AGUA PARA LA VIDA NICARAGUA

Annual Report
2018
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"APLV wants to reaffirm its commitment to continue working hand-in-hand with the many rural communities in the country that continue to struggle day-by-day for their access to drinking water and sanitation."

Although 2018 was a year of challenges for Water for Life (APLV), our results show that the organization continues to strengthen. In France and the United States, the boards of directors worked hard to strengthen our organization. In Nicaragua, despite the complicated socio-political situation, our team remains more committed than ever. Thanks to the good will of our staff, the support of our local partners (municipalities and NGOs), and the motivation of the community members, we continue to make a great impact.

The staff of APLV Nicaragua is 95% Nicaraguan, which is a great strength for us. Our entire team did an extraordinary job, both in carrying out projects and in seeking funds and new alliances. In this context, APLV wants to reaffirm its commitment to continue working hand-in-hand with the many rural communities in the country that continue to fight day-by-day for their access to drinking water and sanitation.

Your support makes possible APLV’s progress in addressing the fundamental right to drinking water and sanitation. We count on your support and thank you for your collaboration!
¿Who are we?

Agua Para La Vida (APLV) is a non-profit organization that works for the right of all people to sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

APLV has been operating in Nicaragua for 32 years, and has a highly qualified local team of 18 people. There are two sister organizations, in France and the United States, which help to support Agua Para La Vida Nicaragua.
APLV mission

Sustainable access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene with an integrated approach.

Strengthening of local capacity

Development of appropriate and effective technical tools for the design of gravity flow water supply systems

Training of hydraulic technicians in the APLV Technical School (ETAP)
APLVN and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Agua Para La Vida Nicaragua is very much aligned with the motto of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s): “Leave no one behind”.

APLVN’s work is strongly linked with many of the SDGs, specifically the following four:

- **Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**
- **Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.**
- **Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reserve land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**
- **Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development**
Our Impact Since 1987

42,152 Beneficiaries
96 Projects completed
23 Municipalities served

WINNER OF THE 2015 AND SANITATION PRIZE
AWARDED BY THE DEVELOPMENT BANK
In 2018 the efforts of the Agua Para La Vida team and its generous donors made it possible to improve the living conditions of more than 5,000 people.
Our impact in 2018

- **1078** Families with Access to Drinking Water
- **453** Families with Access to Sanitation
- **5,999** Hectares of Protected Forest
- **8** Rural youth training to be hydraulic technicians

With a total amount of direct investment in projects of more than **U$ 655,000**

¡THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!
Projects completed in 2018

1. AguaClara water treatment plant project
2. Access to sanitation projects
3. Program of the Technical School of Drinking Water - ETAP
4. Complete projects for access to water and sanitation
5. Water systems rehabilitation projects
WATER AND SANITATION PROJECTS COMPLETED

WASH Program
Access to secure water

At APLVN, we primarily build gravity flow water systems. We handle each element: water capture, storage, treatment, and distribution to home faucets.

In addition, we train communities in the administration, operation and maintenance of their water system, as well as in the protection, restoration and conservation of their water source.

We encourage the strengthening of relations with governmental and non-governmental territorial entities to ensure the long-term sustainability of the systems.
Before this project 38% of the population of Jucuapa Occidental had access to water just a few hours a day from an old and failing system. The rest of the families carried water in buckets from the Jucuapa River.

The new system includes 83 household water faucets with meters, provides future connections for 11 families that worked on the project but have not yet built their homes, and 29 new double VIP latrines. Each family contributed 40 days of work.

**Beneficiaries**

- **400** Total Beneficiaries
- **92** Families
- **1** School
- **1** Catholic Church

**Aportes**

- PRODESSA-Ayuda enAcción $39,430
- Ayuda enAcción $39,430
- BLUE Missions $17,500
- APLV France $36,303
- Raleigh International $3,518
- Comunidad $17,87

**Periodo de ejecución**

From August 2018 to January 2019

**Total Budget $114,623**
The small community El Guayabo Coperna had no access to safe drinking water before the APLVN project. The families had to walk to rivers or hand dig wells for their water and did not have access to basic sanitation.

The new system includes 28 household water faucets with meters, provides future connections for 8 families that worked on the project but have not yet built their homes, and 26 new double VIP latrines. Each family contributed 55 days of work.
In 2004, APLVN had built a water system for the 16 families of Pueblo Nuevo. By 2017 the system was supplying water to 24 families, a school and a church. Due to the population growth, it was necessary to re-engineer the system to improve and expand the water system for the entire population. In addition, the situation of access to sanitation was quite critical, because 36% of families were defecating outdoors.

