

Annual Report

2022

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.



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Dear Friends, Supporters, and Staff,

We did it! Together, we accomplished the ultimate: we are no longer needed...in Ciudad Dario. El Porvenir has been working with rural Nicaraguans across the Ciudad Dario region for over 30 years. With the generous and enduring support of our donors and the persistent, can-do efforts of our staff in partnership with community members, we have built an extensive network of latrines, water supply wells and systems, and handwashing/washing stations as well as advanced watershed restoration.

More importantly, we have supported rural Nicaraguan communities in this region as they gained the capacity, confidence, and commitment to sustain the water and sanitation infrastructure and healthy habits knowledge sharing that supports their well-being for generations to come. While our daily work is to help communities build the latrines, wells, and washing stations they need, our goal is to build their capacity to sustain community water and sanitation infrastructure coupled with watershed stewardship—and ultimately to not be needed.

In 2022, we completed water and sanitation projects across all of our 6 active regions in Nicaragua benefiting over 27,000 people. It was a big year of getting projects moving and completed with our community partners. We have ambitious projects planned and underway for 2023 and are also planning to exit a second region: San Lorenzo. As we are exiting a second region, we are also turning our attention to the great need in another.



Completing the work and exiting from our first region is a tremendous milestone for El Porvenir. It takes patience and commitment across the organization—from the communities, staff, board, and you—to arrive at this point.

El Porvenir has the staying power it requires to make change that has a positive impact, a fierce commitment to the communities we serve, a team dedicated to patient, effective execution of the work needed, and the wisdom to know that we must strategically plan to exit—when the time is right—from the communities we work with. For it is their enduring resilience and sustainability without us that is the true measure of our success.

Thank you for supporting us in this work,
Leslie Moulton, El Porvenir Board Member



How We Work

El Porvenir does not initiate projects; staff members respond to requests for support from rural villages. Community residents elect their own project committee and then build, own, manage, and maintain their own projects. El Porvenir encourages the community to include women among the committee members as we have seen stronger committees when women are involved. El Porvenir provides technical expertise and training, lends tools, and funds the materials needed to complete projects. Health education staff visit the projects periodically after their completion to test water quality and ensure villagers know how to maintain their projects.

We work in hard to reach places and go the last mile because all people deserve clean water.



Residents learn how to maintain their new water system as they participate in all aspects of construction; above they are installing a submersible pump in their drilled well.



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 Education (WASH) projects.

We also take it a step further with our watershed restoration program, which promotes continuous 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.

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



El Porvenir Hygiene Educator Sonia Reyes uses fun techniques from singing to hand-wash-a-thons to interest and engage students. Murals on handwashing stations reinforce the message like the one here: “Wash your hands with soap and water.”



Our Staff

Our staff do what it takes and go where they need to go to get things done.



WATER, SANITATION, HYGIENE EDUCATION, AND WATERSHED RESTORATION

27,314

NICARAGUANS
SERVED



87,587

TREES PLANTED

10

SCHOOL HANDWASHING
STATIONS



21

WELLS
AND WATER
SYSTEMS

97

VENTED
FUEL-EFFICIENT
STOVES



25,038

HYGIENE EDUCATION
PARTICIPANTS



1,676

WATER QUALITY TESTS

33 OF 37

STAFF MEMBERS ARE
NICARAGUAN



537

LATRINES AND
TOILETS



2022: Year in Review

El Porvenir had an exciting end to 2022, celebrating the completion of the last water system to achieve full water coverage in Ciudad Dario. In December 2022, our Health and Hygiene Educators completed their education and training work there as well, and we fully transitioned out of the municipality.

We have worked with the people of Ciudad Dario for over 30 years to build sustainable water and sanitation infrastructure and will be leaving behind a legacy of trained, capable community members who own, operate, and maintain their own projects.



Over 30 years, the Ciudad Dario team—Mayra, David, Wendy, and Marlon—worked with communities to build over 150 water projects and 3,000 latrines, plant over 300,000 trees, and reinforce healthy habits and project sustainability.



One of the final projects completed in Ciudad Dario in 2022 was this water system in El Regadío. Water systems pipe clean, treated water directly to each home. This improves residents' health and frees up their time to engage in income-producing activities like opening a store, raising animals, and more.



