

## Improvement of the conditions of the sanitary infrastructure for 22 families in the community of San Ramón, Villa Nueva

This final report of the Project: Improvement of the conditions of the sanitary infrastructure in the community of San Ramón, Villa Nueva provides the results of the project.

The Community of San Ramón is located in the municipality of Villa Nueva, 63 kilometers from the Head Department of Chinandega. Being a rural community, sanitary problems are evident.

This project was financed by a Saint Vincent de Paul Canada organization, in coordination with FUNDACCO, the executing organization.

### **Situation before the project.**

It is important to emphasize that the proposal emerged out of the community's own needs, which formulated a request on behalf of the community and ensured that it reached the executing organization. This first process reaffirmed the needs experienced by the community.

Of the families selected to participate in the initiative, only one of them had a latrine, in total deterioration, the rest of the beneficiary families lacked this service, finding themselves in the shameful and forced obligation to use the neighbor's and in the worst of cases resort to open fields.

As part of the FUNDACCO accompaniment, it carried out houses-to-houses visits of the families included in the project initiative, allowing the redaction of a formal document to be presented to potential donors to respond to the need presented by the residents of the community.

### **General Objective:**

- o Contribute to the improvement of the health and well-being of the inhabitants of the community of San Ramón, Villa Nueva through the implementation of sanitary services infrastructure.

**Specific objectives:**

- o Contribute to the requirement for basic sanitation services in the community of San Ramón.
- o Encourage and stimulate human dignity in terms of not having to expose themselves to the environment to attend to their basic needs.
- o Improve the health level of families affected by the transmission of diseases through contaminated water and disposal of excreta directly into the environment.

**Expected results:**

- o Improved the sanitary conditions of 22 families in the community of San Ramón.
- o Improved health and hygiene conditions in the community.
- o Families actively participating before and during the development of the project.
- o 22 families in the community using the constructed latrines properly.

**Execution Process**

As in all FUNDACCO projects, active participation of the beneficiaries is required, the Latrine Installation Project in San Ramón was no exception.

The selection of families was carried out by community leaders who knew very well the needs of the families. FUNDACCO, in coordination with the Bloque, a local organization, gave itself the task of verifying that each of the selected families met the requirements or needs of the project.

The beneficiary families participated in multiple meetings held by FUNDACCO in the community, these meetings allowed us to:

- Familiarize ourselves with the families who participated as beneficiaries of the project
- Measure the degree of participation of each of the families involved
- Promote solidarity among families
- Coordinate actions for the execution of the project

## **Results obtained**

### **Access to basic sanitation increased in the targeted community.**

Regarding basic sanitation, latrines have been very well accepted, being something so basic. Entire families did not have a latrine, having to resort to open fields or to the houses of some neighbors.

One of the latrines collapsed sometime after the end of the project. Rains combined with the softness of the land was found to be the cause. The other latrines continue to function adequately.

Greater awareness about the hygiene and respect to the environment. It can be observed that the beneficiaries are assimilating good hygiene practices little by little. During the monitoring carried out, it has been found that the latrine enclosures built were clean and that they were being used properly.

In any case, it must be taken into account that the adoption of appropriate health practices and caring of the environment is a long process. It is a work that must have continuity, we can't pretend to change or improve certain rooted habits (and as well some cultural aspects) within a one-year intervention.

### **Attitude towards the project of the beneficiary community**

With information about the project being disseminated among the beneficiary population, great expectations were created in the community due to the enormous lack of sanitary infrastructure. Raising the level of the involvement and the commitment of the population in the different stages of the project, from its formulation, management, to the stage of construction of the latrines.

### **Community work.**

Prior to the execution of the project, a meeting was held with the beneficiary families, where they were made aware of the commitments they had to make for the execution of the activities. During the actual execution of the project, the families agreed on the required work that each of them would carry out as contributors to the project.

Among the agreements reached were:

- Each family must excavate the hole where the latrine will be installed with a depth of no less than 3 meters.

- The family must collaborate with the mason at the time of construction of the latrine.
- All families will receive the same materials required for the project.
- Each family will be responsible for the care of the materials while the latrine is being built
- Each family must guarantee eight buckets of sand, the amount required to raise the walls of the latrines.
- The mason in charge of the construction of the latrines was selected from the community in consultation with the beneficiary families.