The new system includes 54 household water faucets with meters, provides future connections for 10 families that worked on the project but have not yet built their homes, and 26 new double VIP latrines. Each family contributed 22 days of work.

**Beneficiaries**

- **64** Familias
- **1** Instituto
- **1** Alcaldía
- **2** Iglesias Evangelicas
- **1** Centros Escolares
- **1** Iglesia Católica
- **1** Centro de salud
- **228** Total de Beneficiarios

**Aportes**

- **Res Publica** U$ 66,997
- **Alcaldíade Siuna** U$ 19,956
- **Pennywise** U$ 4,048
- **Comunidad** U$ 31,35

**Periodo de ejecución**

From May to December 2018
APLVN had built a water system in the community of Jardín del Edén in 2007. A landslide from severe storms destroyed part of the system in 2014. 84% of families had no access to basic sanitation.

The new system includes 28 household water faucets, 59 new water meters and 41 new double VIP latrines. Each family contributed 40 days of work.

**Beneficiaries**

- **People**: 216
- **Schools**: 57
- **Families**: 2

**Aportes**

- **Rural Water Ventures**: U$ 67,462
- **Alcaldía de Río Blanco**: U$ 14,193
- **Comunidad**: U$ 17,860

**Execution Period**

Mayo a Diciembre 2018
Potabilization Plant AguaClara
Neighborhood El PODA, San Rafael del Norte, Jinotega

AguaClara water treatment plants have been designed by Cornell University to produce clean drinking water. These plants use an efficient, effective and appropriate technology which does not utilize mechanical components and was developed to be constructed with local material, easy to operate and affordable. In addition, it brings together the 4 processes of purification in a single building: flocculation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection.

This was the first such project in Central America outside of Honduras region, these plants had been implemented only in Honduras by the NGO Agua Para el Pueblo (APP). APLVN was selected by Water for People to be the local NGO that would initiate a technical transfer process in Nicaragua. This project was built by APLVN under the technical supervision of APP, and in coordination with Water For People, the Municipal Mayor’s Office of San Rafael del Norte, Cornell University, and AguaClara Reach.

The plant built by APLVN in the PODA neighborhood has a design flow of 7L / s.

**Beneficiarios**

**180 People**

**134,924 U$**

**Total Budget**

**Execution Period**

From January to July 2018
Rehabilitation projects

According to the latest GermanWatch report on the global climate risk index, Nicaragua is among the 10 countries most affected in the last 20 years globally by extreme weather events.

The winter of 2017 was particularly difficult: the country was on alert several times and different regions suffered floods due to heavy rains caused by hurricanes. Four APLVN projects were impacted by these natural disasters and the organization called on several donors to support the rehabilitation of these systems.

### LAS MADERAS, MATAGALPA
- **31** Families
- **155** Beneficiaries

Activities executed:
- Rehabilitation of 2 underground crossings

### VALLE DE CASA, SAN DIONISIO
- **36** Families
- **190** Beneficiaries

Activities executed:
- Rehabilitation of the spring catchment and replacement of 160 m of piping.

### LOS PINARES, TELPANECA
- **58** Families
- **290** Beneficiaries

Activity executed:
- Replacement of 150 m of piping and 58 faucets.

### LA ENEA, ESQUIPULAS
- **86** Families
- **430** Beneficiaries

Activity executed:
- Replacement of 1,000 m of piping.

**Total Budget**: 28,035 U$
Feasibility studies

The APLVN technical team is constantly evaluating potential projects for the coming year through feasibility and design studies. This work is an essential component of the water and sanitation project cycle. Only when a preliminary design is complete does APLVN begin looking for potential funding for a project.

This is also a critical stage to ensure the active participation of the community members as well as the local Municipal Water and Sanitation Unit, so that they are all involved from the very beginning.

In 2018, we implemented 6 feasibility and design studies, in partnership with the NGO WaterAid and with municipal governments.