A girl, in El Hato, Ciudad Dario in 2003, proudly shows off the new latrine her family built. We will miss the communities we've worked with there, but we know the families will maintain the infrastructure they built.



2022 Results Across All Regions

27,314 Beneficiaries

(+2,454 in progress at the end of 2022)

New community well in La Calera



Water	9 wells (+3 in progress)
	5 piped water systems (+5 in progress)
	2,827 beneficiaries (+1,939 in progress)

School handwashing station in El Caracol



Sanitation	537 latrines and toilets (+97 in progress)
	10 school handwashing stations
	3,246 (+515 in progress) beneficiaries



2022 Results Across All Regions

27,314 Beneficiaries

(+2,454 in progress at the end of 2022)



Health & Hygiene Education	19 workshops
	1,795 home visits
	1,676 water quality tests
	25,038 beneficiaries



Watershed Restoration	97 fuel-efficient stoves (+20 in progress)
	42 tree nurseries
	85,926 trees planted
	446 stoves beneficiaries, 2,632 for watershed restoration

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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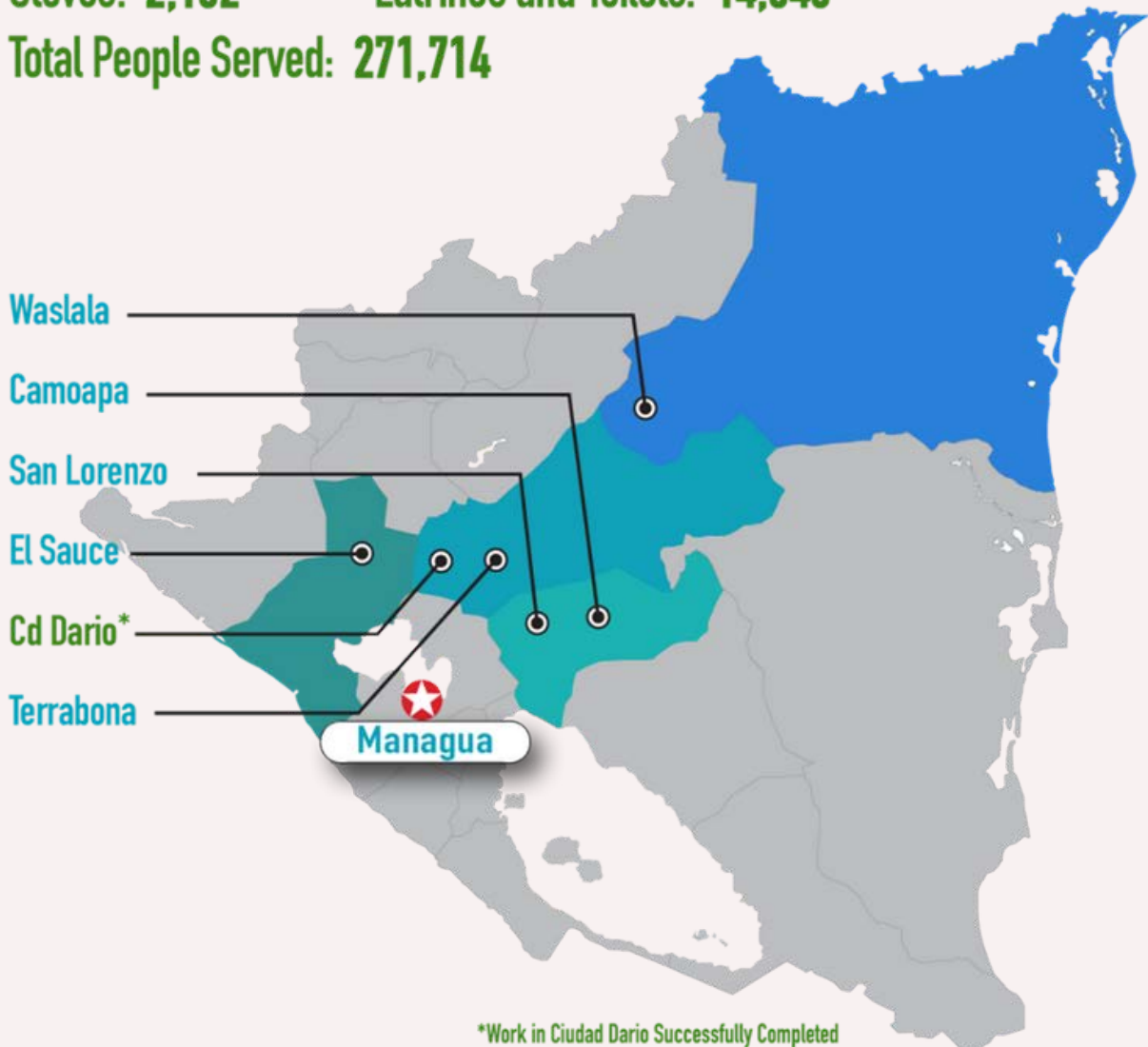


