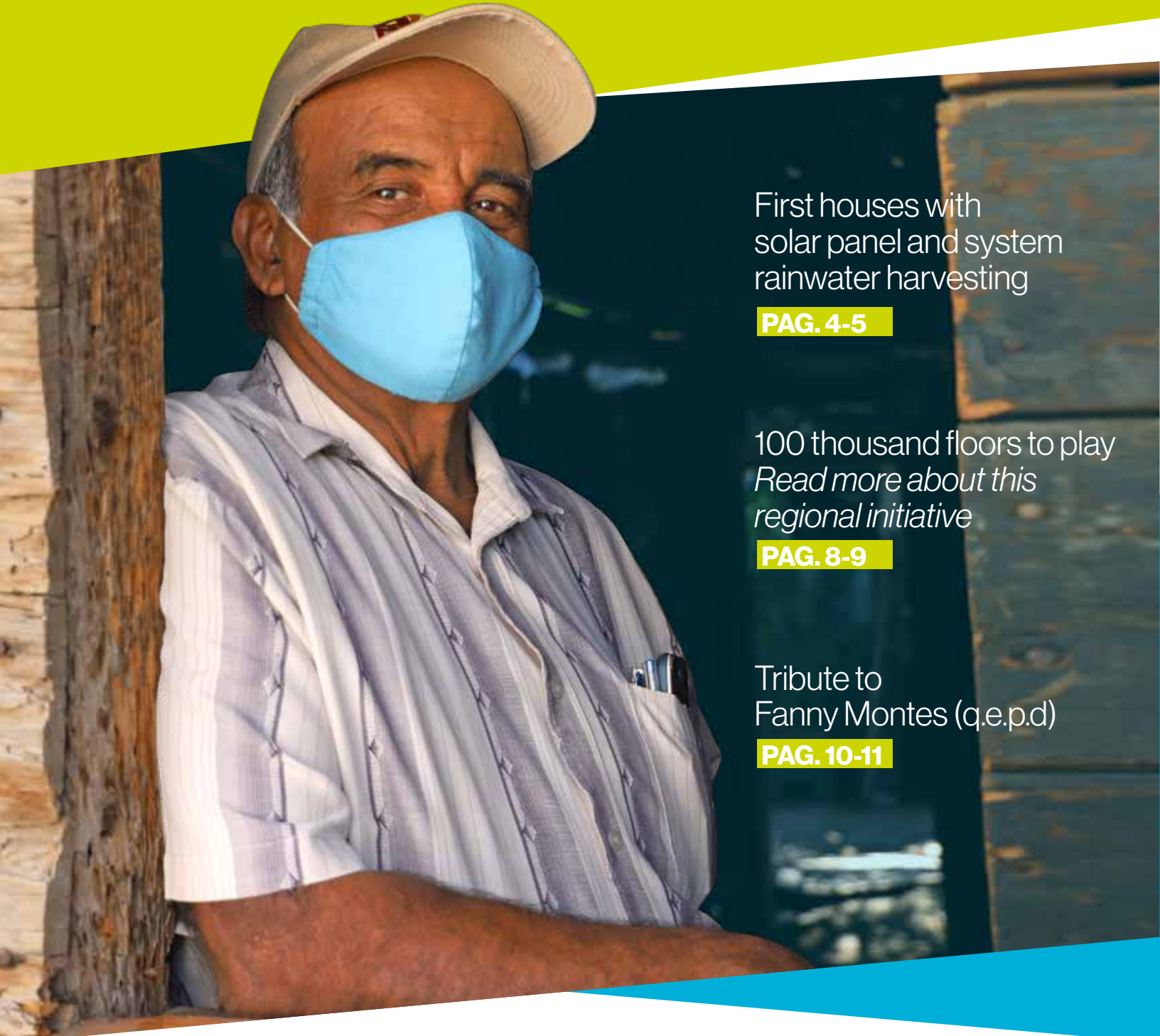




Habitat
for Humanity®
Nicaragua

newsletter

january-june **2022**



First houses with
solar panel and system
rainwater harvesting

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100 thousand floors to play
*Read more about this
regional initiative*

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Tribute to
Fanny Montes (q.e.p.d)

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Through shelter, we empower

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director's message



As much as we know that God has us in the world for a period of time, no one is ever prepared to face death. Except when it comes to a loved one, the blow is always strong and the grieving process is slow and painful. I start with this reflection because this semester our office faced a bitter pill. We lost a friend, a colleague, an extraordinary woman who dedicated her life to Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua.

