AGUA PARA LA VIDA NICARAGUA
Impact Report 2022
Summary

Dear friends, the APLVN team is delighted to share with you a summary of the achievements of our organization throughout the year 2022.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of our work team and the support of partners, donors and community leaders, several projects have been successfully completed, thus expanding the coverage of safe water and improved sanitation in several communities.

At the institutional level, a new accounting system has been established, which makes us more efficient and allows us to respond promptly to the demands of the State, local authorities, our partners, donors and the work itself.

We have also been able to carry out a process of strategic reflection that has allowed us to assess the global context and how to project ourselves in the midst of it. We have been able to delimit the lines of work we want to implement in the future, as well as to be more aware of our weaknesses and strengths as an organization.

We can also celebrate that, after overcoming many difficulties, a new group of students has started at our Drinking Water Technical School (ETAP). Upon completion of the 2 1/2-year program, they will receive a nationally accredited degree as specialists in drinking water and sanitation.

We are starting the year 2023 facing strong challenges, but with the hope and confidence that we will give our best and that we will be able to celebrate with joy the new achievements that await us.

Enjoy the reading.

APLV Nicaragua Team
Nicaragua is a Central American country, which is among the poorest in Latin America. Forty-one percent of its population lives in rural areas, where poverty is concentrated and where access to basic drinking water and sanitation services remains a constant challenge for thousands of families.

56% OF THE RURAL POPULATION WITHOUT ACCESS TO DRINKING WATE

50% OF THE RURAL POPULATION WITHOUT ACCESS TO BASIC SANITATION
Who we are?

We are a non-profit organization that promotes community development through the creation of local capacity for sustainable access to drinking water and sanitation, with a special focus on rural areas of the country.

We have been operating in Nicaragua for 35 years and have a highly qualified team of 18 people, all of them Nicaraguan. There are two legally constituted sister organizations, in France and the United States, that support Agua Para La Vida Nicaragua.
We identify strongly with the motto of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which calls to “Leave no one behind”.

Our work has a strong link to the SDGs, specifically the following four:

4. **Ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.**

6. **Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.**

15. **Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.**

17. **Revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development**
Our intervention methodology

The community initiates the project, actively participates in all stages and develops the capacity to manage the system.

Our technical team lives in the community during the project to establish strong relationships and have more time for training.

We are committed to the sustainability of our projects through the development of local technical capacity.

We have developed our own award-winning water system design software, which is specifically adapted to cost-constrained rural applications.
Our WASH Program

**MAIN COMPONENTS**

**Drinking Water Access**
We are specialists in gravity water distribution systems. We have our own design software that is cost-efficient and adapted to the realities of rural communities.

**Sanitation Access**
We provide technical assistance for the community to build their own human waste disposal systems. We encourage the use of sustainable technologies that have a long useful life.

**Capacity building and empowerment of community and local leaders**
One of our main objectives is to build local capacities so that communities can lead their own development processes and ensure the sustainability of projects.

**ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS**

**Community Hygiene and health**

**Education and Technical Assistance**

**Integrated Water Resource Management**

**Volunteer and internship program**
Our impact since 1987

59,567 Beneficiaries
105 Completed Projects
23 Local Regions Supported


AGUA PARA LA VIDA 2022
Our impact in 2022
Our impact in 2022

3. Drinking Water Projects Completed.

1. Drinking Water and Sanitation Project Completed.

1. Sanitation Project in execution.

2. Feasibility studies for new projects.

1. New generation of ETAP students.

The efforts of the Agua Para La Vida team and its generous donors improved the living conditions of more than 1,648 people.
This project was carried out in collaboration with World Vision Nicaragua and was scheduled to be completed in 2021. But due to COVID-19, weather and economic tensions it was delayed and completed in the first quarter of 2022.

This is the largest potable water supply system in the municipality of San Sebastián de Yalí, and the aerial pipeline bridge across the Coco River is the longest (230 meters) APLVN has ever built.

**232** Household connections  
**912** Beneficiaries  
**U$ 254,148** TOTAL BUDGET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World Vision Nicaragua</td>
<td>U$ 89,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APLV USA</td>
<td>U$ 80,289</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>U$ 67,756</td>
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<tr>
<td>APLV France</td>
<td>U$ 9,961</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mayor’s Office San Sebastián de Yalí</td>
<td>U$ 7,142</td>
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</tbody>
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Access to potable water in the community of El Caracol, Municipality of San Sebastián, Department of Jinotega, Nicaragua.
The El Carmen-La Esperanza project demonstrates how far collaboration between communities can go to gain access to drinking water. In 2010 APLVN supported the community of El Carmen to build clean water and sanitation systems.