PROJECTS 1989–2022

Water Projects: **664** Trees Planted: **1,673,427**

Stoves: **2,152** Latrines and Toilets: **14,848**

Total People Served: **271,714**



27,314 Nicaraguans partnered with El Porvenir in 2022. From clean water flowing out of home taps to children having safe latrines and handwashing stations at their schools, we work with communities to change lives through water systems, reforestation, improved stoves, hygiene education, safe sanitation, and more. Since El Porvenir began over 30 years ago, we have worked with more than a quarter million Nicaraguans.

WATER

Water is a human right. Improving access to clean water saves time, increases school attendance, improves household finances, and improves health for rural families. Less time spent walking for water means more time for other activities. Communities own and maintain the water systems, collecting water tariffs to pay for operations and maintenance.



Karla is the President of the CAPS –Potable Water and Sanitation Committee—in El Hato. El Hato not only has a female community leader, but also has an all-women-led CAPS. The water system operator is a trained and capable 14-year-old girl.

Karla remembers they used to drink water directly from the river; she says they knew this wasn't the best option, but it was their only option and caused stomachaches and diarrhea. With their new water system, families' health and well-being is much improved.

"We were motivated to build this project because people had to carry water for a long time, and elderly people had to carry the water from the well to their houses in carts. That is why we had faith that El Porvenir and you were going to help us," she expressed. Karla and everyone in El Hato are grateful for your support of El Porvenir.



SANITATION

Everyone deserves a place to go! Private, safe latrines and toilets reduce open defecation which can spread disease and contaminate water sources.



Juana says life has improved for them: "Now it is different; we are no longer ashamed when people visit us. We have a good latrine."

Juana (left) and her family used to have an old latrine that had been damaged. During the rainy season, the ground around the latrine got so soggy that they worried the latrine would cave in.

"We decided to get involved in the project because the latrines are comfortable, well-built, and beautiful," said Juana.

Getting the materials to her community from the city of San Lorenzo was difficult because the road is so rocky and access to their community is limited. Once the materials were delivered, "Between my sons-in-law and my husband, the four of them brought the walls and roof for the latrine structure; we all helped each other," she emphasized.

This rural school had a latrine, but it was terrible, and there was only one for all of the students and teachers. The students were scared to use the old latrine because it didn't have a door. Señora Correa resolved this problem by sending two children together. While one was using the latrine, another child kept watch so no one else could see them.



Girls did not want to use the old latrine. They preferred to go home—but that meant that they had to walk 30 minutes to their homes and then 30 minutes back to school.

Now, the children are excited and happy to have new, safe, clean latrines. They want to plant flowers around their new latrines. They want to clean it every day. One father is a carpenter, and he is making wooden seat covers for every latrine.

"As a teacher and representative of the school, we want to thank you very much for your help and support. You have thought of us and our necessities by supporting this project and making our school shine again. We are very proud of this project, we are going to take care of it, and we are going to make you feel proud of us," said Señora Correa.



HYGIENE EDUCATION

Together with sanitation, improved hygiene at schools improves school attendance, and better handwashing practices reduces the spread of disease and infections. Colorfully painted handwashing stations also reinforce hygiene and environmental education lessons.

