

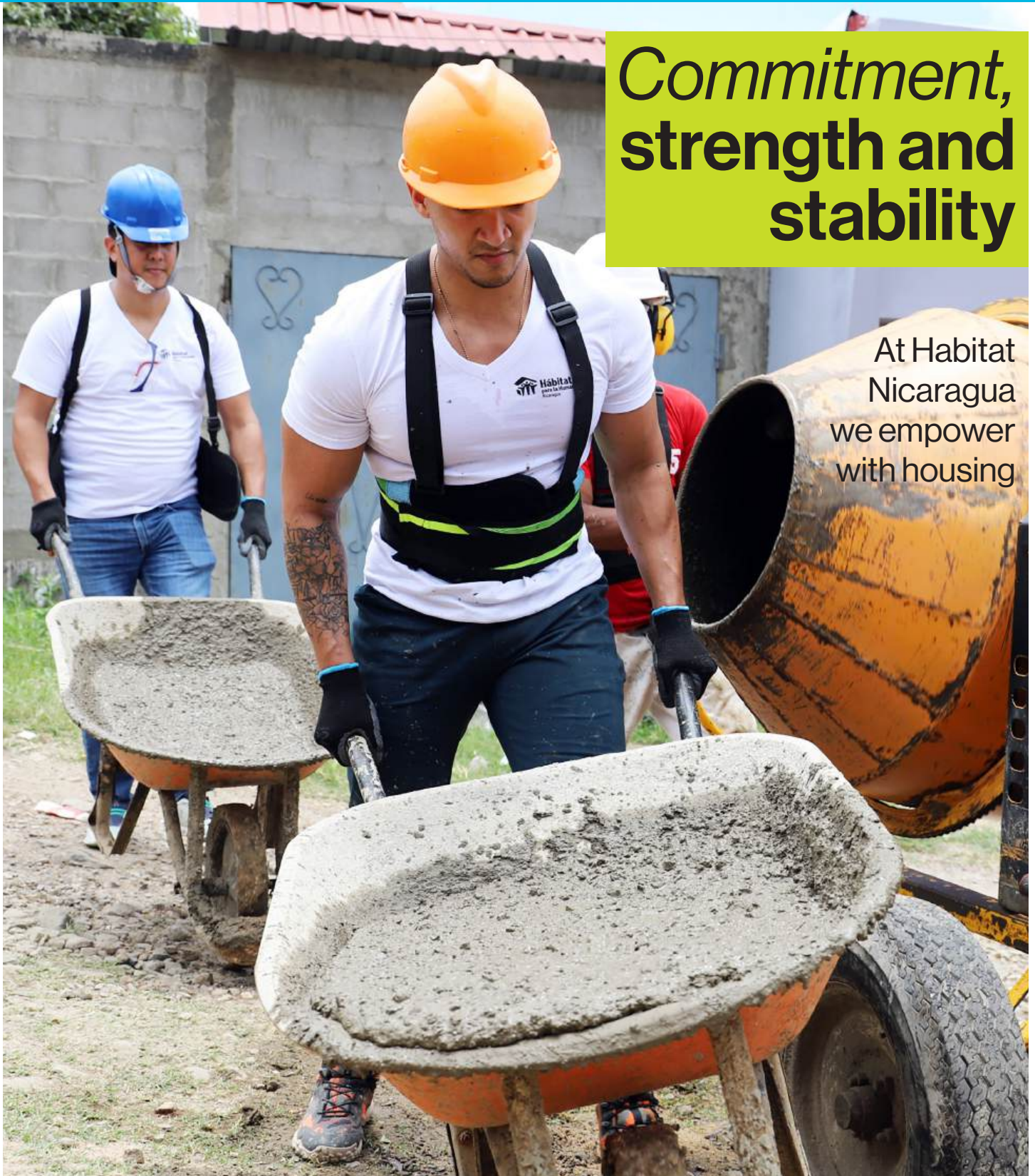


Habitat
for Humanity®
Nicaragua

newsletter
october-december 2024

*Commitment,
strength and
stability*

At Habitat
Nicaragua
we empower
with housing



Message from the Country Director

The last quarter of 2024 was full of work and many emotions for Habitat Nicaragua. After a long break, we resumed volunteering with our allies and friends. Companies like Holcim Nicaragua and colleagues from friendly organizations like Food for the Hungry, the Institute for Human Promotion (Inprhu Estelí), Cooperativa Salud Para Todos and FECODESA - from the National Risk Management Board, working shoulder to shoulder. We were 34 volunteers building concrete floors in the Betania and Óscar Gámez #2 neighborhoods in the city of Estelí. Volunteers know that the work is hard, but rewarding.