For 27 years, Fanny Montes gave her best for the cause of decent housing, always with a smile on her face and a countenance that conveyed peace. Can you imagine? 27 years, that's a lifetime. It is impossible for me to know how many training Fanny gave, how many families she helped, how many stories and faces of happiness she was able to see when those families already had her home.

What I am certain of is that throughout her working life she sowed love and faith in each person that God placed in front of her. Fanny departed for eternal life in May of this year. When I wondered where to start this text, I thought: it has been a semester with a bittersweet taste, on the one hand we are satisfied with the results of the projects we have executed and on the other hand, trying to digest the absence of our beloved Fanny.

Then I remembered the beautiful words that at the time she said about the cause of Habitat that, paraphrasing her, went something like this: "I firmly believe that this organization fulfills God's mission on earth." And so it is, each woman head of a family that we managed to support this semester, improving the infrastructure of her business, her home, training her to grow her business, giving her a hand in a different way, in each one of them we performed a small miracle, through each one we fulfill a mission, for them and for their families.

We are an instrument of God, thank you Fanny for your example and for those words that we will never forget and in which we will always find comfort and the desire to continue working. See you always!

Frank Matus-Aguirre
Country manager

“Eco-friendly homes”



Professor Lidia, 46, lives with her 15-year-old daughter and is saving to start a food business (fritanga) in her new home.

22 Estelian families have environmentally friendly housing. The designs have a rainwater harvesting system and solar panel.

At Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua, we continually reinvent ourselves because we know that the needs of families and homes change. In the second half of fiscal year 2022, we built seed houses that include a rainwater harvesting system and a solar panel.

“These elements contribute to improving the adaptation of

housing to climate change. The solar module reduces energy consumption, economic spending and contributes to reducing the carbon footprint. The rainwater harvesting system allows the use of a natural resource, reduces the consumption of non-renewable sources (drinking water) and contributes to the family economy”, says architect Zulma

Espinoza, Housing Solutions Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua.

One of the families served by this project was Nidia, a community teacher who lives in the El Centenario neighborhood of Estelí, a place where drinking water is available from 11 at night to 6 in the morning. “Here we had to stay awake every day to collect water, but now, thanks to God, with this system of houses, half a rain falls and my tank is already full”, she tells us smiling.

Nidia's monthly income is around C\$4,000 (just over 100 dollars), so having a block house with a concrete floor and eco-technology was practically impossible for her. “Imagine a blessing class, I was more than happy with the house and since it has this rainwater and solar panel, it is a great saving for us”, she says.

Adaptation and mitigation to climate change

The 22 houses with eco-technology were built in outlying neighborhoods of Estelí, where the population has drinking water supply problems. “Seeing the needs of the people but also trying to influence, so that families learn about the processes of adaptation and mitigation of climate change, by reducing the carbon footprint. We know that they are small changes but they make a difference”, says the architect Espinoza.



The execution was supported by the Institute for Human Promotion (Inprhu Estelí), an ally of Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua in this municipality. There was also technical advice from the providers of solar panels and water tanks, who taught families the proper use and maintenance that these technologies require.



The participating families also gave an economic contribution and provided unskilled labor for the construction of the houses, demonstrating once again that the owners of a Habitat house are not mere spectators, they participate in the solution of their house.



The next homes that Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua builds will integrate both eco-technologies



Empowering vulnerable groups

Women with disabilities, chronic illnesses and living with HIV joined forces with Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua to receive training and improve their living conditions.

Being a single mother and head of household is already difficult. If we add to this having a disability, chronic illness or being a person with HIV, it becomes even more complex, especially if it comes to finding a well-paid formal job, which is why many women choose to start small businesses at home.

