



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



**OUR VISION:** Empowering rural Nicaraguans to achieve better health through comprehensive clean water projects.

**OUR MISSION:** Partner with rural Nicaraguans to develop and implement lasting projects and educational programs that increase access to clean water.

## HOW WE WORK

El Porvenir does not initiate projects; staff members respond to requests for assistance from rural villages. Village residents elect their own project committee, provide all labor on a volunteer basis, and take responsibility for the long-term maintenance of all projects. El Porvenir encourages the community to include women among the committee members. El Porvenir provides technical expertise and training, lends tools, and funds the materials needed to complete the projects. Health education staff visit the projects periodically after their completion to ensure villagers know how to maintain their projects.



*With safe sanitation at home, these two girls are now healthier and attending school regularly.*

## CORE BELIEF

We believe all people deserve clean water, safe sanitation, and the knowledge to sustain it for future generations. We partner with the people of Nicaragua so that they can build a better future for themselves through the sustainable development of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) education projects.

We also take it a step further with our watershed restoration program, which promotes water flow, increases food and water security, and reduces the impact of climate change. Our team of mostly Nicaraguans build respectful, caring partnerships with community members, school groups, and healthcare professionals as we develop projects with households, schools, and health posts.

*Stations like this one make handwashing easier for students, and the paintings are not only beautiful but useful. Here, students are reminded to wash their hands with soap and water.*

Clean drinking water for all Nicaraguans—no matter how remote or how bad the road is—is at the core of everything we do.



*A healthy watershed is important to keep water flowing in the community well and in local streams. These trees also keep residents cooler as Nicaragua feels the impact of climate change.*

## FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends, Supporters and Staff of El Porvenir,

Thanks to your generosity and commitment to our vision—empowering rural Nicaraguans to achieve better health through comprehensive clean water projects—El Porvenir made great strides towards achieving our mission of partnering with Nicaraguans to develop and implement projects and educational programs that increase access to clean water. Your kindness led to a growth in support of over 6% and marked our highest year of individual donations in 31 years of involvement in Nicaragua.

What did we achieve in 2021? To begin, we executed 32 clean water projects which primarily include drilling a well, pumping water to a central tank, chlorination, and distribution to individual homes or community stations. Critical to our sanitation efforts, El Porvenir and the communities we serve constructed 500 new latrines and toilets. To support health and hygiene, we conducted over 3,000 water quality tests. Finally, and to balance long-term watershed health, we worked with community members to plant over 100,000 trees and construct 90 fuel-efficient, more environmentally friendly household stoves.

Over 36,000 Nicaraguan lives were touched by and benefited from this work. They range from mothers who often carry the burden—literally—of finding and carrying water to the home, to future generations of the people we serve today who will benefit from the long-term and sustainable work of enhancing freshwater sources and the land.

We are quite simply overwhelmed by and grateful for your support, and we are committed to continuing the mission to reach as many communities and individuals as possible in the quest for Water. Life. Future. for rural Nicaraguans. We can't do it without all of you!