We did the central activity of our 40th anniversary in October, surrounded by friends, laughter and great satisfaction. We managed to bring together former and current employees, municipal authorities, colleagues from other organizations, companies and friends who over the years have demonstrated their commitment and support to the cause of decent housing. Honor to whom honor is due, we managed to give a simple recognition to those who worked for more than 10 years leaving a part of their lives and of course their mark on the organization.

As country director and a Habitat Nicaragua collaborator for more than 15 years, I have to say that I am very proud of all the work done, and excited about what remains to be done. I thank God and all our members and donors, who allow us to continue working for decent housing, we continue to make the dreams of hundreds of families in Nicaragua come true, improving their housing conditions, their business areas, transforming their lives and those of their children.

Of course there are challenges at each stage: from designing the project, managing funds and alliances, to guaranteeing the logistics of construction. But, everything is worth it when we see the smiles of the families, when we hear the stories of overcoming, the words of joy and when we feel their pride for their most beautiful houses, that nourishes our souls and drives us every day.

That, ladies and gentlemen, is the best thing that happens to those of us who belong to the Habitat family. Today I would like to humbly thank those who make it possible for us to continue drawing smiles, and invite you to continue standing with us shoulder to shoulder, brick by brick. You know us and you know that Nicaraguans, in addition to being cheerful and witty, are hard-working people. With your support, we can make a better world, a world where everyone has a decent home to live in.

Nancy Aróstegui,
Country Director
Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua

Results for the quarter

41 Construction Services



21
new homes

20
improvements

Representing **28%** of the annual goal.

691 Non-construction Services



390
non-food items



301
training sessions

Representing **97%** of the annual goal.



Lisbeth's family was selected because her youngest son, Milán, was born with a kidney problem and was exposed to diseases transmitted by dirt floors.

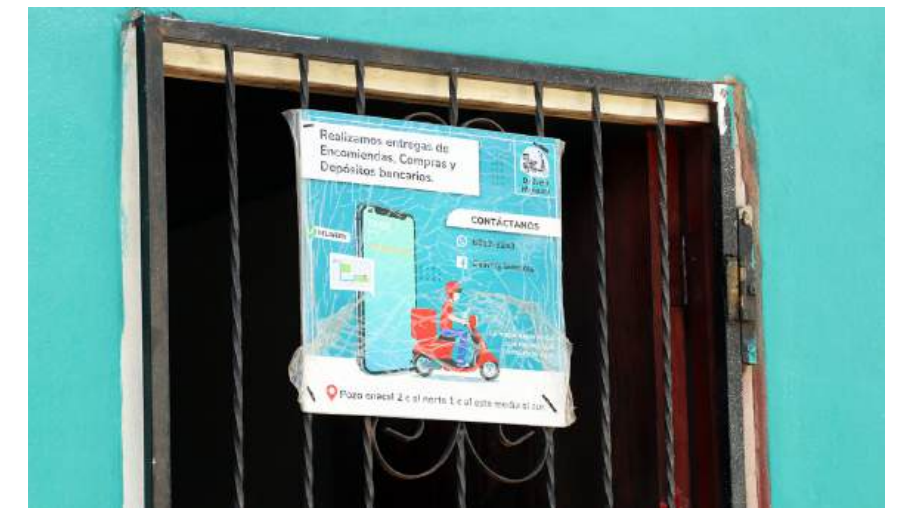


Lisbeth works from Monday to Saturday from 9am to 9pm, and uses social media to attract her clientele.

"Since I have a motorcycle, I started offering services, so I work for individuals, but also for other businesses or companies," she explains.

By having a concrete floor, Lisbeth uses the money generated by her business to guarantee the education, health and food of her two children. Her plans include investing part of her savings in further improving her home.

"Being a beneficiary is a blessing, especially when you don't have a fixed salary. I learned a lot in the workshops, especially how to manage money, they gave us a nice talk about how to write down what you need so as not to misinvest. I am very grateful for what they do, may God bless them," she concludes.



"Coming out on top is a blessing, especially when you don't have a fixed salary. I learned a lot in the workshops, especially how to manage money. They gave us a nice talk about how to write down what you need so you don't invest badly. I am very grateful for what you do, may God bless you".

A concrete floor is also synonymous with better economy

It has been proven that a concrete floor reduces diseases such as parasitic infections, diarrhea and anemia. After two years of implementing the regional initiative 100 thousand floors to play, by Habitat for Humanity, we have identified other benefits for families such as the economic one.