This is the case of Brenda, a 28-year-old woman who lives in a community in Masaya and was diagnosed with HIV. Faced with the impossibility of a permanent job with which to raise her three daughters, she decided to set up a sale of enchiladas and fried plantain in her house; an improvised cook made with three pieces of quarry stone on the dirt floor, was the stage where she started her business.

After learning about this type of reality first-hand, Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua decided to execute the Economic Recovery of Vulnerable Groups (OVG) project in partnership with the Federation of Women with Disabilities (Femucadi) and the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW in Nicaragua).

"We chose these groups in the first place because they are women, and in the second place because a woman with a disability is discriminated against, they have fewer job opportunities, less economic conditions and we thought that this support would help them significantly improve their living conditions," explains, Nancy Aróstegui Sánchez, Program Manager of Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua.

Three components

The project executed between November 2021 and May 2022, consisted of three components: Deliveries of hygiene kits and protection against COVID, capacity building and infrastructure improvements in business spaces, managing to serve 769 people directly and indirectly.

These people were trained on issues of climate change, safe housing, and financial education; they were provided with kits, water filters and barrels so that they could store safe water. Finally, 40 women from Ciudad Sandino, Managua, Mateare, Xiloá, Masaya, Tipitapa and Juigalpa were selected and a nine-square-meter module was built for them to develop their businesses in more suitable places.

Brenda was one of them, and although she got a job as a waitress for the time being, she is already saving to set up her fritanga business again on weekends. This time in a suitable space, indoors and with a concrete floor.

In Ciudad Sandino, Managua, Yacenia, 35, already has her small sewing workshop in a safe space. "Before, the machines I have were left in the living room, and the little nephews would start playing and they would damage them. Now I leave everything locked up, I don't have unnecessary expenses and I even managed to buy another machine that is special for making them seams. I feel very happy and grateful for this project", Yacenia, who also lives with HIV, told us.

People Served

- 769** people served directly and indirectly
- 161** people received kits
- 150** people were trained on various topics
- 40** women improved the infrastructure of their businesses



Business Support

For the execution of the Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua project, it had the support of business allies such as Plycem and El Halcón Hardware Stores, who contributed with discounts on the purchase of materials to make this project possible.





100 thousand floors to play

Initiative between Habitat for Humanity and the Inter-American Cement Federation (FICEM) seeks to replace 100,000 dirt floors with concrete floors in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2028

Having a concrete floor is synonymous with health, especially for girls and boys. Those who live in houses with dirt floors are exposed to parasites, bacteria and insects that cause diarrhea, respiratory diseases, anemia, immunodeficiency, malnutrition, Chagas disease and others.

Adam, 7 years old, was one of them, he was diagnosed with asthma and until two years ago, visits to the hospital were recurrent. But that changed when his family allied with Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua and managed to put a concrete floor, the little boy's health improved remarkably.

Habitat for Humanity and the Inter-American Cement Federation (FICEM) know that there are thousands of families like Adam's in Latin America, which is why they decided to make an alliance that seeks to replace 100,000 dirt floors with concrete floors in Latin America and Caribbean.

In turn, according to the needs of each home, solutions will be provided for access to water and/or improved stoves, in order to generate a decent and healthy environment for the sustainable and inclusive development of families.

In search of suitable and healthy environments

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the housing deficit affects almost 40% of the total population and approximately 6% of homes have a floor with predominantly earth material, causing serious damage to the health of the people who live in them, especially children and older adults.

