In the lowland savannas and forests of northwestern Bolivia, an indigenous group of forager-farmers called the Tsimane lives in 60 small villages along the Maniqui River. Development upriver is steadily polluting the Tsimane’s water sources. The villagers are also in desperate need of basic sanitation and communications.

The University of New Mexico chapter of Engineers Without Borders is planning to help the Tsimane get the services they need. By partnering with them and providing engineering and water treatment expertise, EWB-UNM plans to develop sustainable systems to obtain clean drinking water, improve sanitation practices, and reduce the incidence of disease. Your generosity can transform EWB-UNM plans into reality.

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Internationally responsible engineers building better communities

“EWB is one of the most effective groups delivering development services to poor villages around the world. At the same time, it is one of the most effective ways to educate engineering students from developed countries.”
—L. Hunter Lovins, President, Natural Capitalism Inc.

How you can help
EWB-UNM relies on grants, in-kind donations, airline miles, and financial contributions. You can help by providing any of the following:

**Donations** Contributions from both individuals and corporations are tax-deductible.

**Equipment** Pumps, solar panels, drilling equipment, tools, and PV supplies are needed.

**Expertise** EWB-UNM needs volunteers with skills in public health, community planning, and anthropology as well as experienced engineers.

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**About EWB-USA and EWB-UNM**

Started in 2000, Engineers Without Borders-USA is a non-profit humanitarian organization that partners with developing communities to improve their quality of life through implementing environmentally and economically sustainable engineering projects. EWB-USA has 230 professional and student chapters in the U.S. Each chapter is responsible for the funding of their project and relies on generous donations of members and sponsors. The UNM chapter started two years ago.

**Helping close to home**

Along the western edge of New Mexico lies Ramah, a remote town on the Navajo Nation. EWB-UNM students are partnering with community members to help them obtain clean water, produce energy, and improve shelters. The chapter will sustain all projects for five years after implementation.

**Making a difference around the world**

For the Tsimane project in Bolivia, the EWB-UNM team has the unique opportunity to work with researchers in the UNM Anthropology Department, who have studied the health, longevity, and social interactions of the Tsimane for years, and are providing the team with information about the villages and translation services, as well as helping with logistics. UNM faculty and the EWB Albuquerque Professionals Chapter are advising the student chapter and helping the team plan how to improve the Tsimane drinking water supply and health conditions.

EWB-UNM’s first challenge on the Tsimane project is to raise $50,000 to fund research, project development, and travel for an assessment trip to Bolivia. Tsimane community members will participate in planning and implementation and help provide materials and labor. Then UNM students will engineer solutions in Albuquerque and return to Bolivia to implement the systems. The process is expected to take about a year.

“EWB gives me the opportunity to use my engineering skills to assist people in need and connect with people I would be unlikely to meet in other circumstances. And hopefully I’ll grow as an individual and an engineer.” —Josh Goldman, EWB-UNM Tsimane project coordinator

**Contact us**

To learn more about EWB-UNM, please contact EWB Advisor Barbara Kimbell, 505-277-5539, bkimbell@unm.edu. Contributions are tax-deductible; the UNM Foundation carries a 501(c)(3) for Engineers Without Borders-UNM. To donate, please make checks to UNM/EWB, c/o Development Office, School of Engineering, MSC01 1140, 1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001. Whether you choose to help us with projects in New Mexico or abroad, thank you for your generosity.