

100 thousand floors to play



Thanks to the generosity
of Holcim, the first **60**
are built in Estelí



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message from

Country Management



today makes its way in a challenging context so that more families have a suitable place to live. Habitat Nicaragua faces many challenges, which always come with its share of stress. But I have to tell you that no matter how few the problems we run into along the way, it is always worth facing them and putting in that 101% because each one of our projects changes lives, there is nothing more real and tangible, believe me.

Having a safe roof for the family to sleep peacefully is life-changing, having a concrete floor for girls and boys to play on is life-changing, and having a proper and safe bathroom and toilet for girls, women, and the elderly, is a change in the quality of life, and that is what we have been working on during this first semester of our fiscal year (July-December 2022).

Thanks to teamwork, we have made significant progress each from their role. But these small victories would not be possible without the support of

our affiliates in the United States, of the companies that trust and support our social initiatives, such as Holcim, who did not hesitate to assist the 100,000 floors to play project. Every person who trusts in Habitat, who reads us, who follows us on the networks and shares what we do, is collaborating so that we continue to change lives.

Thank you infinitely for being there, for continuing on this train helping us to open more and better paths. Thank you for the trust that Habitat placed in me to continue this beautiful mission now as Country Manager in Nicaragua. I hope to continue counting on each of you, God bless you always.



Nancy Arostegui, Country Management
Hábitat para la Humanidad Nicaragua.

100 thousand floors to play

Cándida's house is located in the Villa Esperanza de Estelí neighborhood, where grandparents have a mini-pulpería (convenience store).

If Cándida Rosa had to put a face on joy, she would undoubtedly draw the face of Gabriel, her two-year-old grandson, whom she takes care of daily and is responsible for making her laugh. It was precise with Gabriel's well-being in mind that the family allied with Habitat Nicaragua to be part of the 100 thousand floors to play initiative.

"The objective of this initiative of Habitat for Humanity and the Inter-American Cement Federation (FICEM) is to replace 100,000 dirt floors with concrete floors, in vulnerable homes throughout Latin America and the Caribbean by 2028. Nicaragua joins this initiative, thanks to the generous support of Holcim", explains Nancy Arostegui, Country Manager of Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua.

Cándida, 60 years old, is one of the first 60 Estelían families that will be part of this project, which, in addition to improving the appearance of the home, contributes to reducing diseases in children and the elderly.

"With this donation, Holcim contributes to improving the quality of life of 60 Nicaraguan families, making our motto of being Builders of Progress for People and the Planet a reality," says Marcelo Arrieta, CEO of Holcim Nicaragua S.A.

40%

is the housing deficit in Latin America and the Caribbean, 6% of these homes have dirt floor

30%

of homes in Nicaragua do not have a concrete floor.



Having a concrete floor means

78%

Having a concrete floor means

49%

less diarrhea

81%

less probability of anemia.

The selected families live in neighborhoods of Districts II and III, and are female-headed households, families with children under 6 years of age, older adults, and/or people with disabilities, as explained by the Institute for Human Promotion (INPHRU Estelí), a partner organization of Habitat, who was in charge of this process.

Aróstegui adds that Hábitat Nicaragua has set the goal of building 1,200 apartments by 2028, but they do not rule out the idea of exceeding this figure.



The good news Habitat



Sesanic, contributing to the sustainability of sanitation Systems

Servicios de Saneamiento de Nicaragua (Sesanic), a social enterprise specializing in the cleaning of septic tanks, which was born with the support of Habitat Nicaragua and other actors, continues to contribute to the sustainability of sanitation systems and therefore to the care of the environment in the municipality of San Rafael del Sur and its communities. Frankling Martínez, Sesanic's administrator, shares with us that in addition to carrying out fecal sludge extraction, they are also extracting black water from septic tanks, carrying out maintenance and repair of eco bathroom infrastructure. "We are also preparing to maintain the hydraulic drag systems so that families have an adequate and environmentally friendly hygienic service for longer," Martínez explains.

People who wish to hire Sesanic's services can write or call 8541-3007.



NicaraguaSAN 2022

The Nicaraguan Water and Sanitation Network (RASNIC), of which Habitat Nicaragua is an active member, successfully organized the VIII NICARAGUASAN Forum and Fair.