A neighboring community, La Esperanza, was in great need and the drinking water committee of El Carmen, led by its president, made the necessary arrangements to extend their water system to the community of La Esperanza and thanks to the support of our donors this project was carried out.

Expansion of the Potable Water Supply System in the Community of El Carmen - La Esperanza, Municipality of Matiguás, Matagalpa.

71 Household connections

340 Beneficiaries

80 Students

U$ 78,585 TOTAL BUDGET

Funding

APLV USA U$ 44,698
ANF U$ 17,529
Community U$ 16,358
This project was a partnership with BORDA of Nicaragua to benefit three communities that did not have access to water and indirectly to a fourth community that may benefit in the future.

We are about to finish phase two of the project, which has been challenging due to the large distances involved. This is the largest potable water supply system in the Municipality of Wiwilí, Nueva Segovia, Nicaragua.

**Funding**

- BORDA de Nicaragua: U$ 153,000
- Community: U$ 40,129
- APLV Francia: U$ 27,500
- APLV USA: U$ 20,047

**80**

Household connections

**300**

Beneficiaries

**U$ 240,676**

TOTAL BUDGET

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**Potable Water Supply in 3 rural communities and Improved Sanitation in 1 school, in the Municipality of Wiwilí, Nueva Segovia, Nicaragua.**
Drinking water and sanitation project completed
This project was completed with funding from French sources as well as the community. The Umbla Bijawe community had been planning this project since 2017, but it was not until this year that we managed to obtain the funds.

One of the most interesting elements of this community is the high level of participation and motivation of its inhabitants.

21 Household connections
96 Beneficiaries
17 Latrines
U$ 64,162 TOTAL BUDGET

Funding
APLV Francia U$ 55,588
Community U$ 8,574
In all our projects, we try to include drinking water and sanitation components at the same time. However, in this project we were not able to raise sufficient funds for both and we decided to prioritize the water component last year.

This year we were able to join forces with our local partner Vision Munidal to raise the money needed to meet the needs of 80 families who had no latrines or latrines in poor condition.

This project is interesting because the community itself is collecting local materials to build the double pit latrines, which have a useful life of 20 years.

80
Latrines

U$ 58,590
BUDGET

Funding

World Vision Nicaragua
U$ 30,000

APLV USA
U$ 20,781

Community
U$ 7,809
New project design
This is a project that aims to support and empower community leaders and members of the board of directors of the Drinking Water and Sanitation Committees (CAPS) by providing the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of their systems. Members of the CAPS are elected to be in charge of the administration, operation and maintenance of the system, however many of these members lack the knowledge and technical skills to perform their functions, which puts the sustainability of their projects at risk.

This project will ensure:

1. Evaluate knowledge and technical capabilities of the CAPS.
2. Create a specialized theoretical-practical training plan for each CAPS.
3. Create a non-monetary incentive plan to encourage long-term involvement in CAPS.
4. Promote actions that increase resilience and adaptation to climate change.
5. Promote CAPS financial sustainability plans.
DRINKING WATER
TECHNICAL SCHOOL (ETAP)
We provide technical training through our **Drinking Water Technical School (ETAP)**, which offers a two-and-a-half-year technical career, recognized by INATEC, and aimed at young high school graduates from rural areas. Students graduate with a degree in **Technical Specialist in Design and Management of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Systems**.

This unique school was created in 1996 by APLV to strengthen the water and sanitation sector, building capacity in rural areas by training young hydraulic technicians capable of designing and implementing water and sanitation projects.
After a challenging recruitment process, we were able to recruit *7 young people from rural communities* to start our 8th Generation.

Previously we offered an intermediate technician career and this year we were approved and authorized as a *specialist technician*.

Another achievement is that this year we have been considered for inclusion in the *National Capacity Building Plan for the WASH sector in Nicaragua*. 
Institutional Strengthening
Pennywise is an organization that has supported us with contributions over many years for the construction of drinking water projects and for our institutional strengthening.

This year we received a grant in the amount of $10,000 to strengthen the following areas of our organization:

**Accounting system**

For several years we had the need to migrate to a more user-friendly accounting system that would easily adapt to the requirements of regulatory bodies.

In addition, this accounting system is necessary to have better budgetary control and accountability to our donors.

