

## ANNUAL PROJECT UPDATE 2018-2019

### Westside Water Association and Maury Mutual Water Co.

#### ***1-Organizational Background***

Organization Name:	El Porvenir
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El Porvenir is an international non-profit organization founded in 1990 to help empower rural Nicaraguan communities to improve their living standards through the sustainable development of clean water, sanitation and cooking systems, reforestation and health education. El Porvenir has nearly 30 years of experience helping rural Nicaraguan communities build appropriate technology (wells, latrines, community washing stations, and fuel-efficient stoves) as well as providing communities with the tools they need to manage their water, sanitation, forestry and watershed resources. 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.

To date, EP has worked with rural communities on over 1,350 projects that now supply over 185,000 people with clean water and sanitation. Currently, the organization has one office in Broomfield, Colorado. In Nicaragua, EP has its main office in Managua, and regional offices in Ciudad Darío, Terrabona, Waslala, Camoapa, San Lorenzo and El Sauce. Projects have been implemented in rural communities in the departments of Matagalpa, Boaco and León.

#### ***2-Project Need***

With a per capita GDP of \$2,096<sup>1</sup>, Nicaragua is the third poorest country in this hemisphere. It is estimated that 50.1% of the rural population lives below the national poverty line<sup>2</sup>. In the past decades, the country has been victim of natural disasters and civil war that have destroyed infrastructure, drained resources and derailed the country's economic development.

Roughly 39% of Nicaragua's rural communities lack access to clean drinking water<sup>3</sup>, and 37% of rural Nicaraguans are lacking adequate sanitation<sup>4</sup>. The latest government data from [siasar.org](http://siasar.org)<sup>5</sup> shows even higher

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<sup>1</sup>GDP per capita in constant 2015 US Dollars. <http://databank.worldbank.org>.

<sup>2</sup> Rural Poverty headcount ratio at National Poverty Lines. <http://databank.worldbank.org/> 2014 data.

<sup>3</sup> Joint Monitoring Program/WHO/UNICEF, 2017. Rural Population with access to improved drinking water: 56%.

<sup>4</sup> Joint Monitoring Program/WHO/UNICEF, 2017. Rural Population with access to improved sanitation: 69%

numbers of rural Nicaraguans lacking coverage: 45% and 50%. Lack of adequate water and sanitation increases infant mortality and child malnutrition. Globally, contaminated water is the second greatest cause of infant mortality; an estimated 1.8 million children die each year as a result of illnesses linked to consumption of polluted water.

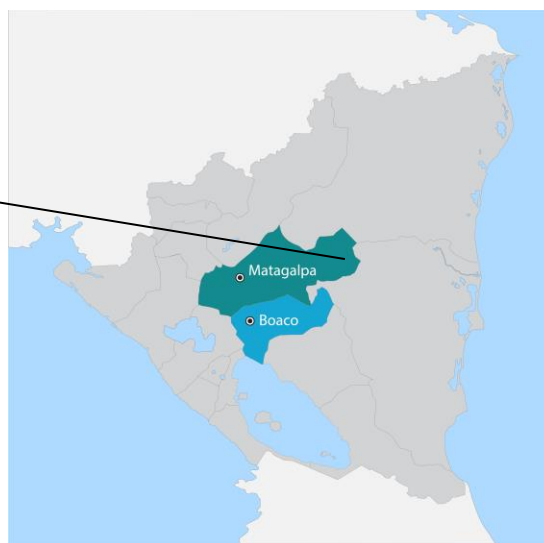
### **3-Project Objective**

The objective of the project in 2018-19 was to improve the health and living standards of poor, rural Nicaraguan communities by expanding drinking water and sanitation coverage. Specifically, the project sought to provide improved drinking water and sanitation to 297 people by constructing a drilled well with a solar pump and a tap in the school and 5 latrines. El Porvenir supported and trained the communities to:

- build, maintain and repair their own drinking water and sanitation facilities,
- implement good hygiene practices to reduce disease and illness.

### **Completed Project Locations**

- *Community Name:* Mombacho, Palo de Agua
- *Municipality:* Camoapa, Ciudad Dario
- *Department:* Boaco, Matagalpa
- *Project Type:* Latrines, Drilled well and tap in school
- *2018 Beneficiaries:* 297 people
- *Total WWA/MMA Beneficiaries*



### **4-Community Descriptions**

The communities are all small, rural villages comprised of subsistence farmers of basic grains. Due to their small size and remote location, these villages don't receive assistance from the government or other organizations to address their water and sanitation needs. Families in these communities live in extreme poverty surviving on less than \$50 a month.

**4.1.-Palo de Agua**, is located 20 km west of the town of Ciudad Dario, and is comprised of 43 families and 272 people. There is basic infrastructure such as a primary school/preschool, a Catholic church, a protestant church, but no health care center. The community members get by as subsistence farmers producing corn, beans, corn and millet. This community has access to electricity and a drilled well, but the well dries up in the dry season and they barely get enough water for drinking. For washing, they usually walk 5km to a stream. The new drilled well is greatly anticipated in the community and the school. Two taps have been installed, one near the well and another in the school. The community is named after a tree that is common in the area.

<sup>5</sup> FISE (government) presentation during NicaraguaSAN conference, March, 2019.