Our menstrual hygiene education program helps reduce barriers to education by breaking down myths, fills gaps in teacher education and resources, reduces bullying, and increases confidence of girls to attend school even on their period, knowing that their teachers are accessible for questions and that sanitary napkins or tampons are available in the hygiene corner if needed.



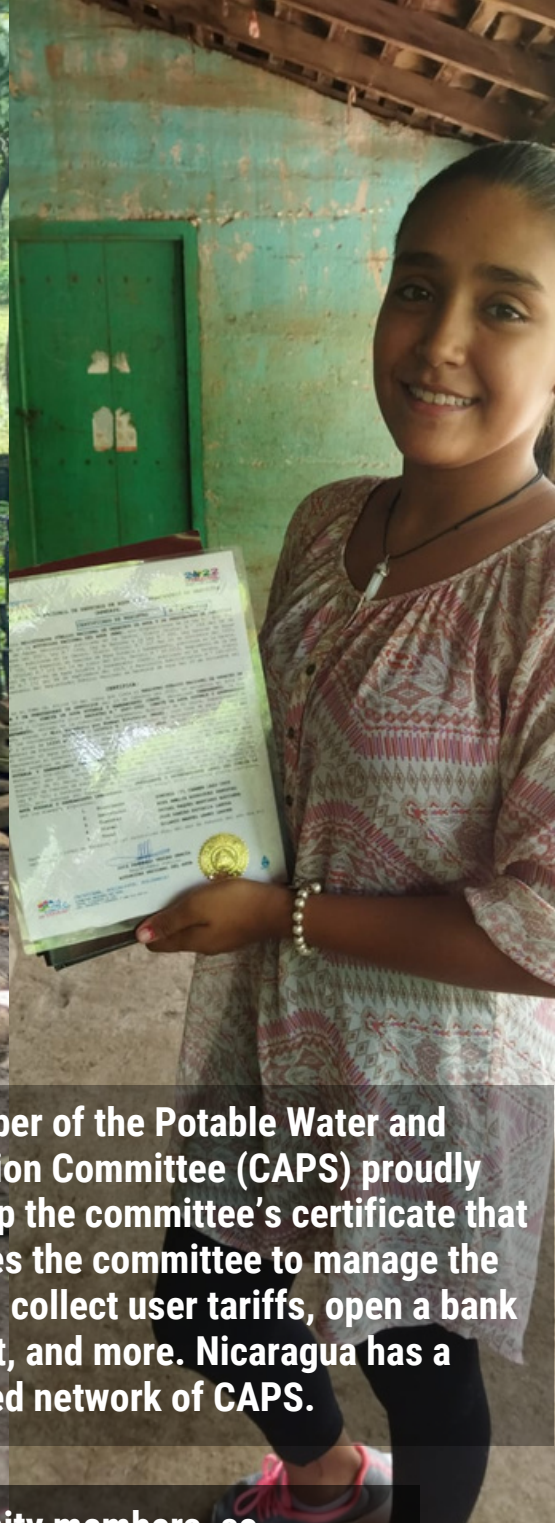
"I really liked that they talked to me about menstruation. Even though I don't have my period yet, I feel more prepared for when I have to face those changes."--Diana



These students used to wash their hands by pouring water out of jugs. In the process, their shoes and clothes got wet, and they unintentionally wasted a lot of water. Now they are happy with their handwashing station; they love the mural on it that reinforces our environmental education program and are motivated to wash their hands before eating and after using the school latrine.



Contaminated water leads to water-borne illnesses; regular water tests at the source and household taps can indicate sources of contamination. Our promoters train community leaders, as seen in the photo, to test for the presence of pathogens. Poor results may require adjustments to chlorination, repairs to the system, or changes in water storage habits.



A member of the Potable Water and Sanitation Committee (CAPS) proudly holds up the committee's certificate that legalizes the committee to manage the project, collect user tariffs, open a bank account, and more. Nicaragua has a legalized network of CAPS.

Projects are built, owned, operated, and maintained by community members, so residents are trained and supported for project sustainability. We use a train-the-trainer approach so that community leaders can share their learnings on topics like handwashing, water storage, latrine maintenance, and the link between water and trees.



