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## ANNUAL PROJECT UPDATE 2020-2021

### 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 empower rural Nicaraguan communities to improve their living standards through the sustainable development of clean water, safe sanitation, health education, and watershed restoration. El Porvenir has over 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 1,400 projects that now supply over 210,000 people with clean water and sanitation, including 13,811 latrines and toilets, 617 water projects, and 1,965 fuel-efficient stoves as well as over 1.4 million trees planted. Currently, the organization has its U.S. office in Broomfield, Colorado. In Nicaragua, the main office is in Managua with regional offices in Ciudad Darío, Terrabona, Waslala, Camoapa, San Lorenzo, and El Sauce.

#### **2. Project Need**

Rural communities across Nicaragua lack access to clean water, improved sanitation facilities, hand-washing stations, health and hygiene information, and the training to restore damaged watersheds. Although villagers recognize the need for improved water and sanitation, they cannot afford to purchase the construction materials themselves. With a per capita GDP of \$1,912<sup>1</sup>, Nicaragua is the second 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. Last year was particularly devastating, when Nicaragua was hit by back-to-back hurricanes in the span of two weeks, during a global pandemic.

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<sup>1</sup>2019 GDP per capita in current US Dollars. <http://databank.worldbank.org>.

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

In 2020, Nicaragua’s Emergency Social Investment Fund (FISE) reported that 55% of Nicaragua’s rural communities have access to clean drinking water, and 51% of rural Nicaraguans have basic sanitation. 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. The integrated approach of water, sanitation, and hygiene education reduces the number of deaths caused by diarrheal diseases by an average of 65% (WHO). Only with clean water, improved sanitation, and healthy habits can individuals become educated and improve their standard of living.

### 3. Project Objective

The objective of the project in 2020 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 to three schools in the Ciudad Darío region of Matagalpa. El Porvenir supported and trained the communities to:

- build and maintain latrines and handwashing stations, and
- implement good hygiene practices to reduce disease and illness.

### Completed Project Locations

- *Community Names:* Playa de Moyua, San Agustín, Puertas Viejas
- *Municipality:* Ciudad Darío
- *Department:* Matagalpa
- *Project Type:* school latrines and handwashing stations
- *2020 Beneficiaries:* 273 people
- *Total WWA/MMA Beneficiaries to date:* 2,701 people



### 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, residents 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 \$66 a month. Many families have adults that move to Managua, Costa Rica, Panama or the United States to earn money and send remittances back home.

**4.1. Playa de Moyua**, is located 25 km south of the town of Ciudad Darío and is comprised of 27 families and 135 people. They have a small school, serving 15 students in grades 1-5, but no health center. El Porvenir worked with this village in 1998 to dig a well, which continues to serve the families with water. About half of the families have latrines in good condition, but the school latrines were in poor condition. The community members get by as subsistence farmers raising poultry, fishing, and producing corn, beans, and millet. The average family monthly income is \$66/month.

**4.2. San Agustín** is a rural village of 86 families and 344 people, located 25 km south of Ciudad Dario. There is a primary school, but no health center. There is a water system built by the government that serves the whole community. About one third of the families have latrines in good condition, but the school latrines were in poor condition. The residents are subsistence farmers, raising corn, beans and millet, and have an average family income of \$57/month.

**4.3. Puertas Viejas**, a village of 75 families and 380 people, lies 18 km south of Ciudad Dario, along the Pan American Highway. There is an elementary school and health center, and about 5 years ago the government built a water system that serves the whole community, including the school. The residents have latrines in good condition, but the school latrines were in poor condition and the ministry of education does not have funding to improve them. Families in Puertas Viejas have an average family monthly income of \$66, and get by as subsistence farmers, producing corn, beans, and millet and raising poultry.

### 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 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 (2020) generated the following outputs and results:

- 273 people with access to improved sanitation
- 9 latrines built (3 each at 3 schools); 2 handwashing stations built (1 each at 2 schools that also built latrines)
- Reduction in incidence of water- and sanitation-related diseases (skin infections, parasites, bacterial infections, diarrhea etc.)

### 7. Project Status 2020

Community Name	Project Type	Number of Beneficiaries	Status
Playa de Moyua	3 single-pit latrines at school	16	These latrines are complete with ongoing health education support
San Agustin	3 double-pit latrines and 1 handwashing station at school	108	These latrines and handwashing station are complete with ongoing health education support
Puertas Viejas	3 double-pit latrines and 1 handwashing station at school	149	These latrines and handwashing station are complete with ongoing health education support

## 8. WWA and MMW 2007-2020 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	\$ 4,539.31
2020	\$ 3,739.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 53,084.10</b>

### WWA/MWA Project Expenses to date

Expense	Amount
Project Materials	\$ 48,178.84
Staff, travel to communities	\$ 7,759.53

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 55,938.37</b>
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El Porvenir would like to thank the Westside Water Association and Maury Mutual Water Co.<sup>3</sup> for providing ongoing support and funding to El Porvenir’s rural water and sanitation projects for 14 consecutive years. Donations provided by WWA and MMW through 2020 total \$53,084 and have supported some 2,701 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 36 rural Nicaraguan communities/schools to build water and sanitation infrastructure, including:

- 84 latrines
- 1 spring capture system
- 1 piped water system
- 2 well repairs
- 7 new wells (6 hand-dug, 1 drilled)
- 3 washing and bathing station
- 60 bio-sand filters
- 7 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 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 170 person-days, valued at \$618.18, and since 2007 this totals: \$18,695 in labor.

<sup>3</sup> In 2009, the Maury Mutual Water Co joined Westside Water Association in supporting these projects.

## 9. Project Story

### *Handwashing Station at San Agustin School*



Karina Rostrán Talavera is a teacher at the San Agustín school, a rural, multi-grade primary school that serves students from three neighboring communities: Sinaloa, Las Lomas and San Agustín. She says that before the new latrines and the hand-washing station, the children had to carry pots of water from their homes to fill at least two buckets of water. These were located in front of the classrooms so that children could wash their hands after using the latrines. Likewise, they had old latrines in poor condition that were very far from the supervision of the teachers. In addition, they were about to collapse and were a very great risk for both teachers and children.

They now have three completely new and well-built double pit latrines: one for boys, one for girls and one for teachers. A hand washing station was built that the boys and girls use when leaving the latrines. "This helps to improve hygiene throughout the educational community, for families, students and teachers," emphasized Rostrán. They said they were very happy with El Porvenir and the donors, as they had been requesting assistance for latrines and a handwashing station for a long time.

"We are very grateful for this project. This center needed it so much. We hope to always continue working hand in hand with El Porvenir," concluded the teacher.

**10. Project Photos:**



Students in the small school in Playa de Moyua.



Because there are so few students (15), the latrine pits will not fill up as fast. Therefore simple, single-pit latrines were built in Playa de Moyua.



Digging out and building the pits for double-pit latrines in San Agustin.



Students at school in San Agustin, happy with their new latrines.



One of the parent volunteers who helped construct the double-pit latrines in Puertas Viejas.



Teachers and parents also benefit from the latrines and handwashing stations at schools.