**4.2.-Mombacho** is a remote rural village of 128 families and is located 7 km west of the town of Camoapa. The community is accessible year round. They have a primary school, but not a secondary school. The nearest health post is 5 km away. The community members get by as laborers, masons, maids etc. for other families in Camoapa. 59 latrines were built by El Porvenir in previous years and 40 existing latrines are in good or decent condition. With these 29 were built in this round, every family in Mombacho now has a decent latrine.

### **5-Project Activities**

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, latrines, community wash stations, fuel-efficient cook stoves, and tree nurseries. Throughout the project, the Managua-based Director and accounting staff monitor progress and expenditures. Once the infrastructure is built, the community is responsible for assuming ongoing maintenance and repair. A follow up survey is undertaken to assess impact, and follow up visits are done by EP staff every six 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 (2018-19) generated the following outputs and results:

- 272 people with access to clean drinking water and sanitation (soon, see below)
- 5 latrines built (total of 29 in the community to date)
- Reduction in time spent and distance traveled carrying water
- Reduction in incidence of water and sanitation related diseases (skin infections, parasites, bacterial infections, diarrhea etc.)

### **7-Project Status 2018-19**

Community Name	Project Type	Number of Beneficiaries	Status
Palo de Agua	A drilled well with a solar pump and a tap in the school	272	This project is complete from the El Porvenir point of view, however, we are working with a partner that is donating and installing the solar pump, but the pump has been stuck in customs for a few months. We expect this will be resolved soon. So, although all the construction is complete, water is not yet flowing.
Mombacho	Double-Pit Latrine (5)	25	These latrines are complete with ongoing educational support.

## 8-WWA and MMW 2007-2019<sup>6</sup> Project Expenses

**WWA/MMW Project Donations**

Year	Amount
2007	\$ 2,015.00
2008	\$ 3,007.98
2009	\$ 3,425.00
2010	\$ 4,013.94
2011	\$ 3,611.29
2012	\$ 4,390.00
2013	\$ 2,682.80
2014	\$ 4,258.01
2015	\$ 3,393.96
2016	\$ 5,503.73
2017	\$ 4,264.47
2018	\$ 4,239.51
2019	\$ 793.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 45,598.69</b>

**WWA/MWA Project Expenses to date**

Expense	Amount
Project Materials	\$ 39,986.51
Staff, travel to communities	\$ 6,809.53

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 46,796.04</b>
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*Difference* \$ (1,197.35)

El Porvenir would like to thank the Westside Water Association and Maury Mutual Water Co.<sup>7</sup> for providing ongoing support and funding to El Porvenir rural water and sanitation projects for 11 consecutive years. Donations provided by WWA and MMW to date total \$45,598.69 and are supporting over 2,000 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 31 rural Nicaraguan communities/schools to build water and sanitation infrastructure, including:

- 72 latrines
- 1 piped water system
- 2 well repairs
- 7 new wells (6 handdug, 1 drilled)
- 3 washing and bathing station
- 60 biosand filters
- 5 hand-washing stations

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

- project materials (sand, cement, bricks, rebar, 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 project labor has been provided by the beneficiary communities on a volunteer basis. It is estimated that the labor required for the construction of the infrastructure completed since the last report is 150 person days, valued at \$545.45, but since 2007 this totals: \$17,967.27 in labor and approximately \$4,680 in materials and cash.

<sup>6</sup> Expenses and income figures includes an estimate of the costs for the projects in progress.

<sup>7</sup> In 2009, the Maury Mutual Water Co joined Westside Water Association in supporting these projects.

## 9-Project Story

*“We had to use a neighbor’s latrine...”*

### **Mombacho Latrines (Supported by WWA/MMA in 2018)**



Prior to building this latrine, Jorge José Corea Obregón, 28 years old, and his family lived at risk because they had to walk so far to use the neighbor’s latrine. All of the residents struggled with their sanitation needs.

“We had to go a long distance to use the neighbor’s latrine to take care of our necessities. The situation was especially hard at night, taking my kids out in the dark and exposing them to unknown dangers like getting bit by an animal,” expressed Jorge.

The situation for Jorge’s family was getting worse because the neighbor didn’t want them to use his latrine anymore; the neighbor was worried about his latrine

filling up too fast and then not having anything for his own family. The neighbor had started making comments to them and giving them dirty looks. Jorge and his family felt uncomfortable but didn’t know what to do. Jorge said, “So we decided not to use his latrine anymore; that left us going outdoors which is even more dangerous.”

This is why they asked for support to build these latrines that have resulted in a complete community shift to good hygiene and sanitation needs met. The latrine problems are in the past now as each household has its own hygienic latrine.

“We feel so thankful and happy for the huge help of El Porvenir, Westside Water Association and Maury Mutual Water Company to develop this project. It has changed our lives for the better, making us safer and healthier,” affirmed Jorge.



### ***10-Project Photos – Mombacho Latrines***



*One of the old latrines in Mombacho before the project started*



*Heyri Cruz in Mombacho shows off her new latrine.*



*Jairo López in Mombacho shows off his new latrine*



*Mariela Pérez in Mombacho shows off her new latrine*



### ***10-Project Photos – Palo de Agua drilled well***



*Drilling process*



*Well completed, waiting on the pump*



*A closer look at the well*



*Well is capped until the pump can be installed.*



*A tank will be installed above the well so the school can get water from a tap.*