

COMMUNITY ACTION FOUNDATION (FUNDACCO) WORK REPORT

PROJECT: rehabilitation of the drinkable water system

Community: Loma Verde

Beneficiaries: 50 families

Loma Verde is a community located in the municipality of San Pedro del Norte, department of Chinandega.

The economic activity of the community is agriculture; the main are corn, sorghum, beans and some vegetables that are used in the diet of the family.



As a contribution to the family economy, women are engaged in the raising of animals such as pigs and chickens.

In 2008, with the aim of facilitating the water supply to the community's inhabitants, the Centro Humboldt (Non-Governmental Organization), in coordination with the Municipality of San Pedro del Norte, drilled the well that is currently the source that provides water to the village, and installed a manual rope pump (bomba de mecate), which facilitated access to the vital liquid to people living near the well.

People who live far from the well had more difficulty, because the only way to get water to their homes was by loading containers on their shoulders or head, which caused physical discomfort.

In 2011, Aprodeci (Non-Governmental Organization) and the Municipality of San Pedro del Norte, installed a water distribution system, built two concrete cisterns (cement), with a capacity of 16,000 liters each, and changed the rope pump for an electric pump. The community contributed to the workforce in the execution of this project.

With the passage of time, the sun and the wind, the cisterns deteriorated (they showed multiple grooves or fissures), which had as consequences:

- Water leaking at the base of the tanks.
- Tanks were not filled to capacity due to cracks in the walls, which could burst due to water pressure, representing a danger to neighboring homes.
- The community did not have the opportunity to collect enough water for daily consumption.

Faced with this situation, the person in charge of pumping or filling the tanks with water had to carry out the process directly, that is, when pumping water, the valves of the pipes were opened so that the water could go directly through the pipes which carried it to the houses. This did not guarantee that everyone would collect enough water in their containers.

Due to the reality lived by the residents of Loma Verde, the representatives of the El Bloque Organization that live in the area, asked FUNDACCO for support in the management of resources to execute a project to remedy to the problem of the potable water system.

In keeping with its desire to seek funds to benefit more communities in our country, Roots of Change initiated conversations with Mr. Clermont Fortin director of the Society San Vicente de Paul (SSVP), who demonstrated interest in learning about the work we do through the presentation of projects.

At the beginning of July, 2016 in conversation with Roots of Change, we learn about the SSVP and its presence in the department of León, Nicaragua, which allowed us to make direct contact with Mr. Federico Medina, who was president of the Council of the SSVP; initiating a fluid communication with the objective of coordinating future actions.

On November, 07 2016 in the city of Quezalguaque, a meeting was held with the members of the Superior Council of the SSVP, Jocelyne Durocher, and representatives of FUNDACCO to learn about responsibilities and work process.

Likewise, **FUNDACCO** reported on the work it carries out, the areas where it is present and the administration and execution of the funds. The projects to be

developed in the communities "**La Carreta**" and "**Loma Verde**" were presented for revision and subsequent approval.

On July 25, 2017, Mr. José Antonio Montenegro, President of the Superior Council of the SSPV in Nicaragua, accompanied us during visits to the "**Loma Verde**" and "**La Carreta**" communities, whose initial purpose were to establish a relationship of friendship between potential donors and beneficiaries, and knowing the limitations that most affect them, difficulties, dreams and hopes.

Activities for the execution of the project were organized and coordinated in those meetings or subsequent visits. Also organized was the work and the contribution of the community, which included: establishing work teams, safeguarding materials, monitoring work. All of these activities were according to the nature of the project, agreements, and commitments aimed at the care and conservation of the benefit received.

It is important to note that when **SSVP** opened the doors, the possibilities of benefiting many people through different projects were greater. We realized that we were not alone in this noble task; that there were people in other organizations with love and willingness to help men, women, youth and children to improve their quality of life; and transforming the environment in which they have lived for a long time, through the implementation of projects that lead to better community welfare.

It is relevant to note that the **SSVP**, **Roots of Change** and the **FUNDACCO** work team will continue the work started by **Father Denis Hébert**, each day with greater responsibility and commitment, helping people to transform their environment, which will improve current and future living conditions of people.