Likewise, it was agreed to form a working task force with the following responsibilities.

- Receive the material in coordination with FUNDACCO
- Coordinate with the mason the process of construction of the latrines
- Supervise the latrines' construction process
- Communicate directly to FUNDACCO any difficulty that the project presents in order to find solutions to the problem

The task force chosen by the beneficiary families is as follows:

1. Martha Ramírez
2. Yesenia Méndez
3. Johana Pineda
4. Fernando Ramírez
5. Reyna Pineda.

In accordance with the agreements reached at the meeting, the process for the construction was established in coordination with the new task force, members of the Bloque, beneficiaries, and FUNDACCO. The start date for the construction of the latrines was agreed and planned as follows:

- Delivery date of the latrine materials: April 15, 2020
- Start of construction date: April 16, 2020
- Date of delivery of latrines to the families: May 05, 2020

The actual execution of this project was achieved in a timely manner, complying with the schedule; thanks to the high level of coordination and communication of the community support team, and the availability of the beneficiaries to work for their latrine construction project.

Initially, the project planned the construction of 18 latrines, however, at the end of the project, a total of 22 latrines were built to benefit 22 families. The project complied with all activities in a timely manner. The increase in the last three families was possible thanks to the discounts in the prices of construction materials and labor, which allowed more materials to cover three new latrines.

Due to the situation of the COVID-19 Pandemic, it was not possible to inaugurate the project just after the construction phase of the latrines. The families were, however, able to make use of their installation immediately. The inauguration of the project was held in a responsible and careful manner five months after the end of the project.

### **Project monitoring**

The inauguration of the project was carried out, each family expressed their gratitude to the San Vicente de Paul Organization for the efforts to bring improvements to the families of the community. In the same way, they thanked FUNDACCO for the work it carried out.

House-to-house visits were made to the recipient families verifying the proper use they made of the latrines. During the tour, all families expressed their gratefulness with the project to San Vicente de Paul and to FUNDACCO. *Thanks to these organizations, today we are in better conditions and we do not have to bother the neighbor to provide the latrines.*

Doña Petronila López Pérez, beneficiary of the project, states textually *“Thanks to God, to you (FUNDACCO) and to the donors for having given me this latrine, as*

*you can see, my economic conditions would not have allowed me to build a latrine like this. Today, thanks to your goodwill my family has this benefit; and I hope they can continue to benefit other families who also need them and don't have them”.*

## **Conclusion**

The project for the Improvement of the sanitary infrastructures was achieved according to schedule with the general support and integration of all the beneficiaries as they considered that it was highly needed.

Substantial changes that are expected with the implementation of the project in the community is the reduction of gastrointestinal diseases, to some extent the improvement of the health of the community, and the reduction of environmental contamination.

As an executing agency, we have learned that a community with high needs is far more motivated to carry out activities that contribute to the improvement of the community. Their participation and support in the process contributed in building and achieves synergy and therefore resulted positively for the community.

FUNDACCO, as the executing agency for the project, wishes to thank the community for having trusted us and our work that we carry out as a team. Our vision is to support rural communities in executing their own projects. Special thanks to the San Vicente de Paul organization for its valuable help. Many families in San Ramón will, as a result, benefit from a reduction of diseases caused by deficiencies in sanitary systems.

### List of beneficiary families.

1. Elpidio Espinoza Betanco
2. Cecilio Pineda Zepeda
3. Johana Pineda Pérez
4. María Luisa Ruiz Martínez
5. Ana Daysi Garache
6. Jessenia María Méndez
7. María José Briceño

8. Martha Isabel Ramírez Bucardo
9. Alba Nubia Sáenz Garache
10. Dunia del Rosario Calero Garache
11. Petronila López Pérez
12. Jessica Mariela Martínez Uriarte
13. Delia Eunice Arauz
14. Maura Estela Martínez Uriarte
15. Paulo Rafael Martinez
16. Bernarda Lourdes Ramírez Uriarte
17. Nery Rocha Calderón
18. Karina del Carmen Ramírez
19. Osiris Sarahí Roque
20. Miriam Liseth Montalván
21. Reyna Isabel Pineda Zepeda
22. Lidia María Velásquez Moral

Photos:      Delivery of Materials  
                 Inauguration  
                 Follow-up visit