Phil McVey  
Chairman of the Board



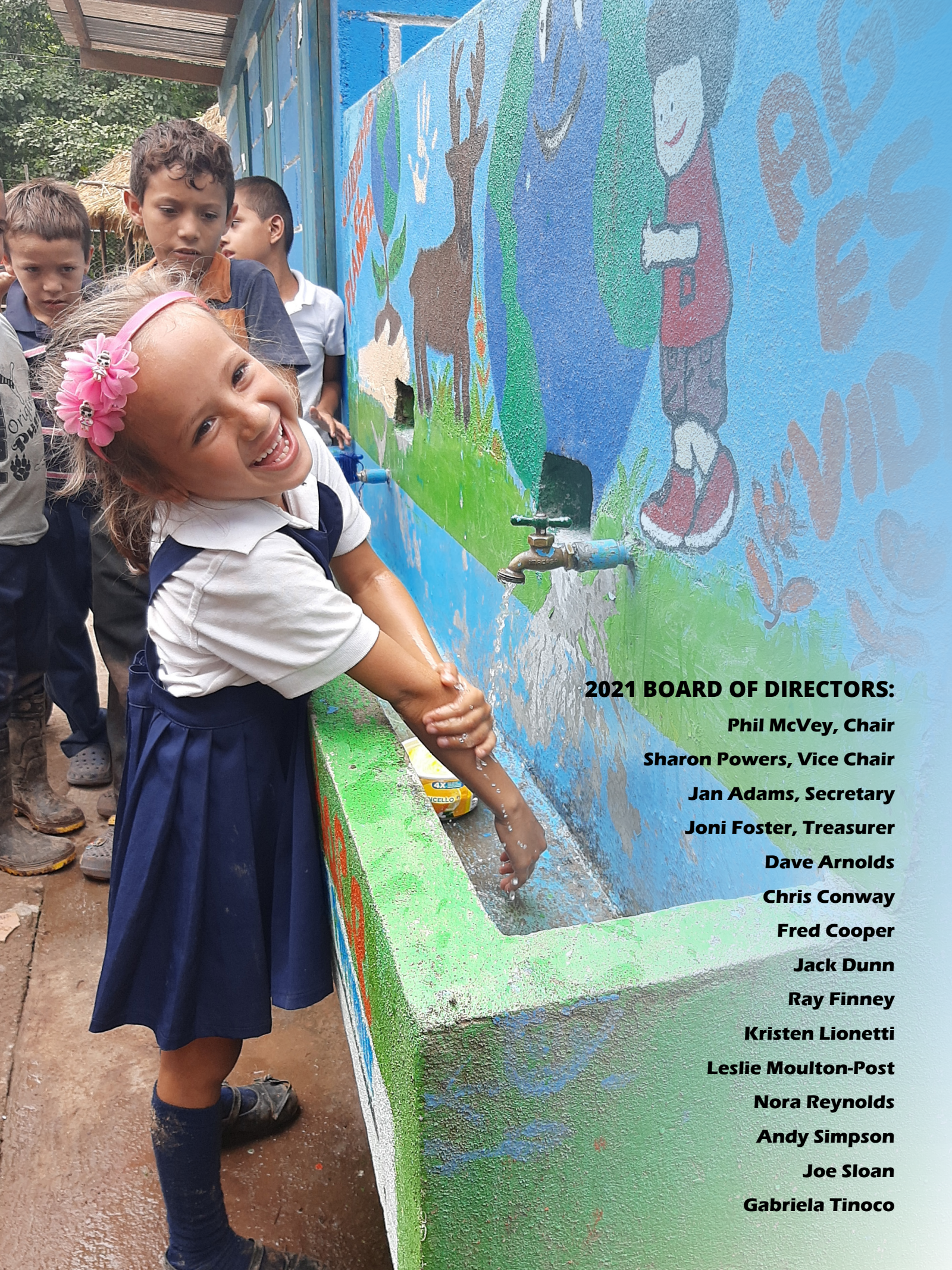
*Residents painted this pump house with environmental messages like “Every drop counts” and “Without water, there is no future.”*



*Children celebrating their family's new latrine on World Toilet Day! Latrines mean good health, staying in school, safety, privacy, and more.*



*Latrine projects are community projects. Here you see families working together to put together the walls and roof of the latrine. To improve public health, everyone needs a latrine.*



**2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

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**Sharon Powers, Vice Chair**

