

ANNUAL PROJECT UPDATE 2023

Westside Water Association

1. Organizational Background

Organization Name: El Porvenir
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El Porvenir is an international non-profit organization, which since 1990 has worked side-by-side with rural families and schools in Nicaragua to construct wells, latrines, village washing facilities, school hand-washing stations, fuel-efficient stoves as well as support reforestation projects. El Porvenir provides technical expertise and training, lends tools, and funds the materials needed to complete the projects in addition to that, community health education staff visits the projects periodically after their completion to ensure villagers know how to properly maintain their projects.

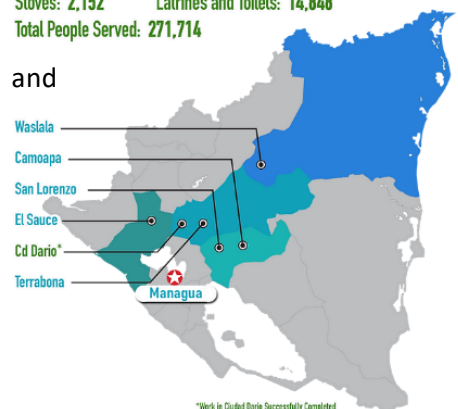
El Porvenir’s methodology is based on three key principles:

- (a) community empowerment through active participation and ownership in all aspects of the project,
- (b) creation of sustainable organizations in the community to manage resources in the long term, and
- (c) a focus on appropriate technology made from low-cost locally available materials that can be maintained easily and cheaply by the community.

By the end of 2022, EP had worked with rural communities to develop: 664 water projects, 14,848 latrines and toilets, 2,152 fuel-efficient stoves, 1.67 million trees planted and over 271,714 Nicaraguans have clean water sanitation. Currently, the organization has its U.S. office in Broomfield, Colorado. In Nicaragua, the main office is in Managua with regional offices in Terrabona, Waslala, Camoapa, San Lorenzo, El Sauce and Ciudad Dario. The work in Ciudad Dario is already completed, the projects have been completed successfully, so we closed that office in December 2022.

PROJECTS 1989-2022

Water Projects: 664 Trees Planted: 1,673,427
 Stoves: 2,152 Latrines and Toilets: 14,848
 Total People Served: 271,714



2. Project Need

According to World Bank¹, Nicaragua has made solid progress in the water supply and sanitation (WSS) over the past two decades. Nonetheless, the country continued to face large disparities in

¹ World bank, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/sief-trust-fund/brief/nicaragua-sustainable-water-and-sanitation-sector-project>

access to WSS between urban areas (98 percent access to water supply and 63 percent to sanitation) and rural areas (68 percent access to water supply and 37 percent to sanitation). With a per capita GDP of \$2,045.50², the poverty in Nicaragua is concentrated in rural areas, where more than 40 percent of the population lives. Over a third of people in rural areas lack piped in water and access to adequate sanitation.

Nicaragua has water resources, in spite of this lack of adequate water and sanitation increases infant mortality and child malnutrition, mostly in children under five years old. Globally, contaminated water is one of the principal causes of infant mortality; according the UNICEF³ every day around 1,000 children die from diarrheal diseases associated with contaminated drinking water, poor sanitation or poor hygiene practices. With clean water, improved sanitation and healthy hygiene habits, people can improve their standard of living.

3. Project Objective

The objective of the project in 2022-2023 was to improve the health and living standards of poor, rural Nicaraguan communities by expanding water and sanitation coverage. Specifically, the project sought to provide improved sanitation in one community in Camoapa region of Boaco and also improve clean water access through a drilled well in one community in El Sauce, Leon. El Porvenir supported the communities to:

- build latrines
- gain access to clean water
- learn to maintain their new infrastructure, and
- implement good hygiene practices to reduce disease and illness.

Completed Project Locations

- *Community Names:* Pilas Centro
- *Municipality:* El Sauce
- *Department:* Leon
- *Project Type:* Drilled Well
- *2022 Beneficiaries:* 215 people

- *Community Names:* San Antonio
- *Municipality:* Camoapa
- *Department:* Boaco
- *Project Type:* Double pit Latrines
- *2022 Beneficiaries:* 200 people



Total WWA Beneficiaries to date: 4,245 people

4. Community Descriptions

The communities are all small, rural villages comprised of subsistence farmers. Due to their small size and remote location, residents usually don't receive assistance from the government or other organizations to address their

² World Bank, <https://data.worldbank.org/country/nicaragua?view=chart>

³ UNICEF, <https://www.unicef.es/noticia/dia-mundial-del-agua-1000-ninos-mueren-cada-dia-por-falta-de-agua-potable>

water and sanitation needs. Families in these communities live in extreme poverty surviving on less than \$71 a month. Many families have adults that migrate to Managua, Costa Rica, Panama or the United States to earn money and send remittances back home.

4.1. San Antonio is located 75 km east of the town of Camoapa, its population is around 500 inhabitants, and is comprised of 100 families. The community members get by as subsistence farmers of agriculture. The average family monthly income is \$83/month. The community has an elementary school with 46 students, but this community does not have a health post. Previously, some community members had single pit latrines in poor condition, in some cases the people did not even have a latrine at all and thus practiced open defecation.

