Kakaci Well

MSEP:

Status: Active

Age: Unknown

Surrounding Environment: The Kakaci Well is located in a more remote and shaded/woodsy area than what we have been used to seeing. It is located along a fairly narrow path that was a good mile away from any residences. There were no animals surrounding the area but there was some algal growth and debris on the cement base of the well.

Observations and Interviews: There were three older men filling small buckets at the well. The men were happy to speak with us about what they knew about the well. They said the water is mainly used for cooking and drinking. When they use the water to cook they first place a chlorine tablet into the water and then proceed to boil the water. The men admitted having knowledge that the water was not good for them to drink but they said they really had no other option. Kakaci Well is the only well in Grand Sable Village and is most convenient for the typical 2-3 visits that need to be made a day.

Water Sample: A water sample was taken from a man's bucket that was being used to retrieve water for cooking at home.

PH	7
Salinity	0
Coliform	Positive
E. Coli	Positive


CHAMPIONS

MSEP:

Kakoc Well

Status: Active

Age of Well: Unknown

Brief History: Used to be a pump, but the pump has since broken. The local people then removed the pump and proceeded to pry the cement cover of the well off, leaving it exposed to contaminated buckets and local pathogens. When the pump was being used there was a bathing section off to the side where small cement pools would fill with well water, but the water filled too slowly for local use, which also helped to justify the local decision to remove the cover and use buckets instead.

Surrounding Environment: Surrounded by a steep vegetated incline and heavy vegetation around the fresh water fish farm. There is animal feces scattered around the grounds and used detergents being constantly dumped into the surrounding area. Plastic garbage can be found both inside and outside the cement structure. We found the cement structure to very slippery due to the amount of algal growth and the moist conditions.

Observations and Interviews: We arrived at the well at 0918 and began to tally the number of visitors and the purpose of their visit to the well. Before we left at 1130 the people who had come to visit were traveling ~20 minutes from two separate villages (Kashima Village and Kakoc Village). One woman that we spoke to, Melain, came to do her laundry at 0630 for her family of 9 children. She said that she came once a week and usually spends up to 5.5 hours doing laundry. We observed at least 4 other people doing laundry, each using detergents that we purchased in La Cayes. Other noticeable on site uses were drinking, bathing and the hydration of livestock. The majority of people that we spoke with claimed to bathe once a day, every day. We spoke to a few locals who were making numerous trips, filling approximately 6 gallon containers. We were told that they would bring them home for “general use” which includes cooking, bathing, drinking etc. Also to be noted, Saturday is common laundry day which introduces large concentrations of detergents into the water table in a short amount of time.

Local Awareness: We were able to conclude that the locals are aware of the contamination of the water. Those who have the money to buy fresh water from La Cayes do so, but those less fortunate are forced to depend on well water. During an interview we learned that some tried to “treat” the water with chlorox or chlorine tablets if available. Our hypothesis is they believe that drinking this bleached water will help them to avoid the normal effects of E. Coli and will lessen the severity of their symptoms.

Water Sample: A sample of water was taken at 0920 from a local woman’s bucket that had just been lowered into the well by a nylon rope. We placed the water sample into the included “whirl-pack” bag that was provided in our water testing kit. We then proceeded to fill one test tube that will detect any Coliform in the water. Then using litmus paper we concluded that the waters PH level was 7.

La Camilla Well

MSEP:

Status: Active

Age: Unknown

Surrounding Environment: Surrounding the open well was a densely forested area to the rear with an open muddy area to the front with goats, chickens, and other farm animals roaming freely. There were clear indications of fecal matter along with a scattering of plastic trash and other waste. Left over "suds" and other laundry products were visible. There were remains of a broken pump about 40 feet or more away from where the well.

Observations and Interviews: When we arrived at the well there was a woman doing laundry about 15 feet away from the well. Using our interpreter, we learned from the woman that this well is depended upon many people from a number of villages. These villages include Camilla, Soulet, Troumillier, Camira, Canobe, Grand Salle, and Kakaci. Common uses for the well are drinking, cooking, laundry, and bathing.

Water Sample: A water sample was taken at about 1018 from a local woman's bucket who was using the bucket to retrieve water for her laundry.