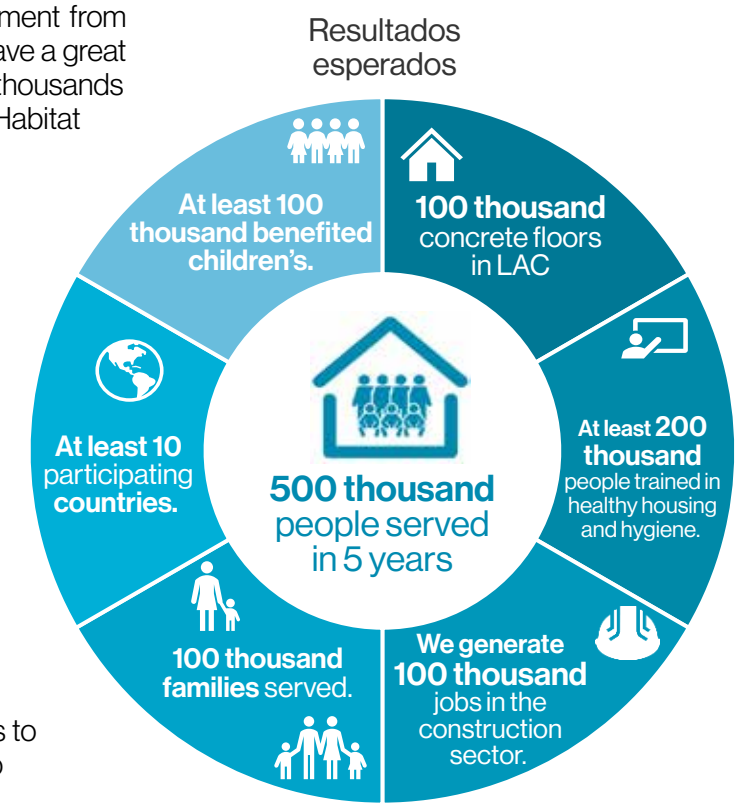
"At Habitat for Humanity we have extensive experience in this type of intervention in the region, since we regularly work on it in the countries where we have a presence. We are witnesses of how these types of improvements bring an enormous change in the quality of life and health of families,



since they are provided with an adequate and healthy environment from which to build a better future. With "100,000 floors to play" we have a great opportunity to generate a social benefit that will positively impact thousands of lives," explains Ernesto Castro, Vice President of the Area of Habitat for Humanity for Latin America and the Caribbean.

María José García, executive director of FICEM, assures that "the PISOS S3 program for the replacement of dirt floors with concrete floors for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, was proposed in 2020 by the regional cement industry seeking to improve health and the well-being of the most vulnerable families living in poverty, creating healthier, safer and more sustainable homes (S3). Today, together with Habitat for Humanity, we seek to join forces through the "100,000 floors to play" initiative with the aim of transforming the lives of 100,000 families by 2028 throughout the region. We understand that it is a great challenge that will have to be approached with prudence and responsibility, but it is also true that it is necessary to mobilize the interest, the regional commitment and the necessary alliances to achieve it".

If your company or institution wants to join to the "100,000 floors to play" initiative, you can request information by sending an email to lac@habitat.org o Irojas@ficem.org

