



Final Report

El Roblar, Nicaragua

Project Reference: 363/LA/17

Implemented by Just a Drop

Supported by Baltimore Aircoil
Company

August 2019



Just
a Drop



The Project

Just a Drop is pleased to provide the final report to Baltimore Aircoil Company for El Roblar in Nicaragua, where we have brought safe water to an entire community of 210 people.

Nicaragua is one of the poorest countries in Latin America, with 42% of the population living below the poverty line. The country has a history of dictatorship and civil war. The 1979 revolution was followed by a decade of bitter conflict and a devastating trade embargo, which claimed the lives of 30,000 people and brought the economy to the point of collapse. Significant progress towards reconciliation has been made since 1990. However, although Nicaragua is water-rich, water accessibility and efficiency is poor due to the widespread destruction of much of the country's infrastructure during this period.

The following outcomes have been achieved:

1

Access to safe drinking water

- An electric pumping water system using a drilled well as the water source with 35 connections, supplying 34 families and 1 school

2

Improved hygiene practices & knowledge

- Established a Potable Water and Sanitation Committee (CAPS)
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) training with the community, including safe water and handwashing

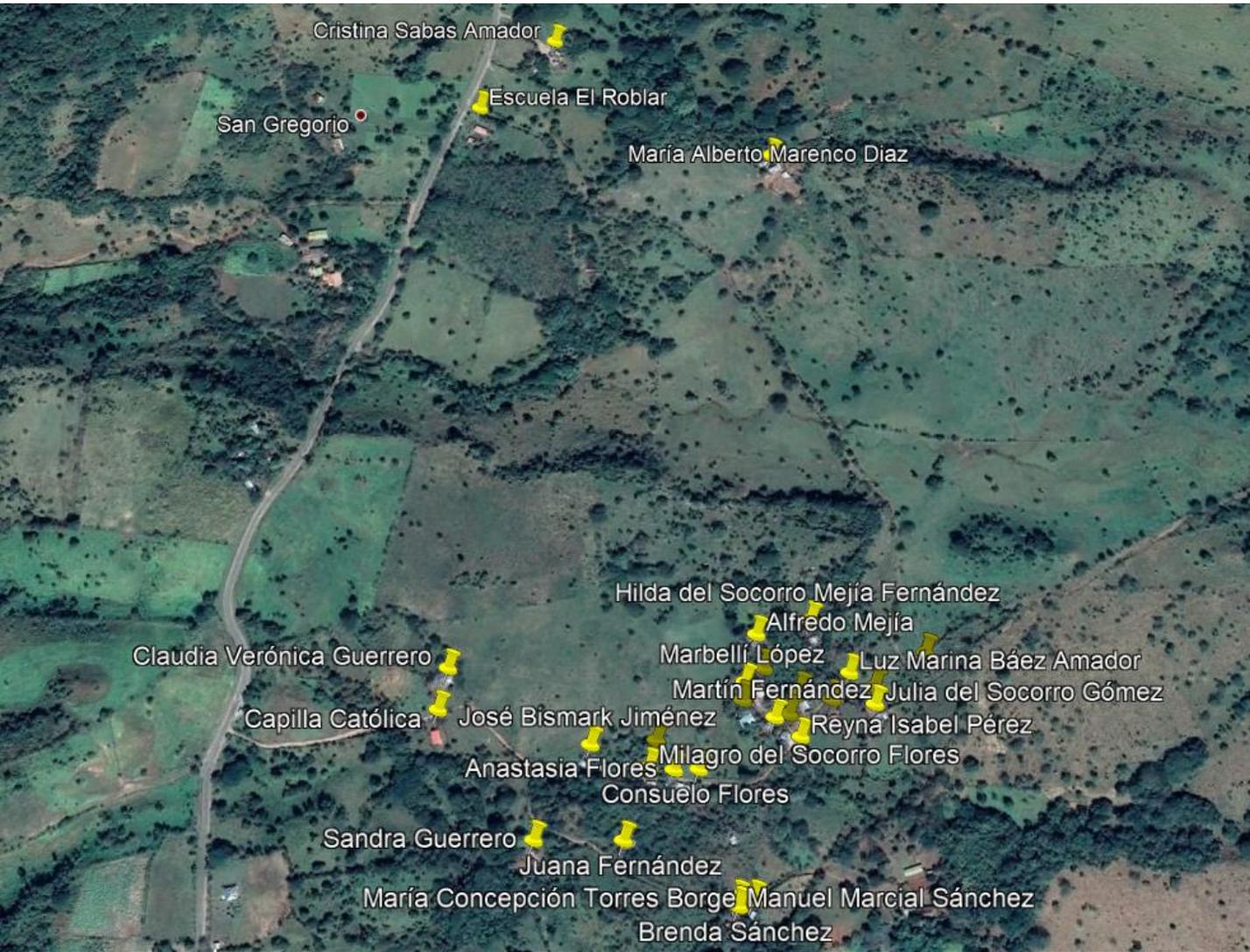
Helping to tackle the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:





Location

The GPS coordinates of El Roblar are: 12.334215, -85.509919





El Roblar

With funds generously donated by Baltimore Aircoil Company, work began on a project to improve access to safe water for the El Roblar community in Nicaragua.

Previously, the community's water supply was a well built by the government in 2000, however it was in bad condition with a poor yield and difficult to access. Another well was drilled in 2016 which is the source for the piped system constructed. Each day families would spend 1-2 hours collecting water, making 4-5 trips.

This is a thing of the past, now all 34 families in the community have clean, potable water straight to their homes and the local school has a connection as well.



Pump house and pipework going to the storage tank



El Roblar



Reyna



Alfredo



Cristina



Martha



El Roblar School



Sustainability

Just a Drop aims to ensure that the local community is involved with a project from the outset to encourage community commitment and ownership of the project, supporting its sustainability.

There was a fantastic community effort with this project and it was built with community labour from each family. These activities included moving construction materials, digging trenches, mixing cement and building the tower. The community also donated materials like sand and water meters.

Once the CAPS committee was established, of 3 woman and 2 men, they coordinated all of the community efforts to help support the smooth running of the project. They will also be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the facilities, of which they have been trained on.

This project also included WASH training, with topics including hygiene, latrine use, hand-washing etc., which is crucial to increase the impact of this project and ensure its sustainability.



Community working during construction



Impact



We spent 9 years without water in our home, and we had to walk more than a kilometre away to carry four buckets of water - every day. The situation was more difficult during the rainy season when carrying the water on foot, as rain helped form mud on the paths. We were in danger of breaking a foot while carrying the water. Now with this new project, our problems have disappeared. We are very happy and grateful, because now we have the water in our own home and we have time to do other things for the community. - *Bismark*





Site Visit

In June 2019, it was a pleasure for Just a Drop to host BAC at El Roblar. We saw the community had spent 7 days digging the pipeline from the pump house to the water distribution tank, which was around 700 metres away, across some rough terrain, it's very much to their credit that they did this and it was spoken about with real pride.

They said that many people helped and it was really hard work!



At the pump house, Bismarck – a day labourer, who works with a machete - looks after the pump house, visiting every day. He called the water “the vital liquid” and he does the volunteer job because it benefits everyone and he's keen to do it, he really wanted to. He demonstrated how it all worked whilst everyone watched, he was really happy to show us.

The water solution is a real benefit to the people at El Roblar, it's clear that it's making a difference and the community worked hard to achieve it.



Site Visit





Impact

Expected overall impact on the community:

- An improvement in health and well being across the community, as the instance of water-related illnesses will decrease with reliable access to safe water
- Children will be able to attend school more regularly and improve their performance, as they will be less ill
- Reduction in the need to spend money on medications, money which can be used elsewhere
- Improved economic opportunities and increased productivity, particularly as precious time is not spent collecting water



Just a Drop is very grateful to Baltimore Aircoil Company for your support – thank you!



**Just
a Drop**

**Just a Drop
Gateway House
28 The Quadrant
Richmond
TW9 1DN**

www.justadrop.org