PH	7
Salinity	0
Coliform	Positive
E. Coli	Positive

La Fortune Well

MSEP:

Status: Active

Age: Unknown

Surrounding Environment: About 40 feet away from the well there is a broken pump that has been inactive for over a year. This well had an open cement foundation with a flood trench extending from one of its sides towards nearby vegetation. It was clear that the trench has since become blocked with garbage and mud, leaving it filled with stagnant water. The well was clean and disaffected using chlorine at some point in time. The water has a chlorine scent and a slight blue tint.

Observations and Interviews: When we arrived at the well we noticed a few women doing laundry and about five men filling buckets and bathing. We asked the men how often this well was used on a daily basis and he estimated around 800 locals, some of which who would come three times a day. They use the well for everything from bathing, laundry, drinking and cooking.

Water Sample: Our sample was taken by borrowing a locals bucket and filling up one of our bags.

PH	7
Salinity	0
Coliform	Positive
E. Coli	Negative

La Hatte

MSEP:

Status: Active

Age: Unknown

Surrounding Environment: The landscape around the Well is pretty typical of the Wells that we have seen up to this point. Located at the base of a sloping hill, this Well is exposed to large amount of rain runoff during the “wet” season. Its exposed face has led it to its current contaminated state, but due to its distant location it doesn’t attract enough people to justify a full restoration project.

Observations and Interviews: The Well usually attracts up to 50 locals per day and they know that the water is not appropriate for drinking. Used primarily for general use (cooking, washing, bathing) this well appears to be used only when neighboring Wells (such as La Souse) are unavailable. This Well has not been exposed to Clorox as a means to “clean” the water and appeals primarily to the Batelmine and La Hatte Villages.

Water Sample: A water sample was taken approximately mid-day from a local woman’s bucket and was tested early the following morning.

PH	7
Salinity	0
Coliform	Positive
E. Coli	Positive

La Palmis Well

MSEP:

Status: Active

Age: Unknown

Surrounding Environment: Located at the end of a slightly sloped path, this Well is virtually unknown to people outside of the neighboring houses. Aloe plants line the path leading to the well and were covered by drying laundry from at least 20 people.

Observations and Interviews: This well only serves about 50 people a day and judging by the walkway leading up to the well it is used primarily for laundry. The water level of the well itself relatively high, the buckets are placed in by hand, but there is a noticeable film on the top of the water from algal growth. This water was not used for drinking, cooking or even general use.

PH	7
Salinity	0
Coliform	Positive
E. Coli	Positive

La Souse Well

MSEP:

Status: Active

Age: 20 Years Old

Surrounding Environment: The topography of the surrounding land is similar to that of the Kakoc Well in that it is surrounded by steep hillsides that can bring foreign contamination to the water table, and livestock were observed feeding and defecating nearby.

Observations and Interviews: This Well appeared to appeal to a much larger population of people, stretching from the local Figuier population, Trou L'embara and Grande Plaine. A local estimation of about 800 people visit the Well on a daily basis. Roughly 20 years old, this well has fluctuated between "broken" and "healthy" in recent history and has seen a number of Clorox treatments to treat the water. Locals were observed bathing, and filling the standard 6 gallon drums of water to transport to their homes.

PH	7
Salinity	0
Coliform	Positive
E. Coli	Positive

Troumillier Pump

MSEP:

Status: Active

Age: Unknown

Surrounding Environment: Open farmland on two of the surrounding sides with a muddy pathway that cut directly across. From one direction, there were some houses and pathways, on the other direction there was a school. While we were there we observed many animals including cows, horses, donkeys, etc. passing by and occasionally stopping for water while some grazed in nearby fields. There is a sloping muddy area caused by runoff erosion during their wet season. There was clear evidence of fecal matter and plastic garbage scattered around the area and uphill.

Observations and Interviews: After speaking with locals, we learned that the primary use of the pump was for laundry, drinking, and animal hydration. Because it is located on a major trail, people pass it multiple times on a daily basis and it is in constant use. There is no evidence or local knowledge that the pump has ever broken down or is near breaking.

Water Sample: We took our water sample at approximately 1100. Compared to the water sample taken last year, our sample tested positive for Coliform. Although E. Coli was not specifically identified, it is safe to assume that this increase in naturally occurring Coliform is due to the increased livestock traffic through the area.

PH	7
Salinity	0
Coliform	Positive
E. Coli	Negative