



Response

Hurricanes Eta - Iota

Newsletter

July- December 2020

Every person needs a roof to protect their dreams



“As a mother, you want your children to be under a shelter, under their own roof. I am very grateful for the help that you brought us today, I hope you can support us with the little house too”

Belkin (30 years old), mother of four children of 14, 8 and 4 years old, and a 10 month old baby. Her house was destroyed after Hurricane Iota. Los Milagros Community, Wiwilí.

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message from the director

Together we will rebuild!

I have read in various places that 2020 was called a master year, and it certainly taught us to value life, family and to be more caring. When hurricanes Eta-Iota reached Nicaragua consecutively, devastating the homes, crops, animals and livelihoods of thousands of families, we knew there was no time to lament, it was time to act.

We immediately set out to analyze the situation, we decided to divide the disaster relief response into three phases, the first to prioritize families having access to safe water through a filter (ceramic filter that eliminates bacteria and turbidity in water is a purifier), and will have supplies to prevent Covid-19. In a second moment take tool kits and some basic materials to rebuild their homes, we are still in this period.

For us as Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua, it has been really encouraging to see first-hand the solidarity of international cooperation donors, companies and individuals who responded to our call and donated, so that through our allies, we could bring a ray of hope to families. We know that there is still a lot of work to be done, there are thousands of houses that need to be built from the ground up and thousands more that need to be repaired.

As of December 23, we had managed to raise funds to support approximately 1,800 families affected by the hurricanes, bringing them backpacks to carry water and filters, hygiene kits and home repair kits.

Our fundraising campaign is still open, and although we know that the global economic crisis has hit and continues to hit, we also know and are proud to say, that the hearts of those who for years have helped Nicaraguan families through Habitat Nicaragua, today they beat louder than ever and have even multiplied.

For all of them, our words of gratitude in 2021. As long as there is faith, love and solidarity, we will continue to build more homes worthy of living. As the name of our campaign says, together we will rebuild! God be with us and with his help, we are going to rise up and rebuild with each family.

Frank Matus - Aguirre
Country Director
Habitat for Humanity
Nicaragua



Three moments of response to the emergency

Between November 3 and 16, the Nicaraguan Caribbean was hit by two hurricanes, Eta-Iota, categories 4 and 5, respectively. According to national records, Iota was the largest hurricane recorded to date in Nicaraguan lands. When we went to the field, the families confirmed it, "we didn't even see this with Mitch," they told us.

At Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua we analyzed the situation, and decided to carry out an emergency response project, which we divided into three phases: 1) First response that consisted of the **delivery of safe water, hygiene and protection kits from Covid-19 and other diseases.** "With the hurricanes, the water sources were contaminated and the water systems collapsed, so we defined that the first thing had to be to carry backpacks, filters so that the families did not lack the vital liquid and the supplies for personal hygiene. household such as soap, chlorine, detergent, among others, in addition to masks because Covid-19 does not stop with the disaster," explained Liza Rivera, Resource Development Manager at Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua.

The second phase, 2) Immediate recovery phase, which takes place in the three months after

the disaster, consists of bringing **home repair kits that include zinc, plastic and tools necessary to carry out repairs in homes that have been partially damaged or to start a small and new temporary structure,** "in the Caribbean for example, we know that many constructions are with wood and these kits are of great support for this type of construction," said Rivera.

Finally, the third phase of reconstruction, the goal is to provide 90 families with **basic modules that can be progressively expanded, 100% financed by Habitat** or support for the construction of 450 new homes, supporting public investment through projects with the municipalities. "This stage may take place in about six months after the emergency, because it is when there are already conditions to assess the needs and see what measures the public sector takes to avoid building in risk areas and identify in which communities the projects will be carried out", Rivera finished.

Until December, Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua had managed to bring support to 500 families that were affected by

the hurricanes, the delivery was made through partner organizations such as WaterAid, Fabretto Foundation, Food for the Hungry Nicaragua and the Morava Church, which have projects in the zones.