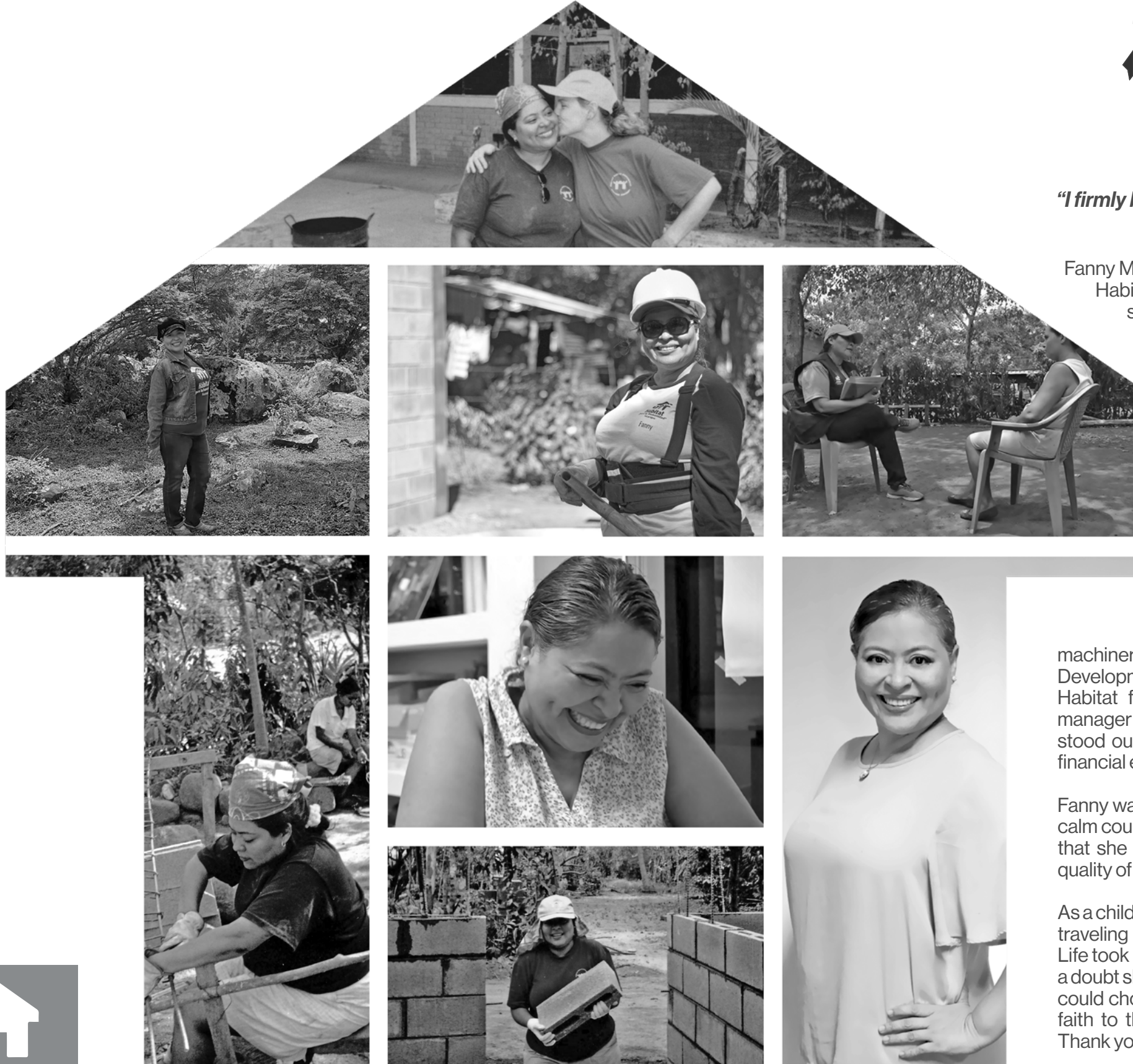


People in your community and around the world work with Habitat for Humanity and its partners to build or improve a place to call home.





 *Fanny Montes*
(R.I.P) 1968-2022



“I firmly believe that this organization was born in the heart of God”

Fanny Montes gave her life and her heart to the work of Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua. During 27 years, she worked with Nicaraguan families, convinced that when she did it, she established the kingdom of God here on earth. Without looking for it, she complied with each of the principles of our organization.

“We are the ones who make the kingdom of God on earth, and Habitat gives me the opportunity to establish it every time i get to each of those families. Here i have the opportunity to sow the seed”, Fanny told us in an interview made in september 2019.

Agricultural engineer, specialist in machinery, with a postgraduate degree in Community Development. Fanny started as a National Advisor, at Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua, then became as a manager and branch advisors; in the last 15 years she stood out in their role of community development and financial education.

Fanny was a woman who always radiated peace. With a calm countenance and a kind smile, her co-workers said that she was a “bread made by God”, referring to the quality of human beings.

As a child, she played with being a public relations officer, traveling the world to negotiate and convince people. Life took her in other professional directions, but without a doubt she was one of the best public relations that God could choose, always preaching his word and restoring faith to those who were going through difficult times. Thank you so much Fannycita!

Our Principles

-  Demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ.
-  Focus on housing.
-  Advocate for decent housing.
-  Promote dignity and hope.
-  Support transformative and sustainable community development.



Solutions from and for the community

Sesanic, a company dedicated to cleaning septic tanks and batteries, maintenance and repair of eco-bathrooms that continues to renew itself.

The protagonists

Jessica Artola, one of the partners and founders, still remembers the night a friend told her about a meeting "where she would only fill out a survey", without thinking that this was the beginning of an adventure full of learning and she would end up being a businesswoman.

"I was a housewife, with the husband, the son, washing, ironing. That was my thing... I got excited and thought: this is the change I need. I had left my studies when I got pregnant. When Sesanic and Habitat came into my life, it was a complete change," Jessica tells us.