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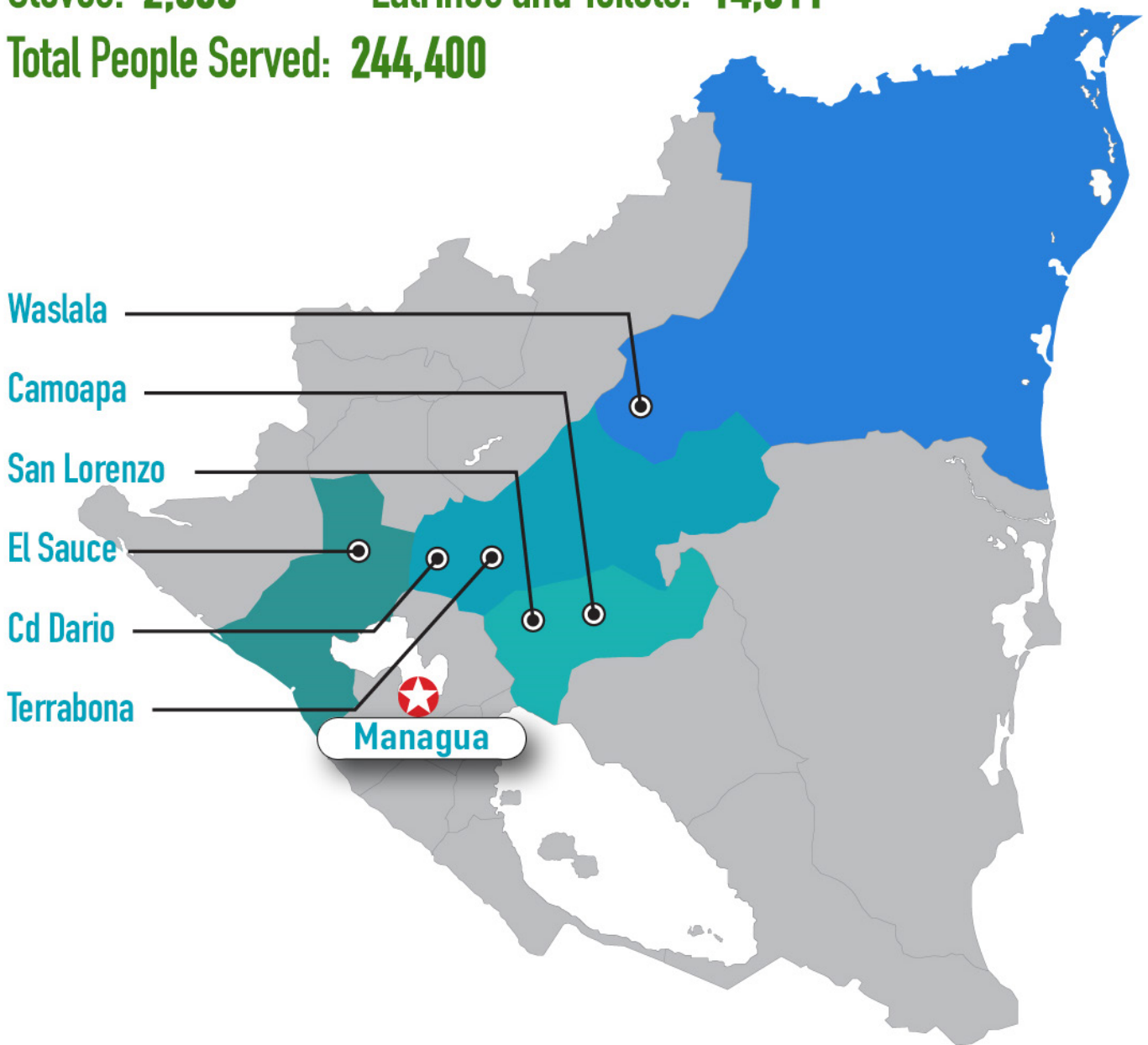
## WHERE WE WORK

# PROJECTS 1989-2021

Water Projects: **649** Trees Planted: **1,595,840**

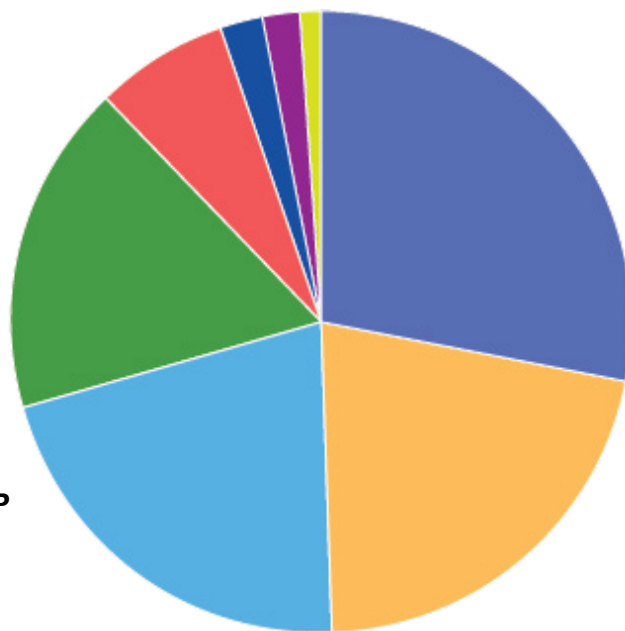
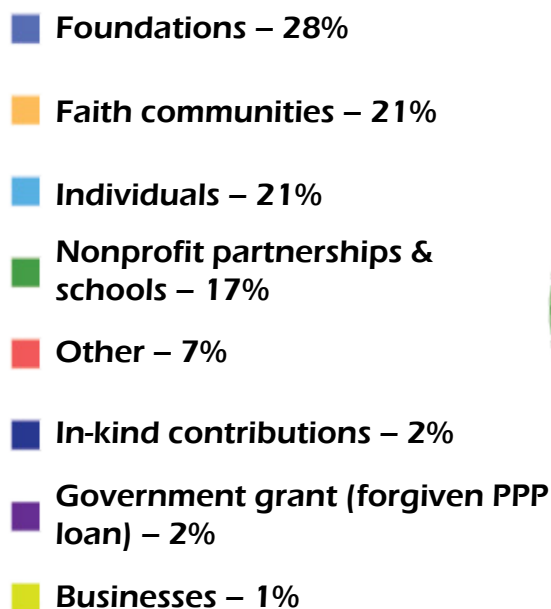
Stoves: **2,055** Latrines and Toilets: **14,311**