We work with allies

When the rains after the hurricanes still raged in some departments of the Nicaraguan Pacific, the Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua team was already in a collection campaign and in coordination meetings with partner organizations to get the aid to the affected families.

WaterAid, an allied organization that executes water and sanitation projects in the Caribbean, was the first to open its doors to us, then the Morava Church and Food for the Hungry Nicaragua; We continue in conversations with other friendly NGOs because we are certain that joining forces is much more effective in reaching more families. Until the end of December, we had managed to reach: Tuara, Wawa Bar and Wiwilí communities, in this last place we met families who, in addition to losing their homes, had water problems and serious losses of their crops, such as Iriene and Maribel.

Hurricane Iota left San José de Wiwilí, without food or water



The night that Hurricane Iota arrived, all the families living in the San José de Wiwilí community had evacuated their homes, in the village that is located on the slopes of the Kilambé hill, only 5 men remained with the mission of protecting belongings and grain. After several hours of rain and wind, they heard the roar that came from the hill and immediately sought refuge above the trees.

From there they saw misfortune happen, with astonished eyes they watched as the mud washed away houses, crops and the grain that would feed their families in the coming months. They thanked God, they were all alive. One of those men was Irineo, 41, who makes his living as a farmer.

"That was not water, it was sticks (trees) and mud, the truth is that I do not know how God saved this house because the ones over there, nothing remained. Here I scrubbed that piece of board that was where my mother lived", tells us Irineo, who at the end of December was still trying to dry and recover his family's belongings to reestablish himself.

"I had 7000 m² planted with beans, but all that is now under the mud, we lost everything. Now I have sown again but we will see that harvest until March", Irineo continues telling us.



Tubing was buried

He, his wife Maribel and their two girls Anayansi (9 years old) and Daya (18 months old) live in Irineo's house. Until the end of December, they were the first family to venture back but were faced with a problem even more meaningful than the loss of their crops: lack of water.

"The whole pipeline was taken away by the water stream, God knows when they will put it back. I have at least two months of not drinking water, because the water that runs down is dirty and the water in the springs, and the wells stink. It disgusts me, the girls and I only drink it in coffee because it is already boiled," Maribel tells us as she shows us the jet that falls from an improvised pipe that allows her to wash the dishes.

Maribel and Irineo's home were one of the 60 families that received two boxes of purified water, thanks to the kind donation that Sistema Coca-Cola Nicaragua made to Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua, so that they could be distributed among the people affected by the Eta-Iota hurricanes.