More and more families confirm that, after partnering with Habitat and having their floor, they decided to invest in their small

business or start one at home, other families were encouraged to make other improvements to their home. Lisbeth, 29 years old, lives in the Los Ángeles neighborhood of Estelí, is a single mother of two children aged 11 and 5 and two years ago she decided to start a delivery business for parcel delivery. Having a concrete floor allowed her to improve the image of her business and she even invested in painting the house, which has served her for her digital marketing strategy.

Habitat Briefs

A life of giving. Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter first volunteered with Habitat for Humanity in Americus, Georgia, in March 1984.

In 1985, they visited Nicaragua to inaugurate the first homes built with Habitat for Humanity support in the Germán Pomares community of Chinandega. They later joined volunteers on the Lower East Side of New York to renovate an abandoned building. That trip marked Habitat for Humanity's first Carter Project (later renamed the *Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter* Project).

Every year since then and through 2019, they worked with more than 108,000 volunteers in 14 countries to build, renovate or repair 4,447 homes. Former President Carter passed away peacefully on December 29 at his home in Plains, Georgia, USA, surrounded by his family, leaving an indelible mark.



Habitat Nic wins regional photography contest. We are very happy to share with you that Habitat Nicaragua won first place in the photography contest that Habitat for Humanity Latin America and the Caribbean holds annually. In addition, the country office received a special prize for stories. The winning photograph shows Josselyng, a five-year-old girl who lives in Nagarote. She loves math and thanks to the 100,000 floors to play initiative, she can now do her homework on a concrete floor.



Repair kits. Thanks to the generous support of our affiliates, Habitat Nicaragua acquired 180 kits of materials and tools, allowing the population to make minor repairs to their homes when they are affected by floods or tropical storms, and thus begin their post-disaster recovery process. At the end of November, these kits, along with 180 filters and water storage containers, were delivered to the San Rafael del Sur Mayor's Office for distribution to families affected by Storm Sara in that area.

According to SINAPRED data, storm Sara, as it passed through Nicaragua, caused damage in 50 municipalities in the Pacific and central regions of the country, leaving more than 1,800 homes flooded and affecting more than 8,000 people. The families who received the kits in San Rafael del Sur were also trained by Habitat Nicaragua on topics such as the impact of climate change and basic elements for safe construction.



40 years. In a simple and emotional event attended by former collaborators, allies, partners and municipal authorities, Habitat Nicaragua commemorated 40 years of service in the country. During the event, held on October 11, anecdotes, smiles and, of course, figures of the contribution made over the years were shared.

The organization has built and improved more than 20,000 homes, where more than 100,000 people live. In addition, it has supported more than 27 thousand people in post-disaster recovery processes and has trained more than 19 thousand in topics such as safe housing, financial education, healthy housing, climate change and others.



Healthy housing and safe water

Holcim Nicaragua and Habitat join forces to improve hygiene and water use habits of 29 families in Nagarote

Ana Valentina, Virginia and Sara learned that drinking filtered water is synonymous with health for them and their family. How to wash their hands properly, why it is important to separate garbage and recycle, and why cleanliness and order in the home allows us to have a healthier life. These were some of the lessons that these female heads of household took with them

They participated in an educational process carried out with 29 families from the Sonrisa de Dios neighborhood in Nagarote. In a clear example of teamwork, Holcim Nicaragua, NICAPHOTO and Habitat for Humanity joined forces to implement the awareness campaign called: Healthy Housing and Safe Water.

“The objectives of the training were: to raise awareness and promote reflection on the importance of hygiene and the proper use of water for the health of the family; promote hand hygiene for the prevention of diseases and identify what healthy housing is, with emphasis on the management of drinking water, hygiene and basic sanitation,” explains Zulma Espinoza, Coordinator of Housing Solutions at Habitat.

The process began on November 19. First, a diagnostic visit was made to each home to find out the state of hygiene in the home, then training was carried out followed by other home visits to



Courtesy of Holcim Nicaragua

monitor good hygiene practices in the home. According to the data in the final report, families made small but significant changes in their daily routine to improve their health. 93% are using the water filter and have improved their hygiene practices, water use and management.



Committed

“As Holcim, we are committed to working every day to continue building a strong, sustainable country full of opportunities. Having been part of this process and collaborating so that families in Nagarote have healthier housing and consume safe water has left us very satisfied. We thank Habitat Nicaragua and NicaPhoto for having been part of this,” says **Ma Mercedes Gómez**, CSR Specialist at Holcim Nicaragua.