Total People Served: **244,400**



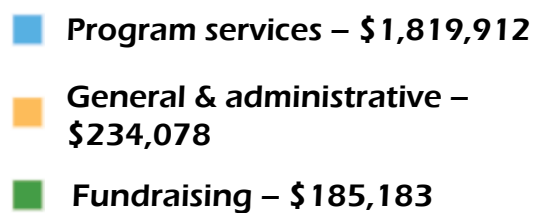
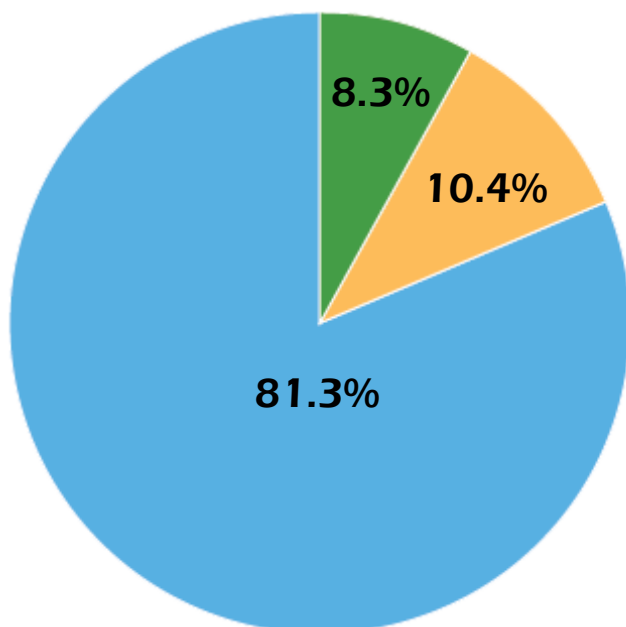
## OUR FINANCIALS

### SOURCES OF INCOME:



**TOTAL INCOME: \$2,078,352**

### EXPENSES: 2021



**TOTAL EXPENSES: \$2,239,173**

**NET ASSETS, beginning of the year: \$697,280**

**NET ASSETS, end of the year: \$510,392**

A copy of our complete audited financial statements with an independent auditor's report by Capin Crouse LLP is available at [www.elporvenir.org/financials](http://www.elporvenir.org/financials).

## OUR WORK IN CIUDAD DARIO IS COMPLETE!

Your gifts support our water, sanitation, health & hygiene education, and watershed restoration programs to address the root causes of poverty in six municipalities across Nicaragua: El Sauce, Camoapa, San Lorenzo, Ciudad Dario, Terrabona, and Waslala.

Because of your support and the hard work of the people of Ciudad Dario, 2021 was our last official year developing projects there. With the pandemic, some projects have carried over into 2022: only two water systems need electrical connections to wrap up. Our hygiene educators will continue providing project maintenance support and education training through the end of 2022, but then our work there is finalized.

With your help and the commitment of the people of Ciudad Dario, we did it! Our water and sanitation development work in Ciudad Dario is complete, allowing us to focus on other areas of Nicaragua that desperately need clean water access. We couldn't do it without you. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of tens of thousands of rural Nicaraguans.



*To be effective, hygiene education has to include everyone. Here a student affixes a latrine advice sticker to the door of the latrine.*



*Nothing beats the moment when a drilling rig hits water! Residents watch as the drilling is taking place and cheer when they see the water, knowing that they'll soon have clean water to drink.*



*El Porvenir Hygiene Educators teach all ages about hygiene and the environment. These coloring books teach kids how to keep themselves healthy through handwashing and how to take care of their community and the environment around them.*

## FUEL-EFFICIENT STOVES: "I AM NO LONGER SUFFOCATING"



With her old stove, Adela López (above) feared that embers would fall on the ground or even on her feet; smoke got into other rooms in the house, too, causing coughing and other illnesses from inhaling so much smoke. With her new stove, the smoke is vented through the chimney.