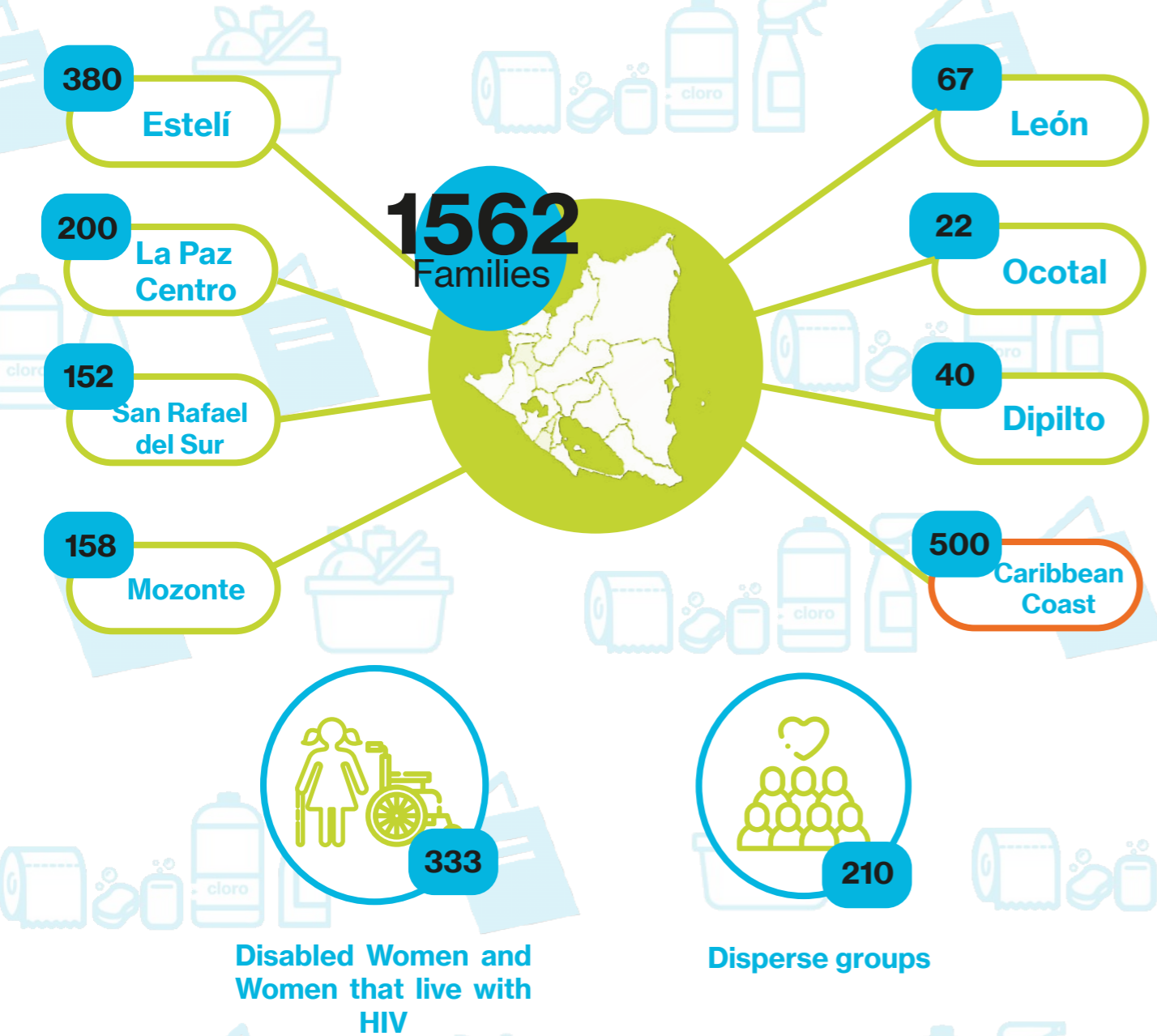
In alliance with the Food for the Hungry Nicaragua organization, the families also received a package with basic food and basic necessities to prevent Covid-19.



Jinotega,
Nicaragua

Support a family in times of COVID-19, we reached our goal

We thank each of the people, companies and embassies that responded to the Support a family #SomosComunidad campaign. Thanks to you, we surpassed the goal of 1,500 families, we were able to bring essential kits, a hygiene kit and a safe water kit to prevent Covid-19.



New ways of volunteering

In October 2020 Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua launched the "Digital Volunteering" campaign to recruit people interested in contributing to the cause of decent housing with their time and knowledge from home. One of them was 23-year-old Norman Lacayo, who assured that in the context of the Covid he felt some frustration at not being able to join a cause, so the Habitat call allowed him to feel that he was helping.

The strategy is to recruit people to promote our digital campaigns so that the message sensitizes more people, and allows us to touch the hearts of more donors. "I dare to say that Habitat Nicaragua was one of the first places that launched a volunteer service for the people like me that we were in our homes, I saw it as an opportunity to invest my time and gain experience," says Elia Picado, a young university student from Managua.

"This volunteer strategy was studied in various areas, because we were looking for the best way to recruit young people who could do something different and that would not seem boring," says Liza Rivera, Resource Development Manager at Habitat Nicaragua.