Watersheds

Increased forest canopy and sustainable land-use management improves water security and promotes climate change resiliency. By restoring watersheds, we reduce soil erosion, increase rainwater absorption, and restore stream flow. Trees are nature's elegant solution for carbon storage, and we have worked with community members to plant more than a million and a half trees.



Fuel-efficient, vented stoves consume up to 60% less firewood, reducing the time spent collecting and carrying firewood as well as reducing deforestation. Chimneys vent smoke out of the house, reducing smoke inhalation and thereby reducing the risk of developing respiratory disease. Stoves are raised off the ground, making it safer for children and more comfortable for the person cooking. Stoves are constructed to efficiently enclose the firewood and provide ample cooking surface.

"Now we use less firewood and my house is no longer full of smoke." --Erica



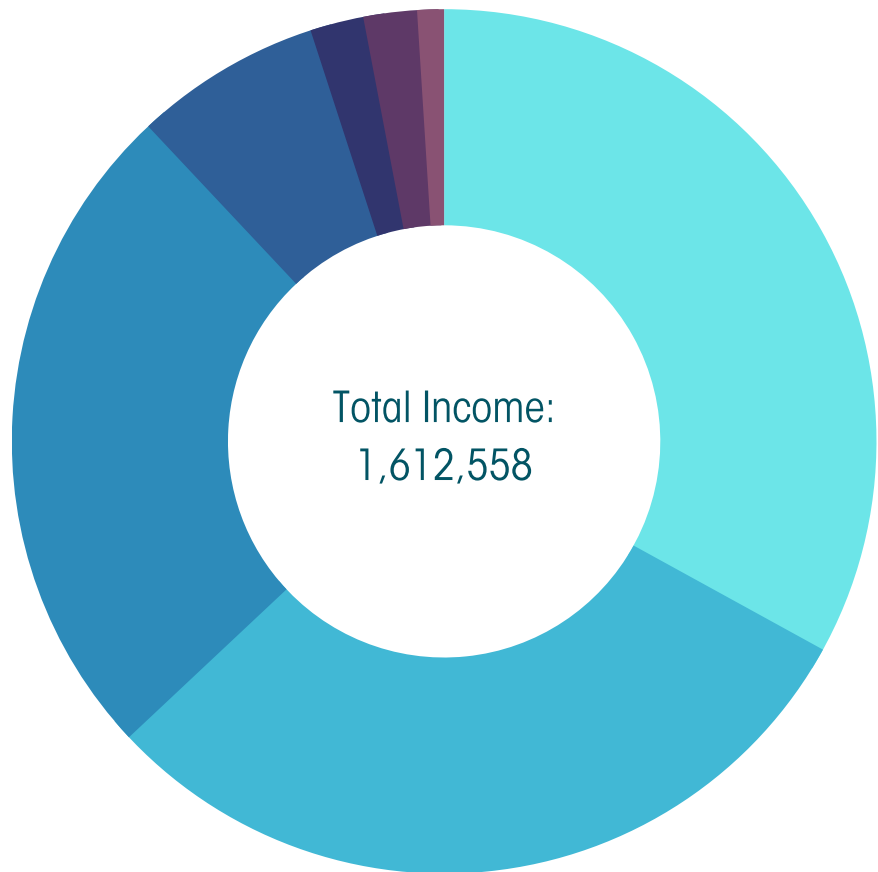
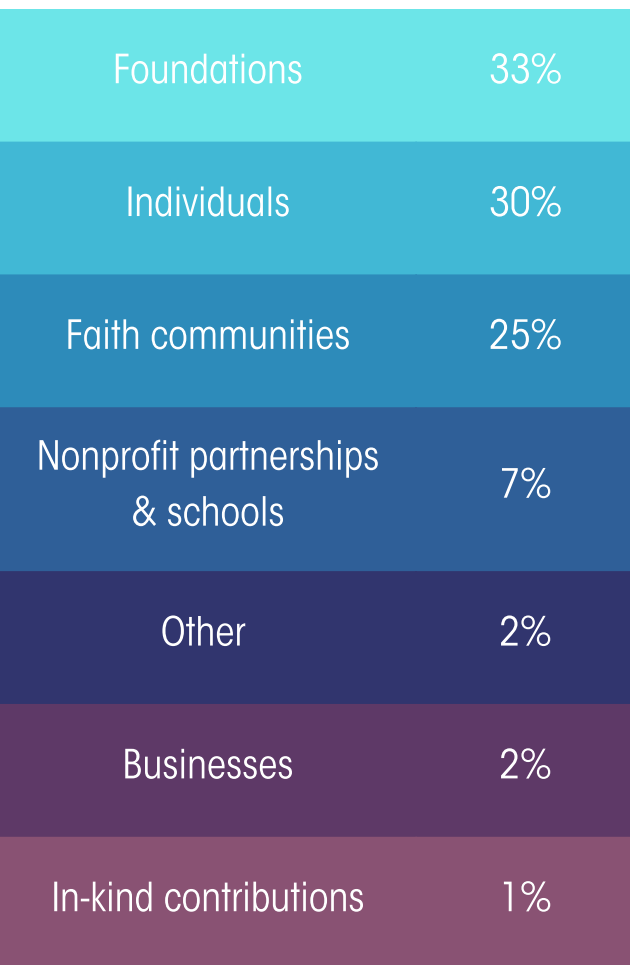
Pastor (below) is a resident of Las Cruces; before working with El Porvenir, his and his family's farms were neglected; the ground did not absorb the rain. Thanks to El Porvenir's watershed program, Pastor and others in Las Cruces have learned new practices. "We see this as a future for our children so they will have good land to work on," he expressed. They now practice agroforestry and have orchards, and they set up a local seed bank. They have planted trees throughout their watershed, and already can feel the cooling impact of the trees. "One breathes more pure air, more nature," he emphasizes.

