



Women entrepreneurs
improve their businesses

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RASNIC gives
recognition to Habitat

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Through shelter, we empower



Economic recovery: vulnerable groups

- Can someone tell me what the houses of the three little pigs were made of? - asked an architect from Habitat. "I can"-said 5-year-old Briston, as he hurriedly raised his hand and began to talk: the first one was made of straw, the second one of wood, and the third one of bricks.

Little Briston was with his grandmother, Reina, at the Climate Change and Safe Housing workshop that Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua offered to women members of the Federation of Women with Disabilities (FEMUCADI), in Juigalpa-Chontales.

This workshop was part of the project titled: "Economic recovery from Home during COVID 19" which is implemented with OVG funds from Habitat International.

During the workshop, the participants learned tips on how to reduce the carbon footprint, how and how often to maintain homes; as well as the importance of using quality materials to avoid disasters at the time of an event.

"Once again we partnered with FEMUCADI to support people with disabilities, to cope with the crisis caused by Covid-19. A total of 60

people received a kit with basic necessities, hygiene and protection against COVID 19, another 40 received safe water filters and another 40 received containers to store water since they do not have access to water 24 hours a day. Access to safe water is vital for disease prevention", explained Nancy Arostegui, Program Manager of Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua

Additionally, the work areas of 30 homes where women who have small businesses are improved to contribute to their working conditions and economic recovery.



Financial Education

The project also included a Financial Education training where people learned basic concepts such as income, expenses and availability; They also reflected through exercises on simple ways to reduce expenses, increase the amount of savings, and thus meet their financial goals.

"Sometimes you don't realize what you're spending, and you're looking for the money you've already used. With these exercises and dynamics, you can better see where you are wasting your money. I hope it will help us all to start our businesses and take care of our finances at home," Sobeyda, a chronic patient and member of FEMUCADI, told us.

HIV-positive women also received support



Another vulnerable group, women living with HIV who are part of the ICW Latin American Network, was part of the project. "The fact that Habitat has continued to support us is important to us and demonstrates the organization's humane approach towards HIV-positive women. Many of us are unemployed and live in areas where access to water is scarce.

The containers and the safe water filters came to ease the life of each beneficiary because we can store safe drinking water and protect ourselves from diseases", said Maria Teresa Martinez, ICW National Coordinator.



40 women received kits of basic necessities, hygiene and protection against COVID-19, safe water filters and containers for water storage. 30 of them participated in financial education and safe housing training, and 10 will benefit from improvements in the work areas of their homes where their small businesses operate.

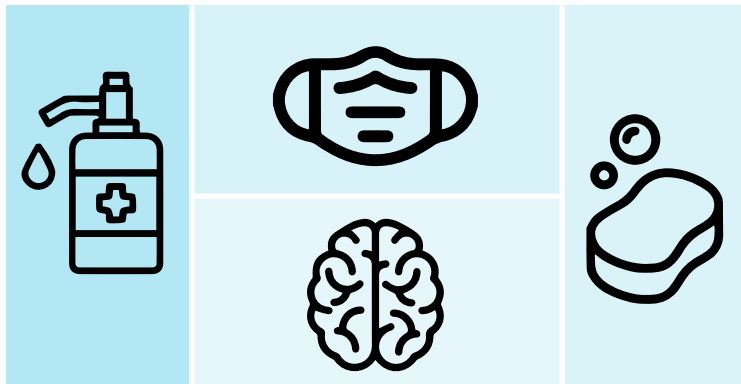
HR semester efforts

Habitat Nicaragua taking care of the physical and mental health of its collaborators

How do I know if I am suffering from anxiety attacks, stress or even some level of depression? Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua's HR department organized a series of workshops that allowed its collaborators to identify whether they were experiencing heightened levels of stress or depression, as a result of the crisis generated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a joint effort, the National Office (NO) and the Area Office (AO) worked together to develop a strategy that would allow staff to be more physically and psychologically protected during the pandemic. "In total, we did 8 workshops, all in virtual mode, focused on emotional health, but also on strengthening the team's capacities because in this crisis we have had to learn to work from home.

This is why we also held a workshop on remote team management, which taught us how to communicate better while working from home", says Claudia Tellería, Human Resources Manager at Habitat Nicaragua.