Thank you Ajúa for your support



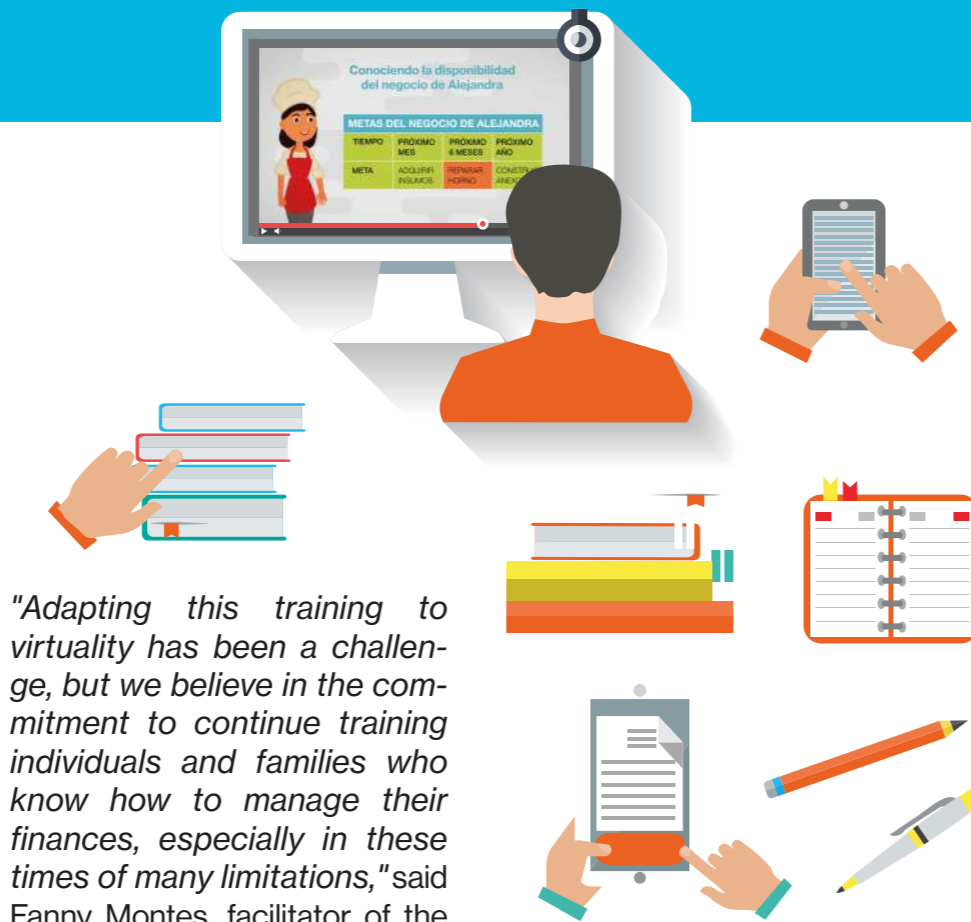
To be part of the Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua volunteering, people only have to visit our social networks or write to: mercadeodrrr@habitatnicaragua.org and we will get in touch.



Online Financial Education

The arrival of the Covid pushed us to change many things, including the way we study, that is why at Habitat for Humanity we renewed the way we teach the Financial Education workshops, the classes were moved to virtuality.

The workshops began in October 2020 with poor women, heads of families and owners of small businesses that are part of the Federation of Women with Disabilities (Femucadi). The participants were from the departments of Managua and Chinandega.



"Adapting this training to virtuality has been a challenge, but we believe in the commitment to continue training individuals and families who know how to manage their finances, especially in these times of many limitations," said Fanny Montes, facilitator of the workshop on Financial Education in Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua.

The online session has spaces for collective reflection, and individual evaluation dynamics, it also has stories and cases of families grounded in the realities of the majority of Nicaraguans.

"At Femucadi we are always interested in being in constant training for our women, many of them manage the economy at home and others have their own businesses," shared Sandra Darce, president of the organization.