**Strategic Plan**

APLVN ratifies its gratitude to Pennywise for accompanying us in this ministry of service to the communities of our country.

The support to these organizational processes is a key contribution to the institutional life of APLVN, especially in the current circumstances where in addition to transparency, efficiency is required in order to comply with legal obligations to the state and with the demands of our donors and authorities.
Preparation of financial reports in a simpler way and adapted to the requirements of the regulators.

Automated budget control by projects and donors.

A more modern system that allows for an up-to-date summary control of APLV’s financial status.
At this meeting, the community representatives evaluated APLVN’s performance and what aspects they would like us to continue doing or include in the projects.

In these two meetings we developed a process of evaluation of previous plans, preparation of a matrix of strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and threats.
Achievements
The longest aerial pipeline crossing in APLVN’s history was built, with a length of **230 meters across the Rio Coco**.

**The El Caracol Project** is the largest potable water supply system in the Municipality of San Sebastián de Yalí, with 232 household connections built.

The drinking water supply project in **3 rural communities** and improved **sanitation in 1 school** is the largest drinking water supply system in the Municipality of Wiwilí, Nueva Segovia.

Previously we offered the degree of **medium technician** in design and management of water supply and rural sanitation systems. This year we were approved to grant the more advanced **specialist technician degree**.
We continue to be a member of the RASNIC Executive Committee, where we play an important role in decision making and have the opportunity to interact with key players in the WASH sector.

We are members of COMISASH, where we have the opportunity to share experiences and join efforts with government entities working in the WASH sector.

GWP is a space where we share with civil society and public sector organizations to promote Integrated Water Resources Management.

We continue to work with other networks:

- Members of the Executive Committee
- Members of Coalición Latinoamericana de Saneamiento y Agua Rural (COLSAR),
- Members of the environmental and economic commissions
March: In collaboration with Water for People, World Vision and a group of volunteers, we conducted a Municipal Monitoring in Yalí, to know the state of the water, sanitation and hygiene sector.

April: With Borda de Nicaragua we visited rural communities to conduct pre-feasibility studies in 2 communities of Wiwili Jinotega and 2 communities of Wiwili Nueva Segovia.

July: We were core team members for the WASHBAT - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Bottleneck Analysis Tool workshop, which was held in Bilwi, Nicaragua.

Our organization has attended several other events, meetings and webinars organized by our networks and partners.

We remain committed to continue collaborating in networks and to make a greater impact on issues related to the water, sanitation and hygiene sector.
We actively participated in the planning of the VII National Forum and Fair of Potable Water and Integral Sanitation, NicaraguaSAN.

We were members of the organizing committee and led the communication and logistics commission. In addition, Wilbert Ríos was the master of ceremony of the event and Mr. Gerardo Gutiérrez participated in a panel of experts.

Students from the technical school were able to attend and together with their director, Francisco Romero, they had a stand where they shared information about APLVN, ETAP and the SASNic social enterprise initiative.
November: 2022 evaluation and 2023 planning session

November: Visit of members of the Nicaraguan Executive Committee and Board of Directors to the Rio Blanco Technical Office, ETAP and Umbla Bijawe Project.
Message of thanks from the executive director

As this year 2022 comes to an end, there is nothing more gratifying than remembering the smiles on the faces of the people of the communities when, for the first time, they received clean water in their homes.

For that joy, on behalf of APLVN we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the people and organizations that have allowed us to move forward with our purpose of bringing water, sanitation and hygiene to the rural communities of our country.

We know that we are in a difficult global context, which challenges us to do our best every day and to be creative in order to multiply the (increasingly limited) resources we receive.
We thank the communities and their leaders who, working together with our team, have made this work possible.

Thanks to the various agencies and other partners whose financial and material contributions have made it possible for thousands of people to enjoy safe water in their homes today.

Thanks to the APLV family in the USA, France and Nicaragua who, with their financial and technical support and their frequent advice, help us to be better every day, allowing us to overcome many difficulties and achieve with complete satisfaction the goals we have set for this year.

Thank you very much and happy new year 2023!
Our partners and donors

Special thanks to local governments and government institutions with which we have collaborated this year.
HOW CAN WE SUPPORT OUR WORK?

Contact us to learn about the different ways to support us:

- Make a donation
- Technical Support
- Volunteering
- Connections and contacts
- Help us spread the message
Contact

E-mail
aplv-nicaragua@aplv.org

Telephone
(+505) 2250-1570

Website
www.aguaparalavida.org