Sanitation for El Robledal and La Montañita



Thanks to the work carried out by the Multifunctional Cooperative Health for All of Estelí, 28 **families** from the El Robledal community and 4 from La Montañita now have adequate sanitary units that will allow them to have a better quality of life and health.

Habitat Nicaragua was in charge of providing technical assistance and ensuring that the sanitary units will be built and functioning properly and efficiently. The families also participated in the Healthy Housing Process and were trained in the use and maintenance of the installed sanitary systems.



NicaraguaSAN reaches its 10th edition

The Nicaraguan Water and Sanitation Network (RASNIC) organized the 10th edition of the NicaraguaSAN forum, this time virtually. Throughout the month of November 2024, member organizations held webinars on: the new rurality in Latin America, climate vulnerability (moderated by Habitat Nicaragua), watershed management, and the circuit Rider model.

In parallel, a course on Operation & Maintenance of wells and pumping equipment was also held. Organizations such as REDAS, ONGAWA, El Porvenir, EOS, and AQUATEC participated in NicaraguaSAN 2024.

PONENCIA:

ENFOQUE DE TRABAJO DE “EL PORVENIR” EN LA GESTIÓN DE CUENCAS DE LOS PROYECTOS DE AGUA Y SANEAMIENTO

JUEVES 21 DE NOVIEMBRE

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

¡CUPOS LIMITADOS!

PRESENTA:

MARIO GARNIER

El Porvenir

Invita: La Red de Agua y Saneamiento de Nicaragua



100,000 Floors to Play

What is it? The 100,000 Floors to Play initiative is being developed by Habitat for Humanity in different countries in Latin America and the Caribbean over a period of 5 years. It consists of replacing dirt floors with concrete in the homes of vulnerable families. It is managed through donations and alliances with private sector actors, government authorities and social organizations that wish to contribute to this important mission.

In Nicaragua, the campaign began in 2023 with the construction of the first 85 floors in Estelí and 90 in Nagarote. This was supported by Holcim Nicaragua and the community management of the Institute for Human Promotion (INPRHU- Estelí) and NICAPHOTO in Nagarote. To date, 475 floors have been built and another 125 are yet to be built.

As we move forward with the construction of the concrete floors, we have confirmed the connection between these and various aspects of the well-being and development of families.



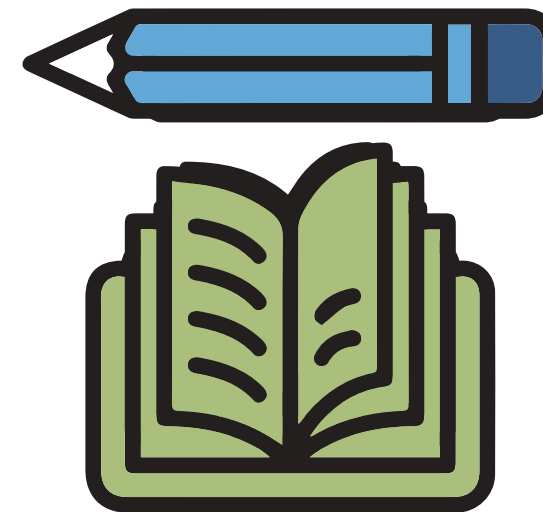
Health. “We spend less on medicines because before everyone was covered in rashes on their skin and in my case my daughter had a very bad dermatitis, which meant constantly buying medicines.”
(Karina, Nagarote)

Economy. “In my case we have had a mill business for more than a year. The part where we had the business was made of dirt, so where people came it was muddy, there was a bad smell, so this project has helped it to be cleaner and more hygienic. So we have been able to meet the goals we had to improve the business.”
(María, Nagarote).



Well-being. “The house changes its atmosphere, it feels more comfortable, more joy, more energy, everything is tidy and when people come they tell me that the house now looks much nicer.”
(Marta, Estelí)

Comfort. “My family is a bit big, before it was a bit more difficult to organize one’s things, but when this project came about we were able to build more walls and separation in the home. This gave them more stability at home and our furniture will last much longer.”
(Carmen, Nagarote)



Education. “Now they are more motivated to do their homework, especially since they can do it on the new floor of the house. Also, one moment they are doing homework, then they are playing and so on, until they finish everything.”
(Blanca, Estelí)



Self-esteem. “In my case, before my children did not like to bring friends to the house because they said they felt ashamed because their houses were very nice and ours were not. Now they bring their friends, play, do school activities and feel different, more motivated and happy.”
(Marta, Estelí).

100 mil pisos para jugar



Parte del Programa: **PISOS³**

We empower with housing