Feasibility study, Kukalaya Territory, RACN

948 Inhabitants

Feasibility studies for the communities of Umbla Bijawe and Umbla Central, Mulukuku

230 Inhabitants

Feasibility studies for the communities of El Amparo, El Platanillal and Paconal y Sijul, San Sebastián de Yalí

825 Inhabitants
Access to Sanitation and Hygiene

We provide technical assistance for the community to build excreta deposition systems. We also propose other alternatives to improve sanitation such as household drainage. In schools, we implement an improved sanitation initiative, ensuring a latrine for girls and another for boys, as well as a hand washing area.

In addition, we strengthen the knowledge of families regarding health and environmental education, through the implementation of the Family, School and Healthy Community (FECSA) methodology.
In 2017, APLVN implemented a project to access drinking water in this community. However, the sanitation situation was also quite alarming, given that 71% of the families had latrines in poor condition and 19% of the families had no access to any sanitation system.

Therefore, 63 double-pit ventilated VIP latrines were built as well as a hand washing station for the community’s primary school. Each family contributed an average of 10 work days to receive this service.
The El Platanillal community had no access to drinking water or sanitation. In 2018, APLVN completed a feasibility study and a design of a water and sanitation project for this community and the municipal mayor's office was able to provide funding to start with the sanitation component in a first phase during this year with a plan to implement the water project in 2019.

In this first phase of the project, 36 VIP double pit latrines were built, including 2 for the primary school, as well as wash stations. Each family contributed 10 days of work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiarios</th>
<th>31 Families</th>
<th>1 School</th>
<th>3 Churches</th>
<th>203 People</th>
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<tr>
<th>Aportes</th>
<th>Aportes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alcaldía San Sebastián de Yali</td>
<td>U$ 28,658</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comunidad</td>
<td>U$ 8,051</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Execution period</th>
<th>From November 2018 to January 2019</th>
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</table>
Volunteerign

We mobilize local volunteers in educational initiatives focused on sanitation and the environment. We provide opportunities for interns and professionals nationwide to serve in different regions. We work with international volunteers in collaboration with partner organizations.

Since 2015, we have partnered with Raleigh International to jointly implement several sustainable community development programs focused on water and sanitation. The projects promote behavioral changes in the population, harnessing the energy of these multicultural youth teams to apply creative communication techniques for greater impact.
Youth, Entrepreneurs and Sanitation Program

This year, we completed the Youth, Entrepreneurs and Sanitation (JES) project, which we have been running since 2015 with Raleigh International Nicaragua. The objective of this program was to train young people, families and community leaders to promote sanitation and encourage behavioral changes in hygiene habits. During these 3 years, 12 communities benefited from a total of 677 families, with 342 young volunteers from England, Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

This experience was innovative because of the involvement of youth and its communication approach to development, which favored the creation of alliances between different community actors to ensure a greater commitment of long-term community leaders.

In 2018, we worked in 3 different communities and achieved the following results:

- **233** Families
- **78** Volunteers working
- **1,255** Total Beneficiaries
- **47** Improved Sanitation Technologies (TSM) built
- **2** Young people trained in the construction of TSM
- **21** Members of Drinking Water and Sanitation Committees with strengthened knowledge
- **20** FECSA promoters trained

Total Beneficiaries: 1,255
Total Volunteers: 78
Total Communities: 12
Total Families: 233
Total Investment: 24,979 U$
Expedition Program

APLVN and Raleigh International began to develop the Expedition program starting in 2017. This is based on the involvement of young people, like the JES program, but focuses on projects to rehabilitate drinking water systems. Each group of volunteers lived with Nicaraguan families for a short period of 3 weeks, and worked hand in hand with the community in physical work. In addition, a technical team was responsible for monitoring capacity building, even when volunteers were not in the community.

This year, due to the national political situation, the initial plan had to be adapted and volunteers were only supported from January to April, because preventive measures had to be taken to ensure the safety of all. In spite of everything, we were successful in rehabilitating two gravity water supply systems.

Comunidades atendidas:
Valle de Casas (190 personas) y San José de Paiwas (119)

309 Total Beneficiaries
87 Volunteers working
68 Families

30,587 U$ Total Investment
Technical formation

We provide technical training through our technical school, Escuela Tecnico de Agua Potable (ETAP), which offers a two and a half year technical curriculum, recognized by INATEC, and aimed at young high school graduates from rural areas. Students graduate with a degree of Middle Technician in Design and Management of Water Supply and Rural Sanitation Systems.