"This work is a legacy we leave for our children. It is land we have made better." --Pastor

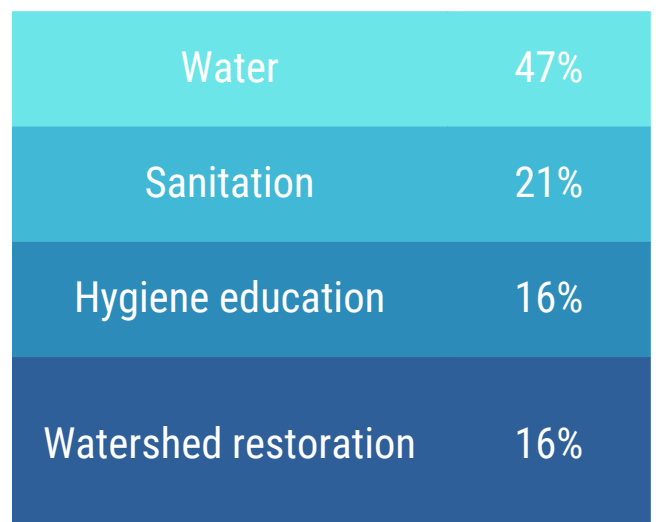


Financials

Sources of Income



2022 Expenses



Total Expenses: \$1,756,703

NET ASSETS, beginning of the year: \$510,392

NET ASSETS, end of the year: \$350,718

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.

What's Ahead

We dream of working ourselves out of a job: El Porvenir works to achieve universal coverage of water and sanitation in targeted rural regions across Nicaragua.

Using lessons learned from closing operations in Ciudad Dario, our staff are planning for transitions out of other regions where we are approaching universal coverage. We are strengthening partnerships with local municipalities, suppliers, and other NGOs in order to support completed projects. In 2023, we will be completing water and sanitation project work in San Lorenzo, with hygiene education and watershed restoration work continuing into at least 2025. We also anticipate completing all water and sanitation projects in El Sauce and Terrabona in the coming years AND beginning work in a new region in 2024. We are able to do this because of hardworking staff, industrious community members, and committed supporters like you.

We are actively creating a strategic plan for 2024-2030 and are implementing a new mobile monitoring and evaluation data collection platform. These are exciting times as we build our capacity to increase our impact across current and new regions.

Your support honors the thousands of hours of hard work that community members spend organizing and installing projects that they will own and maintain. We look forward to your continued partnership as we respond to the needs of rural Nicaraguan villages and advance our mission together. We can't do this without you. Thank you!

These students are celebrating World Water Day, and as the words behind them say, "We can live in harmony with nature."

