

**WATER AND SANITATION FOR POZA AZUL, NICARAGUA  
FINAL REPORT TO THE ANN CAMPANA JUDGE FOUNDATION**

**El Porvenir  
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**Project Description**

The village of Poza Azul, Leon Province, Nicaragua, has 45 families, 160 people, living in several small sectors. Representatives of this village came to the El Porvenir office in El Sauce, and requested assistance with their water and sanitation problems. El Porvenir works only in response to initiatives from the community to be benefited.

In this village there are three water sources for 45 homes with 160 inhabitants. One is a spring capture that dries up in the summer months. As the dry season advances, the spring gives less and less water and the women line up at the faucet for one bucket of water per family per day. At this season the families turn to the owner of a private well to purchase small quantities of water from her. The third water source, the subject of the ACJF project, was a communal well dug many years ago that was in need of renovation. Because the spring dries up in summer it was not considered a viable project, and private water sources are never the subject of El Porvenir development work. The nine families who live near the communal well are at the lowest point in the community, below the spring, and had to climb up a steep incline in order to reach what little water it gave for half the year.

At the time of requesting the project, the community had 45 latrines, built many years ago, of which 19 were deemed to be still in useable condition. The other latrines were full, deteriorated, and unusable.

The project consisted of an extensive rehabilitation of the existing inadequate public well, and the construction of 26 family latrines. The latrine project benefited 26 families (112 people 57 adults, 55 children) living in the two sectors, including all well beneficiaries; the well project benefited one sector of nine families (45 people, 19 adults, 26 children).

The improvements to the well included digging the well deeper as it only had 50 centimeters of water (our requirement for a well serving 10 families is two meters of water), rebuilding the well ring and skirt, constructing a new top and installing a rope pump. All work was carried out by the villagers on a volunteer basis.

The 26 new latrines which were constructed to replace the ones no longer usable now bring to 100% the sanitary coverage of this village.

**Project Accomplishments**

This is the new well at Poza Azul:



Here villagers participate in “achicando”, pumping out the well to clean it.



Achicando can be fun, you get a cool shower in very clean water.





### **Accomplishing Objectives**

The objectives of the project were to improve the health of the residents of Poza Azul through improving the quality and quantity of water supply and through 100% sanitary facility coverage of the village.

The intermediate objective, constructing improved water supply and sanitary facilities, has been achieved. The latrines at Poza Azul were completed during the first part of the grant period, each family providing the manual labor required to dig the latrine hole, line it, build up a foundation, mortar in place the precast floor slab and seat in place, and construct the brick latrine house, zinc roof and door. The well took significantly longer. (See below.)



These kids think it is just great that their family now has a latrine. The door hasn't been put on yet but everything else is finished.





This one is complete with roof, door, and family.

The long-term objective of the project, improving the health of the residents, can only be verified over time. El Porvenir collects health data in the regions and districts where we work, measuring project impact by a reduction in the number of villagers visiting the health center for diarrhea and related illnesses. One year after the completion of the project we hope to be able to see fewer visits to the nearest health post for treatment of diarrheal disease.

El Porvenir provides long-term follow up after the completion of well or latrine projects, through the visits of staff reforesters and community health educators. The community of Poza Azul will be able to participate now in the reforestation project, having completed a water project. Long-term protection of the microcuenca of the water source is a major concern, and villagers will learn how to build a seedling nursery, tend the germinating plants, and transplant them into protected areas in the coming years. El Porvenir health educators will visit the community

periodically to teach continuing cleaning and maintenance of the well and latrines as well as good hygiene (handwashing, chlorination of water supply), to support the local committee in meeting its responsibility for the projects, and to collect health data.

Here is the Rol de Limpieza or cleanup and maintenance list drawn up by the beneficiary families, Poza Azul.



## Overcoming Obstacles

The unusually long period of time required to complete this well rehabilitation was due to two factors: the stubborn rock which had to be dug out in order to deepen the well, and the increasing migration of the men of these families to Costa Rica and El Salvador in search of work. The combination of these two factors led to the hiring of a local well-digger to overcome the large rocks at the bottom of the well. Because this person had special equipment for breaking the rock, he was able to achieve what the village could not: deepening the well to two meters of water. The village was not able to do this in part because they lacked the rock-breaking tools and in part because so few men were left when the harvesting season in Costa Rica began, a time when manpower is needed there and Nicaraguans cross the border in numbers seeking work. Men of Poza Azul also migrate to another region of Nicaragua to the great Ingenio San Antonio, Nicaragua's oldest and largest sugar cane plantation, for the *zafra*, the cutting of the cane. This community was well organized and highly motivated to complete the water and sanitation projects, as demonstrated by their rapid construction of the 26 latrines. And finally, they were able to complete both aspects of their new community infrastructure.

## Expenditure of ACJF Funds

**Total amount of grant: \$3,898.12**

### Expenses of Poza Azul Water and Sanitation Project

Item	Cost
Materials for well rehab, legalization of site	508.29
Materials for latrines	2,503.69
Tools	80.00
Salary Development Worker	550.00
Transportation and Per diem Development Worker	74.80
Community Health Education	200.00
<b>Total Spent</b>	<b>\$3,916.78</b>

Value of Community volunteer labor                   \$ 972.00

Value of wood provided by community               \$ 488.00

**Total cost of project                                       \$5,376.78**