This unique school was created in 1996 by APLV to strengthen the water and sanitation sector, developing capacity in rural areas through the training of young hydraulic technicians, capable of designing and implementing water and sanitation projects.
In April 2017, ETAP started classes with the 8 new students who will graduate in 2019. These young people come from 7 different municipalities in the country.

The curriculum is divided into 14 modules and covers all aspects of designing and building drinking water projects.

Over the course of this year and last we have covered 70% of the 3,890 hours of classwork and field exercises.

### AVANCES DE CLASES 2018

- **otros componentes**: 12%
- **Saneamiento rural**: 33%
- **Prácticas de ejecución**: 44%
- **Diagnóstico de funcionamiento y mantenimiento**: 48%
- **Diseño de aducción de agua**: 43%
- **Diseño de captación de agua**: 12%
- **Dibujo técnico**: 43%
- **Física-Hidráulica**: 44%
- **Materiales**: 52%
- **Topografía y cartografía**: 17%
- **Computación**: 92%
- **Comunicación técnica**: 89%
Extracurricular topics

Our goal as a technical school is to provide quality education and train young people who will strengthen the rural water and sanitation sector in Nicaragua. We ensure that our students are introduced to all the basic concepts related to the water and sanitation, complementing the theoretical classes with training on extracurricular topics.

This year, the students of ETAP were trained in the following 4 topics by external facilitators:

1. Workshop on “guide for conflict management and resolution in community water management”
2. Workshop on “guide for the application of IWRM at the municipal level”
3. Geology and Hydrology
4. Well drilling
DEVELOPMENT OF PARTNERSHIPS

Fundraising
Donor visit attention

Water for Life would be nothing without its generous donors. We are honored by the confidence they have in our work and therefore we like to be able to return with them, years later, to projects they funded, so that they can witness the sustainable results of their investments.

Annual visits of RES PUBLICA and RURAL WATER VENTURES for the inauguration of 2017 projects and follow-up of projects from previous years.

Exchange visit with BLUE MISSIONS in the Dominican Republic
Strengthening Partnerships

APLV has always worked hand in hand with local governments and communities to ensure greater long-term sustainability of the projects.

In 2018, alliances were strengthened with:

- **The communities**: requesting their contribution in working days and through symbolic financial contributions to access their drinking water and sanitation services,
- **The Municipal Mayors**: requesting monetary counterparts, both to prepare the feasibility studies and to execute the projects,
- **National and international NGOs**: to work in partnership in the execution of studies and projects,
- **National networks**: playing an active role in the National Water and Sanitation Network (RASNIC) as well as in Global Water Partnership (GWP) Nicaragua,
- **Historical donors of the organization**: to preserve the trust they have in us,
- **New partners and donors**: to establish solid foundations to build a long-term relationship.

**Testimony**

Ana Aguilar is a 34-year-old young woman, single mother of 4 girls, who lives in the community of Valle de Casa, in the municipality of San Dionisio. Until this year, Ana had to walk several hours each day to find the necessary water for her family to a neighbor’s well. He explains that, when he learned that a water and sanitation project was going to start, he was filled with both joy and fear:

I was happy to know that our water problem was going to be solved, but I was afraid of not doing it myself. The health promoter of Agua Para La Vida explained to me how to organize myself and in the end, I managed to work the necessary 63 days and participate in the costs of buying materials for my water stand. I helped ditch and glue pipe like any man in the community, and participated in all the training workshops. [...] 

Today, every time I see my daughters leaving clean for school, I thank Agua Para La Vida and its donors, without whom this project could not have been a reality. The time I spent carrying water, now I spend it with my daughters!
Financial transparency is a fundamental value for APLVN. The organization receives funds from diverse sources and ensures that each of its donors is provided with details of the execution of the provided counterparts, by sending narrative and financial reports.

The analysis of the origin of our funding sources reflects the support we receive from Agua Para La Vida United States and Agua Para La Vida Francia in our fundraising efforts, as well as the contributions of local counterparts.
THANK YOU:

- To all our donors, partners and friends, for trusting us and for allowing us to leave our grain of sand in this global struggle to close the water and sanitation gap in the world;
- To the members of the APLVN team, for their personal commitment to the organization, as well as for their quality work;
- And to all the members of the communities, who proved to be very hardworking people, and without whom it would not have been possible to carry out these projects successfully.
CONTACTS

EMAIL
aplv-nicaragua@aplv.org

NUMBER
(+505) 2250-1570

PAGINA WEB
es.aguaparalavida.org