Adela and her family now save on firewood because they can cook two things at the same time: "With the other stove, we could only make one thing at a time, so it took us more time to cook, and we used more firewood. On one burner I can make tortillas or rice or beans, and on the other I can make coffee. In addition to saving firewood, I am no longer suffocating with smoke."



*Jose Danilo proudly displays his family's new two-burner vented stove that uses 60% less firewood.*

## CLEAN WATER IN EL RINCON: "NOW WE HAVE CLEAN WATER POURING OUT."



Salvador Rivas Rayos, resident of El Rincón #2, Terrabona, and the other 324 members of the community used to bring water home in buckets from a spring 2 kilometers uphill.

"The water was not reliable; we brought it home unchlorinated and contaminated," said Rivas. One time the dirty water caused a cholera epidemic in the community.

The people of El Rincón #2 reached out to El Porvenir for support on a community water system so they could have clean, reliable water. The community contributed labor and materials for the

project plus food for the engineer, mason, and community members doing the construction.

Now 65 houses are connected to this system with a tap at each household. "Now, we have available water. We don't have to walk far anymore; we go out to the tap, put the bucket under, and have clean water pouring out," concluded Rivas.

## SAFE SANITATION: NO LONGER AFRAID

In Limón Dulce, San Lorenzo, Mercedes and her family lost their latrine in the back-to-back hurricanes in November 2020. They went from safe sanitation to going into the woods behind their home.

El Porvenir was able to work with them and others in the community to restore their latrines, and now Mercedes is no longer afraid that she or her children will be bitten by a snake, stung by a scorpion, or attacked by a nocturnal animal when trekking out to the woods.

"Now I feel better because we no longer do our necessities in the field. The children go safely to the new and well-built latrine," says Mercedes.



## 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



Community members work on a mosaic about the importance of paying their water bills in order to build up a maintenance fund.

### 2021 RESULTS: 36,682 BENEFICIARIES (+1,555 in progress at the end of 2021)

Program	Outputs and Beneficiaries
Water	5 wells (+2 in progress)
	27 water systems (+2 in progress)
	9,690 beneficiaries (+1,174 in progress)
Sanitation	500 latrines and toilets (+297 in progress)
	22 school handwashing stations (+1 in progress)
	10,080 beneficiaries (+1,726 in progress)
Health & Hygiene Education	21 workshops
	252 Chats
	2,058 Home visits
	3,090 Water quality tests
	31,272 beneficiaries
Watershed Restoration	90 fuel-efficient stoves
	100,358 trees planted
	82 tree nurseries
	5,117 meters of terraces
	499 stove beneficiaries; 2,854 for watershed restoration

## 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2021, with a strong base of dedicated funders, El Porvenir's projects impacted over 36,000 people in six rural regions of Nicaragua, improving regional coverage of water and sanitation systems and restoring watersheds to ensure access to water in the long term.

As Covid-19 spread in Nicaragua, El Porvenir was well positioned as a trusted and long-term partner able to address the critical importance of clean water and hygiene to prevent the spread of the disease.

Following public health guidance, occasionally our field teams paused visits with communities and worked remotely until conditions allowed. Even with delays in 2021, we surpassed most of our targets. In fact, we completed a record number of 27 water systems. There were several planned drilling projects that were not feasible, due to lack of water or arsenic contamination. The water scarcity has highlighted the need for our long-term investment in watershed restoration. We surpassed the 100,000 trees planted in a year milestone, for a cumulative total of almost 1.6 million trees.

Rebeca Reyes, a resident of Posoli, San Lorenzo said she was happy for the tree nursery project being developed in her rural community. With this nursery, they intend to improve the environment in which they live, protecting the banks, rivers, and all sources of water. "We've already seen a change in the environment thanks to planting trees. We know that if we plant more trees we will see our community improve," she said.



*This boy gives a big thumbs up to the new water tap at his home where clean water flows at the turn of the spigot.*



*Handwashing reduces illness by up to 58%. These students have learned proper handwashing techniques and now have a safe, clean place to wash their hands at school.*

**Plans for 2022:** We anticipate the challenges and uncertainties of the global pandemic, climate change, and economic need to continue throughout 2022. At the same time, we have confidence in our competent and dedicated staff, solid financial support, and a proven approach to sustainable and community-driven projects.



*This new school handwashing station and latrines means students don't have to worry where to go when they have to go, which improves school attendance and student health.*