The event held on November 22 and 23, 2022, at the Camino Real Hotel in Managua, had the objective of contributing to awareness and knowledge management, focused on water for human consumption, sanitation, hygiene, comprehensive management of water resources, gender equity, and risk, in the context of climate variability and change. "We know that achieving universal access to water and sanitation demands the effort and articulation of all the actors: State, communities, academia, non-profit organizations, and of course companies, which offer the services and technologies that make it possible to respond", affirms Rosa Sáenz, spokeswoman for the event.



Habitat supporting the work of the mayors' offices

At Habitat for Humanity, we are clear that unity is strength, that is why we work hand in hand with the mayors of San Rafael del Norte, El Jícaro, San Juan de Limay, and San Rafael del Sur, providing support and technical advice for the construction of new homes and improvements.

"Thanks to the opportune coordination with these municipalities, 54 new homes were built and 30 improvements were made, in addition, we began coordination with the mayors of Santo Tomás and San Nicolás where another 49 improvements will be made," explains Nancy Aróstegui, country director of Habitat. Nicaragua.

Innovating from the kitchen

Portable and efficient metal stove prototype

Renewing is part of the nature of Habitat, so during this first semester we built a new portable stove prototype, which in addition to having the same benefits as the eco-stove in terms of reducing smoke emanation, heat, illnesses, and costs, also provides a clean environment, comfort, and safety; and it has the advantage of being quick to install once manufactured since it only takes an hour to have it running. This new design prepared by the Housing Solutions area promises efficiency and the possibility that families can easily move it around.

In parallel, a theoretical-practical guide was prepared with simple language and illustrations, so that people can know the processes that must be followed before lighting the stove and during its use, how to clean it properly, and finally how and how often to maintain it, to ensure that it works efficiently and has greater durability.



American Nicaraguan School learning from climate change with habitat

Within the framework of the commemoration of World Habitat Day held on the first Monday of October, students of the American Nicaraguan School, received a workshop from Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua, where they learned about the importance of Resilient homes and how small actions can contribute to mitigate the effects of climate change.

At the end of the workshop, the students presented a small environmental practices project to implement within the school. "It was a different experience with children and young people who want the architect Zulma Espinoza, coordinator of housing solutions, comments.

Sofía Chen, president of the American Club of Nicaraguan School, thanked the opportunity that Habitat Nicaragua gave them by sharing knowledge and experiences, and

encouraged the new generations to continue working on volunteer projects.



Results for the first half of the fiscal year 2023

167 construction services

54
New
Homes



77
Improvements



56
Repairs



They represent 34% of the annual goal. 68% of the people who participated were women.

333 Non-Constructive Services

323
Trainings



10
Construction
Technical Assistance



They represent 61% of the annual goal. 69% of the people who participated were women. The training was on topics of climate change, use and maintenance, safe housing, and healthy housing.



La Montañita, an exemplary community

Estelianos organized to have safe and adequate eco bathrooms

Quando se es mujer y se vive en el campo, tomar un baño no
When you are a woman and you live in the countryside, taking a bath is not always a satisfying experience. The fact of not having a closed and safe space for daily cleaning forces many people, especially women and girls, to take quick baths by the river and live in fear that something bad will happen to them.

For this reason, 55-year-old Juanita could not stop laughing with joy when she learned that for the first time in her life, she could take a shower or use a toilet without fear of someone watching her. This new reality changed the lives of girls, adolescents, and adult women from 34 families that live in the rural community of La Montañita, located to the west of Estelí.





The project for the construction of eco-bathrooms and laundry rooms was carried out by the Health for All Cooperative, with financing from the Government of the community of Aragón, Spain, and the constructive technical advice of Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua.

“For the Health for All Cooperative, the alliance with Habitat has been key to achieving the objectives set and improving the quality of construction, and therefore the well-being of families,” explains Mirna Montoya, Director of the Health for All Cooperative.

The project included training modules for families to learn about the use and maintenance of sanitary units, and about healthy housing, a methodology that seeks to adopt good hygiene practices for the good of health and the environment.

Montoya recounts that when the project began they feared that there would be delays due to bad road conditions, but the community, made up of some 80 peasant families, demonstrated what union for the common good is. “It was impressive to see how men, women and even children, with the help of their animals, set out to move all the materials so that each family could have their own eco-bathroom, and thus everything was achieved in a timely manner”, Montoya concludes.





People in your community and all over the world partner with Habitat for Humanity **to build or improve a place they can call home.**