Contact Us

The beginning of the Online Financial Education workshops will allow many people to be trained in comprehensive spaces that contribute to their knowledge and the management of their personal and family finances. Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua has been providing Financial Education for more than 10 years, training more than 6,500 people throughout the country. If you want to be part of the following courses, you can find out more through our website habitatnicaragua.org or write to fmontes@habitatnicaragua.org

The work of Habitat Nicaragua in brief



Present at the COAN

The Nicaraguan College of Architects (COAN) held the Virtual Architecture Forum, where the architect Zulma Espinoza, coordinator of Habitat Solutions for Humanity Nicaragua, participated with a presentation on "Pathways to permanence. A strategy for post-disaster reconstruction", where she explained the importance of the transition approach, so that families can move from an improvised home to a desired one that meets the necessary quality standards.



Active in the MNGR

The National Table for Risk Management (MNGR), a national platform that works for the coordination, analysis, formulation of proposals and development of actions in matters of disaster risk management and humanitarian action, has remained active during the Covid emergency -19 and then with the arrival of the hurricanes, monitoring the situation and coordinating support actions among member organizations. Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua, an active member of the MNGR, was at all key moments sharing information on the situation and contributing to support the affected families with useful information and material aid.



Safe construction guide

Every family needs help to rebuild after a disaster, which is why Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua updated the **Technical Assistance Guide for the self-construction of wooden houses in the Caribbean**. With the passage of Hurricane Eta and the difficult situation that hundreds of families are going through on the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast, the guide allows to rebuild safer homes, using local materials. The document includes basic construction guidelines that help community residents and qualified construction workers to strengthen their knowledge and build houses that are resistant to natural forces of destructive capacity, especially hurricanes. To download it for free in Spanish and Miskito you must enter habitatnicaragua.org



Sesanic present during the emergency

Sanitation Services of Nicaragua (Sesanic for its acronym in Spanish), a company that was born with the support of Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua to provide cleaning and maintenance to Ecobaths, showed its solidarity during the floods caused by Hurricane Eta in San Rafael del Sur. The young women from Sesanic extracted the sludge from the septic tank of the sanitary battery in the Masachapa school, which was being used as a shelter for some 300 people from the rural communities of Chorotega, El Bongo and Masachapa neighborhoods, who had been affected by the flooding of rivers with hurricane ETA. The cleaning was carried out after the call for support made by the Municipal Committee for the Prevention, Mitigation and Attention to Disasters (COMUPRED) of the area.



Semilla Housing in Estelí

We selected the families that will have a house with the Semilla Housing project in Estelí. The 20 families that in the coming months will have their new homes in Estelí have already been selected, through the Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua project, with the support of our donor Matt Curtis and in coordination with our local ally INPRHU Estelí.

United for the same cause

Our deep gratitude to each one of the people, individual donors, who through our website or bank transfers contributed so that the aid reached the affected families. God bless you always.

Canada supporting families affected by hurricanes

Actividad realizada con el apoyo del Fondo Canadiense para Iniciativas Locales



The Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (FCIL) responded to Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua's call to bring humanitarian aid to more than 700 families who were affected by the Eta-lota hurricanes. The response consisted in the delivery of hygiene kits for hygiene and protection against Covid-19, a safe water kit (filters) and home repair kits, which were delivered through WaterAid and the Moravian Church. The delivery took place at the end of December in the communities of Bilwi, Wawa Bar, Bonanza and others.

After the passage and devastation of hurricanes Eta and Iota in Nicaragua, we witnessed the agile response of Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua to expand the project and include a humanitarian aid component for 765 indigenous families - more than 4,200 people - in Waba Bar and Karatá. Canada is proud to have joined forces with Habitat to provide hygiene and protection kits, clean water and simple home repair kits, as well as educational materials on proper hygiene and safe reconstruction of simple homes. These items were delivered just one month after the hurricanes and we hope they have helped these families meet some of their basic and immediate needs, said James K. Hill, Canadian Ambassador to Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Honduras.