The coordination that **FUNDACCO** carried out with the leaders of the community and the president of the Board of Directors of the Bloque, resulted in the following aspects that guaranteed the success of the project:

- The formation of the water committee, whose responsibility is to:
 1. Encourage the proper use of water
 2. Present the water service program to the community, indicating the hours in which they will collect the vital liquid.
 3. Ensure the cleanliness and protection of the well, tanks, pump and pipes, in order to keep them in perfect condition.
 4. Guarantee that the beneficiaries of the project comply with the monthly stipulated fees, which are aimed at payments of electricity and maintenance of pipes and pump.

- Make estimations of the materials required in different hardware stores
- Make purchases of materials
- Safeguard project materials
- Continuously monitor the work until the work is finished.

The inhabitants of the community committed to comply with the work plan previously prepared, and to take care of the goods received.

Before starting the work, the inhabitants of the community were to take the following actions:

- They were to collect water to drink during the time needed take to fix the system (two weeks)
- They were to use well water to wash clothes, bathe and other household activities,
- They were to repair the road in advance to facilitate the access of the truck that would move the tanks and accessories to a nearby place where the tanks were to be located.

EXECUTED WORK SCHEDULE

Monday, November 20:

They began the work by demolishing the cisterns, to later build the concrete base in which the tanks were located, this activity was carried out in one day.

Tuesday 21 / November / 17:

The construction of the two plachets or base on which the tanks rest was carried out. This work was done in one day. To guarantee a quality and lasting work, it took five days to achieve a good drying of the bases.

Monday, November 27:

The tanks were installed, with a capacity of 5,000 liters and 10,000 liters, this being the most important and emotional moment of the people, because now they will take advantage of the water that is extracted from the well, in its totality, there is no more leaking.

On Wednesday, December 6:

We met with some inhabitants of the community to know how they felt now that the drinking water system was fixed; not all the inhabitants of the community showed up because it was time to harvest the beans and they were working in the field. Those present expressed the following:

Doña Filonila Pérez Vílchez stated that: **"We had a very critical moment, because the waters of the small wells were contaminated by feces, and the cisterns were damaged, we did not know what to do. Now we thank you deeply, we are going to take care of this gift, and we will remember you all the time and tell the young ones that they have to take care of these things "**.

Doña Melba Luz Vílchez said: **"the children suffered from diarrhea, even one lady died from drinking contaminated water, and that was a red alert for us. Now the children do not get sick, we no longer pass time in the health posts (clinics)"**.

Having executed the project in a short time, facilitated the presentation of the schedule of activities developed in detail.

The community members, currently receive water four days a week (alternate days), ½ hour average each day, time that allows them to collect two barrels of water to perform domestic activities.

The water committee is made up of: Coordinator (a), Secretary (a), Treasurer (a), Fiscal and two Members.

The treasurer is responsible for receiving the fee of C \$ 80.00, which was established by all the inhabitants of the community in previous meetings; Each beneficiary is given a receipt which certifies the payment made. This fund is intended for payments for electricity and maintenance of the water system.

The beneficiaries of the project, are humble people, who express their gratitude for bringing welfare to their families; no longer have to carry water traveling long distances; children no longer carry containers with water; health has improved because they do not drink contaminated water. The project has also brought them physical security.

The objective has been achieved successfully and has had a great impact on the population and neighboring communities. Six families that were out of the project due to noncompliance with the commitments previously required, have now

requested to be reactivated and have committed to comply with the community responsibilities.

WORK COORDINATION MEETINGS



WELL (SOURCE OF WATER)



TANKS



PURCHASE OF MATERIALS



DISCARDING THE TANKS



ARENA THAT THE POPULATION CONTRIBUTED



SAND THAT THE POPULATION CONTRIBUTED TO MIX WITH THE CEMENT

BUILDING BASES OR PLANKS FOR TANKS

FINISHED PROJECT



10,000 LITER TANK



5,000 LITER TANK





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