One of the successes during this process was providing the team with access to one-on-one psychological support. Claudia affirms that those who attended these consultations not only identified the problem they were having, but also developed a plan to solve it. "Overall, the team's response was very positive, and those who went to the psychologist realized that as a result of the crisis and stress, they were turning to unhealthy habits, even suffering certain levels of depression, and those are the issues we don't see in the day to day", says Claudia.

Health questions

After living with Covid-19 for a year and a half, along with an information overload on social media, having up-to-date information and a medical specialist who answered the team's questions was invaluable to the Habitat Nicaragua team.



The collaborators participated in two workshops where they learned theoretical and practical matters to mitigate the spread of Covid-19.

"It was very interesting and educational, sharing doubts and fears about topics such as vaccines, boosters, side effects, all things that were not even thought of a year ago. Having a specialist who would respond to us and in some way give us peace of mind was a very wise decision that HR made", says Jessly Obando, Communications Officer.

Habitat Nicaragua has also provided the team with supplies to continue preventing the spread of Covid-19 and efforts will be continued in the coming months. "We cannot let our guard down and we will keep working in various ways to support all staff to be protected during the pandemic. We will also start working on another issue of interest for us: safeguarding," concludes Claudia Tellería.

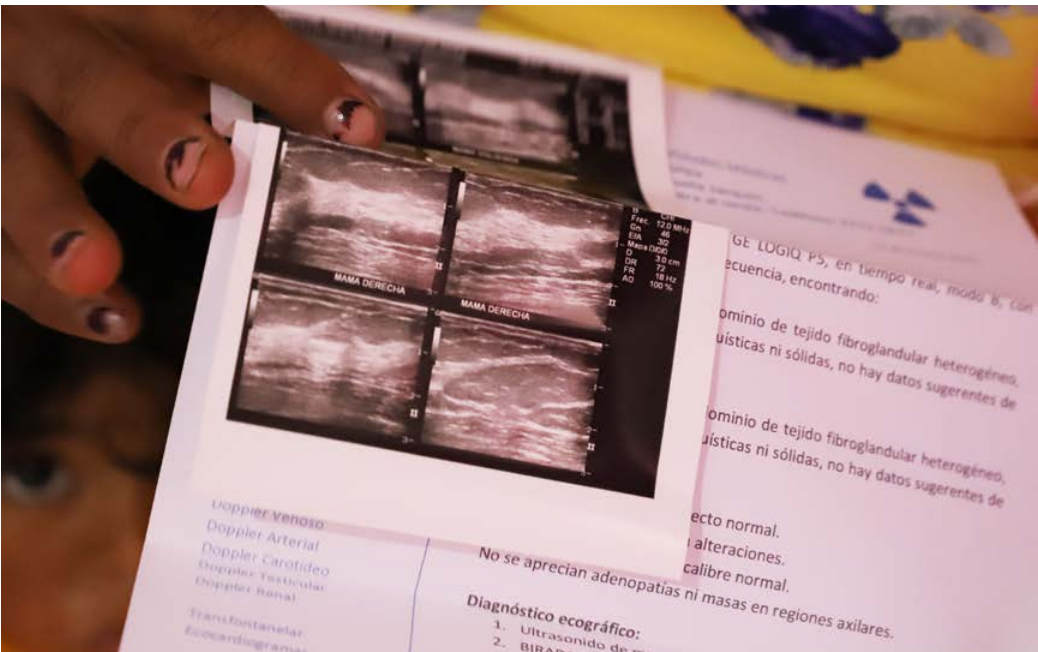


Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable loan

Through shelter, we empower

Entrepreneurs from Matagalpa

with a comprehensive project thanks to the alliance between Habitat and Fumdec



A trace of nail polish can be seen in María Félix's hands, while she shyly shows us the results of her first mammogram: negative. She tells us that, thanks to God, everything went well for her, the same with the ultrasound and other medical exams.

At 44, María Félix had never had a complete gynecological check-up before. Her life, efforts and energy revolve around her role as a mother and a saleswoman. According to her, she has been selling food items in rural areas of her native Matagalpa (north of Nicaragua) for 12 years . "I started selling a bag of candies and cookies, then I bought chocolates and now, I carry everything from cell phones to rice. Whatever people order from me, I buy it, I go by bus and take it to them," she asserts.



María Félix is one of the 50 women who were selected by the Women and Economic Development Foundation (FUMDEC), to receive health benefits (a free medical check-up and exams), 30 more improved the infrastructure of their small businesses and 50 more received biosafety kits (aprons, hats, alcohol and masks), in addition to trainings on various topics.

