Haiti through Education Fund

Empowering Haiti through Education Fund

YOU CAN HELP.



The Empowering Haiti through Education Fund exists solely to support “rising stars” from Haitian high schools, who, without financial support, would not be able to realize their potential and pursue higher education in the USA. The scholarship helps these students to attend Grand Valley State University so that, after receiving their education, they can return to Haiti and further that nation’s development.

Grand Valley State University Empowering Haiti through Education Fund

- Bring promising Haitian students to GVSU
- GVSU students could benefit from getting to know Haitian students.



Investing in the future of Haiti

Questions ?



www.gvsu.edu/haitiwater

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