4.2. Pilas Centro is a rural village located 12 km north of El Sauce town. This community has a population of 215 people. The inhabitants are subsistence farmers, raising corn, beans and sorghum; they also survive on remittances mostly from family in Costa Rica and the USA. The average family income is around \$80/month. The community has problem with water access, the drilled well was built in order to construct a piped water system which will be benefit two sectors in the community. The water system has recently started.

5. Project Activities

As we mentioned in other reports, all projects start with a community request for assistance. To ensure project sustainability, all communities are prescreened to determine their level of commitment to the project. The community must be willing to play an active role, providing labor, coordination, transportation of materials, and other available local resources while El Porvenir provides technical assistance, tools, and materials for the construction of wells, water systems, latrines, community wash stations, fuel-efficient cook stoves, and tree nurseries. Throughout the project, the Managua-based director, field supervisor and accounting staff monitor progress and expenditures. Once the community completes construction of the infrastructure, they are responsible for ongoing maintenance and repair. A follow up survey is undertaken to assess impact, and follow up visits are done by EP staff every 3-6 months for the first year in order to reinforce trainings, identify any problems, and assist the community in resolving them.

6. Project Results & Impact

The completed projects (2022-2023) generated the following outputs and results:

- 415 people with access to improved sanitation and clean water
- 33 community latrines built; 1 drilled well.
- Reduction in incidence of water- and sanitation-related diseases (skin infections, parasites, bacterial infections, diarrhea etc.)

7. Project Status 2022

Community Name	Project Type	Number of Beneficiaries	Status
San Antonio	33 double-pit latrines	200	These latrines are complete with ongoing health education support
Pilas Centro	1 Drilled Well	215	This well is complete with water system construction and health education support in progress

8. WWA 2007-2023 Project Expenses

WWA Project Donations

Year	Amount
2007:	\$ 2,015.00
2008:	\$ 3,007.98
2009:	\$ 2,261.00
2010:	\$ 4,013.94
2011:	\$ 2,469.79
2012:	\$ 3,775.00
2013:	\$ 1,629.30
2014:	\$ 1,949.76
2015:	\$ 3,393.96
2016:	\$ 2,433.73
2017:	\$ 4,264.47
2018:	\$ 2,017.03
2019:	\$ 3,456.00
2020:	\$ 1,996.00
2021:	\$ 2,615.82
2022:	\$ 2,279.44
2023:	\$ 1,004.16
Total WWA	\$ 44,582.38

WWA Project Expenses to date

Expense	Amount
Project Materials	\$ 40,162.66
Staff, travel to communities	\$ 6,962.35

Total	\$ 47,125.01
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Donations provided by WWA through 2023 total \$ 44,582.38 and have supported some 4,245 community members. The outstanding expenses will be covered by donations once the next gift is received.

Funding over this time has been used to partner with 41 rural Nicaraguan communities/schools to build water and sanitation infrastructure, including:

- 193 latrines
- 2 spring captures
- 1 piped water system
- 3 well repairs
- 8 new wells (6 hand-dug, 2 drilled)
- 3 washing and bathing station
- 60 bio-sand filters
- 7 school hand-washing stations

Specifically, the support has been allocated to cover the cost of:

- Project materials (sand, cement, bricks, rebar, pipes, metal booth, drilled well machine services, rope pump, buckets, etc.)
- A portion of the El Porvenir field staff time that works with the community providing technical assistance
- The operational expenses of the motorcycles (and related travel costs) used by the staff to travel to the communities.

The beneficiary communities provided labor on a volunteer basis. It is estimated that the labor required for the construction of the infrastructure completed since the last report is 135 person-days, valued at \$637.50, and since 2007 this total: \$23,741.25 in labor.

El Porvenir would like to thank the Westside Water Association for providing ongoing support and funding to El Porvenir's rural water and sanitation projects for the last 16 years.

9. Project Story

Latrines San Antonio, Camoapa



Mabel de los Angeles Flores Diaz is 34 years old, and she has lived for more than 15 years in San Antonio, Camoapa. She shares her home with her husband, son and in-laws.

Mabel remembers how they had to practice open defecation behind her house or among the bushes. "We felt ashamed when someone passed by our house and looked at us doing our needs," she recalled.

"Before the project came, we had a single pit latrine, but it was full and in poor condition. Thus, we had to practice open defecation. We did not have the resources to build a latrine on our own. We also suffered from parasites because our pigs ate the feces and then, well... we ate the pigs."

She affirms that they like the project since they know that it will be beneficial for the community and especially for their families. "We are going to take care of these latrines in the best way, painting them so that it lasts. We are planning to maintain this project for a long time. Having our latrines has changed our lives, now we feel safe, healthy and we practice hygienic habits," said Mabel de los Angeles.

10. Project Photos:



Beneficiaries in San Antonio Community, Camoapa.



Sanitation facilities in San Antonio Camoapa



Drilling the well in Las Pilas Centro, El Sauce



Member of the community are working in the well facilities improvement in Las Pilas Centro, El Sauce



Families in Las Pilas are happy with the drilled well. It doesn't have a hand pump since the well will have an electric pump when the piped water system is complete in a few months.