"Working hand in hand with FUMDEC, we were able to implement this Entrepreneurial Woman, Economic Recovery and Wellbeing project, which has a series of components, including self-esteem workshops, a gynecological health bonus, training in financial education, safe housing, and business management" told us Nancy Arostegui, Program Manager for Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua.

One of those women was María Félix, who despite not knowing how to read or write, has been working with FUMDEC for many years, accessing small loans to grow her small business. Nowadays, she is one of the best clients.

■ Home improvements, a blessing

All training workshops were well received by women, who recognize the importance of knowledge to improve their economic conditions and grow. However, the other component that brought more smiles to her face was business improvement. Marlin (34), who resides in a neighborhood of Matagalpa and sells used clothing and steel jewelry, told us about the change she saw in her small venture.



"Here, they fixed the facade and the sidewalk of the house, and honestly I would not have been able to do all this on my own. See how beautiful my business turned out, now clients come and tell me how beautiful my house is. I am very grateful to you and to FUMDEC", Marlin told us, who now has a better equipped space to welcome her clients.

"For FUMDEC, the relationship with Habitat means having a strategic partner to empower women, because we are impacting their lives by improving their homes and their business ventures, educating them on early detection of cancer.



Through the loan groups methodology, FUMDEC provides access to microloans and training on business management, gender identity, and violence prevention. Both organizations are committed to women's empowerment, financial inclusion and the recognition of womens' contribution to the economy", said Marlene Rodriguez, Executive Director of FUMDEC.

Virtual conversation on housing and climate action

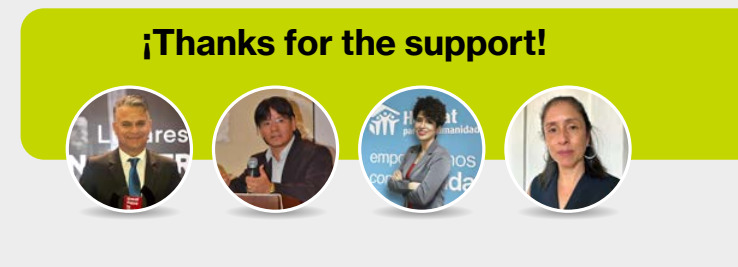


In Observance of the UN's World Habitat Day and Urban October, Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua held a Virtual Conversation on housing and climate action. The event, held via zoom, was moderated by the architect Verónica Mora, a renowned Nicaraguan professor. It featured presentations by Eng. Minor Rodríguez, Director of Gestionando Habitat (Managing Habitat) Costa Rica, Arch. Jorge Maguiña, social housing and risk management specialist in Peru, and Arch. Zulma Espinoza, expert in housing solutions from Habitat Nicaragua.

During this virtual conversation panelists addressed topics related to construction systems, technologies, and materials that contribute to reducing the carbon footprint.

They also discussed the creation of public policies that promote the production and market of sustainable housing, social awareness and the creation of sustainable cities.

"The goal was to generate an intersectoral debate (academia, private sector, and NGOs) to reflect on the progress and challenges faced in Nicaragua and the Latin American region, in terms of social housing and climate change. It is the first time that Habitat Nicaragua hosts such an event. Participation was excellent", said Marcela Pérez, Development and Project Management Officer at Habitat Nicaragua.



RASNIC gives recognition to Habitat

The Water and Sanitation Network (RASNIC) made up of 25 member organizations, including academia, non-governmental organizations (national and international), water and sanitation committees, as well as private companies and state institutions, presented an award to Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua, for their participation in the organization of the NICARAGUASAN Forum that takes place every year. In 2021, the event was held virtually due to the context of the pandemic.

Frank Matus-Aguirre, Habitat Nicaragua's Country Director, who received this recognition, stated that it is an honor to be part of a network that works to bring safe water and sanitation to Nicaraguan families, and Habitat Nicaragua hopes to continue supporting all efforts that contribute to reducing the gap in access to these vital services.

First semester results july-december 2021



Construction Services:
207 housing solutions, 48% of the annual goal.



Non-Constructive Services

- 1,033 that represent 199% of the annual goal.
- 986 were training (332 on post-hurricane safe reconstruction)
- 42 were CTAs (constructive technical assistance services).

Emergency response



• 341 kits for the repair of homes affected by the hurricanes



• 180 kits of basic necessities, hygiene, safety and water to face covid-19



• More than 2,300 people benefited with non-food items

Through shelter, we empower

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