

Lomas Del Sol, Nicaragua Sanitation



CHAPTER

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

PROJECT TYPE(S)

Sanitation

PROJECT ADOPTION DATE

June 2013

PROJECT PHASE

Implementation

DIRECTLY AFFECTS

262

INDIRECTLY AFFECTS

1,000

FUNDS NEEDED

\$16,000



THE NEED

Due to major flooding in 2010 and 2011 in San Francisco Libre, Nicaragua, about three hundred families were permanently relocated by the local government. Considered to be in extreme poverty, the community is still suffering the effects of damage to sanitation systems and homes, particularly in the Lomas del Sol area where forty families are without latrines. Although several new homes were built by the government at a higher elevation, families are reluctant to move in until the homes have latrines. Families who have already moved in must walk long distances to use existing latrines at other homes.

PROJECT SCOPE

EWB-USA UNLV aims to improve the quality of life in the village by constructing 40 composting latrines. This will alleviate concerns about moving into the new homes, which were built in a location where flooding is no longer a risk. A particular goal is building composting latrines that will last a lifetime. Pit latrines built recently in the area are only expected to last 2-3 years based on the size and inability to dig deep holes in the rocky soil. The project will include education components on good sanitation habits and latrine maintenance to ensure sustainability of the program.

FUTURE INVOLVEMENT

The first implementation trip (construction of 7 composting latrines and education program) was completed in August 2014. A second implementation trip is tentatively planned for July 2015. The goal is to build an additional 10-15 composting latrines and work toward having community members be able to lead the construction process.

For future projects, the chapter will look at hand-washing systems and rainwater harvesting systems to complement the composting latrines. The chapter will also assist with sanitation or other projects suggested by the communities of San Francisco Libre.

About Engineers Without Borders USA

EWB-USA is a nonprofit humanitarian organization established to support community-driven development programs worldwide through partnerships that design and implement sustainable engineering projects. Over 12,000 EWB-USA members, comprised of professional and student engineers or other disciplines, work with local communities and NGOs in over 45 developing countries around the world on projects such as water, renewable energy, sanitation and more. EWB-USA has touched the lives of more than one million people. For more information visit www.ewb-usa.org

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