Coca-Cola Nicaragua System delivers 48,000 units of water



The families that were affected by the Eta-lota hurricanes continue to need support, not only with food, but also with water, aware of this need and as part of its sustainability programs, the Coca-Cola Nicaragua System delivered 48,000 units of Alpine water from 600ml, to Habitat Nicaragua, to be taken and distributed among families affected by the hurricanes. "For us it is very important to provide this valuable resource to families affected by the recent natural disasters in Nicaragua, so our response is immediate to this need," Maricel Álvarez Chavarría said, representative of the Coca-Cola Nicaragua System.

Cargill always present



The Cargill company made a generous donation so that Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua could buy water filters and hygiene kits, which will allow families affected by the Eta-lota hurricanes to meet some basic needs. The delivery of the check was made in coordination with Glasswing International. "We are super happy and grateful for this alliance between Cargill and Glasswing, because it strengthens our support networks and above all allows us to bring help to those who need it most," said Frank Matus-Aguirre, Country Director of Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua.

Campaign with El Halcón



Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua and El Halcón warehouses, carried out a collection campaign to bring reconstruction kits to families affected by the hurricanes. For six weeks, the 7 branches of El Halcón nationwide found a Habitat space with a list of materials and reconstruction tools that people could buy. "For us it is an honor to join Habitat, we know the work they do and, in these times, where the country has suffered a lot of damage, from our social responsibility we have decided not only to provide a contribution but to make our branches available as a collection center to receive materials", commented José Alberto Cajina, Manager of Almacenes El Halcón.

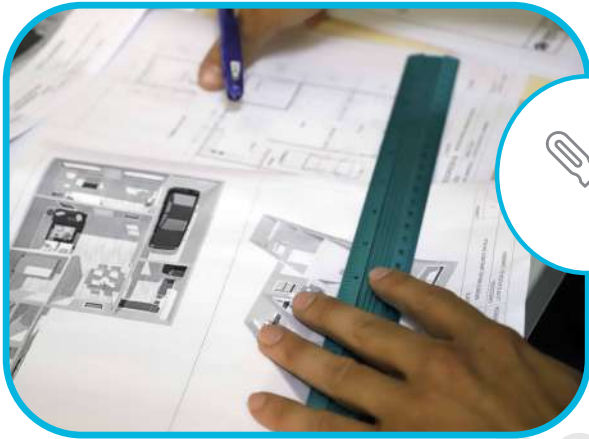
CEMEX extends its helping hand



100 families affected by the Eta-lota hurricanes, will receive water filters, a hygiene kit that includes soaps, alcohol and reusable masks to prevent Covid-19, and a housing reconstruction kit (with 14 items-tools and materials), thanks to the support of Cemex. "In these difficult times for many Nicaraguan families, it is necessary that we all contribute in some measure. That is why CEMEX is collaborating with kits so that affected families prioritize health care and rebuild their homes," said Christtina Solano, Manager of Communications and Corporate Relations of CEMEX Nicaragua.

Our Habitat Affiliate Partners

Our unconditional partners, our Habitat Affiliates are always by our side, especially during these critical moments, through a grant from the Disaster Response Tithing Fund. They support emergency response and early recovery activities impacting 447 families, contributing to a global result of 1,800 families impacted in our emergency response. We also have received additional commitments to support our disaster response from our affiliate partners Habitat for Humanity of McLean County and Habitat for Humanity New Castle County. We appreciate these generous contributions and at the same time, we are grateful to all our current affiliate partners that have been supporting our program during all these years.



Construction Services

174 housing solutions
53% with credits
21% projects with municipalities
26% projects with allies

Non-Constructive Services



404 Trainings
46% annual goal
44 ATF professional services
37% annual goal



COVID 19 Prevention (Water, hygiene and protection kits)

1,551 hygiene and COVID protection kits
7,682 benefited people

Hurricane disaster response



440 hygiene and COVID protection kits
60 home repair kits

