

Thank you Holcim Nicaragua!



60 Estelian families already have concrete floors, and very soon 25 more will enjoy this benefit.

100,000 floors
to play on



With the Support of: **INPRHU**
Instituto de Promoción Humana
Estelí, Nicaragua

Part of Program: **PISOSS³**

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message

from Country Management

Hello friends, here I am again sharing our achievements and challenges. We have completed the first quarter (January-March) of this calendar year 2023 and for us as Habitat Nicaragua they have been months of a lot of work, hustle and, above all, great satisfaction. We close this cycle by thanking Holcim for its support, which, by being part of the regional initiative 100,000 floors to play on by Habitat and Ficem, made it possible for 60 Estelían families to have cleaner and safer spaces in their homes today.

It is impressive how having a concrete floor in the home, makes the whole family motivated and regains hope. I had the joy of visiting several homes, along with Marcelo Arrieta, CEO of Holcim for Nicaragua, and it was a great joy to hear how people told us that seeing the how beautiful their houses looked, they decided to invest in improving their ceilings, separating the rooms or removing furniture they had stored. In short, they gave a new face to their homes.

How not to feel grateful after hearing these stories, and seeing happy girls and boys playing in clean spaces. This satisfaction is also shared by our ally, Holcim, so much, that they decided to extend their support to 25 more families, so that there are 85 homes in Estelí that have a concrete floor.

We took Marcelo´s word, who also promised us to extend this initiative to Nagarote, another community where there is great need, so we can continue working hand in hand, with great enthusiasm, contributing a grain of sand so that more Nicaraguan families have a right place to live.

We were also working in El Astillero, a community on the Pacific coast, on a project for 18 families to have safe sanitary units that do not contaminate the beach or the aquifer that provides them with water. A project with many challenges and excellent results because it is not just about improving the home, it is about improving the quality of life of people, that families learn to use and care for their bathroom properly, to improve the conditions of hygiene in the house and its surroundings. These sensitization processes are part of our work.

This quarter leaves us very satisfied and we are sure that the coming months will also bring excellent results and wonderful news, especially for families.

Thanks to our team, to each company and ally that supports us. We are Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua and **we empower with housing.**



Nancy Arostegui, Country Management
Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua.



Initiative 100 thousand floors to play on is extended in Estelí

"This is progress for families, progress for children, so we are very happy to be able to accompany them. We have a commitment to Habitat to continue accompanying them throughout Nicaragua".

With these words Marcelo Arrieta, CEO of Holcim Nicaragua celebrated the results of the first phase of this project that is being implemented in Estelí and that is part of the 100,000 floors to play initiative that Habitat for Humanity and the Inter-American Cement Federation (FICEM) promote throughout Latin America to replace the dirt floors with concrete floors inside 100,000 homes by 2028.

Arrieta and Nancy Aróstegui, the Country Manager of Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua, visited several homes of families that are part of the project.

"We are very happy to see that we are building progress, in this case for 60 families from Estelí. We are going to continue collaborating with 25 more floors here, and we will continue together with Habitat Nicaragua in the rest of the country; Soon we hope to be working in Nagarote in the community close to our cement plant, so we are very happy to be here with Habitat for Humanity," adds Arrieta.

"My childhood dream is now a reality for my daughter ..."

One of the families visited was that of María Celeste, located in the Villa Esperanza neighborhood, who told us that as a child, she dreamed of having a concrete floor to play on, but the conditions of the family never allowed her father to fulfill that innocent dream. "When we found out that we were going to be taken into account for this project, it was a great joy, a great blessing because now I am a mother and now my dream as a child is a reality for my daughter," the young woman tells us.

This is a project that aims to improve health and hygiene conditions, and to give children a safer space for their integral development. We have started with these 60 floors that have received the support of Holcim, we are talking about 36 square meters and an approximate investment of 650 dollars in direct construction costs, details Nancy Aróstegui, Country Manager of Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua.



"The impact of the project is exceeding our expectations, we are happy to see how happy the families are with the progress made in their homes, so we hope to be able to reach many more families," adds Aróstegui.

The execution of this initiative would not have been possible without the unconditional support of the Institute for Human Promotion, (INPHRU Estelí), who carefully took charge of selecting the families and were supporting the training process on healthy floors.

Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua, has the goal of building 1,200 floors by 2028, but they do not rule out the idea of exceeding this figure with the support of socially responsible companies, such as Holcim.



Having a concrete floor means: 78% less parasite infections in girls and boys, 49% less diarrhea and 81% less probability of anemia, among other benefits.

Adequate sanitation for families, the beach and the aquifer



Living in a coastal area, that is, near the beach, is a great responsibility for the population. Natural resources are the main way of life and protecting them will always be a priority. Based on this reality, Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua decided to support 18 families from the El Astillero community, located on the beaches of the municipality of Tola, in the department of Rivas, so that they could replace their traditional latrines with eco-friendly sanitary units.

One of those families was that of Ninnette, 37 years old. "I am very grateful, my children and I, with Habitat for Humanity because now we have a toilet, shower and sink, we can ensure that we have better conditions and above all there is more hygiene", she tells us.



Ninnette is the mother of four children ages 17, 14, 6 and 5, and she told us that the little ones were even afraid to use the latrine. In addition, she did not know that by having this type of sanitary unit, the feces contaminate the water sources, and therefore, the water from the well that they use for chores was being contaminated by themselves. But now the story is different.

Thanks to the sanitation project, Ninnette and her children learned why it is important to have an eco-friendly unit and how to maintain it. "I am very grateful to Hábitat Nicaragua for their support, my children are happy and since we now have a shower and sink, everything is much cleaner, there is more hygiene," Ninnette shares with us.



Training is an essential part of the project

The construction of the 18 sanitary units was carried out between February and March of this year, with the support of local volunteers from Casa Congo. "We had to face many challenges, one of the most felt was access to water because in the community it is scarce and we needed water to make the installations, but the families in an organized and active way made everything flow", explains Nancy Aróstegui, Habitat Nicaragua country manager.

Families were trained to know what the parts of the sanitary unit were, how to use it properly and take care of it. "With the educational process we guarantee sustainability and make sure that people are made aware of the environmental impact, the conservation of their bathroom and above all the importance of protecting water sources and the ocean," adds Aróstegui.

Results for the quarter January - March fiscal year 2023

167

Construction Services



272

Non-Constructive Services



Each home
is a stone to build better communities.



newsletter | january-march
2023