A few months ago, Frankling Martínez joined, in charge of the administrative and accounting area, who claims to have the goal of solidifying ties with Sesanic



Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua provided partners with business, administrative, and technical tools to work directly with 400 people benefiting from eco-baths

users. Jessica tells us that the road has not been easy, in the beginning, she did the cleaning herself and even drove the truck to meet the requests; now they have three additional workers, in charge of these tasks.

Internationally Award Winning

Sesanic's business strategy was simple, to provide a sustainable and affordable service for the residents of these communities, who are low-income families. The families could pay for the service in installments each month, and once the cost was paid, the company carried out the cleaning. This innovative line was awarded worldwide by IDB Coca-Cola FEMSA, who chose Sesanic from among 86 projects, Nicaragua stood out among the six best.

Recently, the Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID) developed a study of water and sanitation in Nicaragua with the purpose of strengthening companies that work in this area, and once again Sesanic was selected to apply to this program and strengthen its business and leadership.

collaborators more active than ever

From January to June 2022, the Human Resources department of Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua was more active than ever. The collaborators received their complete Safeguarding course, thus ensuring an ethics policy in the organization. They also participated in an emotion management workshop that allowed them to channel everything that had been increasing their stress levels: personal situations, loss of loved ones, etc.

"We continue to provide help to people who require consultations with the psychologist, we have made our work modality more flexible, so that the team can do it remotely or in person, we even carried out a work environment survey to find out the level of satisfaction of our collaborators and we had excellent results", assures Claudia Tellería, Human Resources Manager.

Claudia adds that they also recently completed a course on being a good driver on Unicef's Agora platform, efforts that undoubtedly motivate the staff.

In this semester and closing of the fiscal year, the collaborators have faced challenges at work and personal level, but with the opportune support "they have shown a resilience worthy of admiration, because they continue to give their best to continue supporting our beneficiaries", Claudia ends.

MNGR already have a strategy



The National Table for Risk Management (MNGR), which Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua is a member organization, worked this first semester of 2022 on its first five-year strategy, a document that will be reviewed periodically for planning.

"It has been a lot of work, a great investment of time and we are very satisfied with this achievement," says Nancy Aróstegui, Program Manager of Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua and member of the Executive Commission of the MNGR.

As part of its regular work, the Roundtable was also monitoring the food security situation in the communities of the dry corridor, where the member organizations have a presence. Rain monitoring has also been carried out to disseminate recommendations to the general population.

For the coming months, the Board will be executing some activities of a regional project with the Regional Coordination for Risk Management (CRGR), among which training to learn a methodology that will allow making community risk management plans stands out.

Rasnic organizing the next NicaraguaSAN

The member organizations of the Water and Sanitation Network (Rasnic), a platform of which Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua is an active member, have also been working hard on their strategic lines of action, evaluating the 2021 plan and revising the 2022 plan.

Rasnic is already preparing for the NicaraguaSAN 2022 edition forum, an event in which organizations share their good experiences, practices and learning on water and sanitation issues in the different communities of the country.

Another achievement of Rasnic during this semester was to conclude the process of the sanitation course where members of the public and private sectors participated. The experience was so successful and enriching that a second edition is already being considered. Congratulations Rasnick!



Hand in hand with the municipalities



Marisol, a resident of San Rafael del Sur, sells natural juice. She got her house thanks to the mayor's office and the support of Habitat.



A world where everyone has a decent place to live. That is the vision of Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua, which works hand in hand with the municipalities that carry out social housing projects. In the period January-June 2022, coordination was carried out with the municipalities of San Rafael del Norte, San Rafael del Sur, San Nicolás, Santo Tomás, El Jicaro, San Fernando, San Juan de Limay and El Astillero.

The technical support provided by Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua ranges from the review of the sites where the houses will be built, accompanying visits to the selected families, quality of the materials and the work itself. These coordinations and joint work have been carried out successfully during the last 10 years.

Results of the semester January-June 2022

Construction services:
288 housing solutions

Non-construction services:
151

Emergency response:
50 kits of protection items against Covid 19



No matter who we are or where we come from, we all deserve to have a decent life.



newsletter

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CREDITS

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