

## **Project Concern International**

### **Nicaragua Water and Sanitation (MASAPA) Project Update December 14, 2009**

The goal of the MASAPA (Mejorando Agua y Saneamiento en Patastillal / Improving Water and Sanitation in Patastillal) Project is to improve the quality of life of the Patastillal community in the department of Jinotega, Nicaragua through the provision of safe drinking water and latrines as well as improved sanitation and hygiene practices among its 510 inhabitants. The new water system will serve 102 family households, the community school and the local health post. A total of 27 latrines are also being built for 23 local households currently without adequate sanitation, two latrines in each community school and two in the health post. The water system and latrines will ensure safe drinking water and sanitary conditions for several generations to come, estimated to reach 954 inhabitants by the year 2028.

The MASAPA Project is utilizing three key strategies critical to the success and sustainability of this important water and sanitation investment: (1) participatory development of water system/latrine infrastructure; (2) education for improved hygiene practices and infrastructure maintenance; and (3) building the capacity of the community to use joint decision-making and applied gender equity to organize around a common purpose and achieve results.

To date, the project has organized the CAPS (Comité de Agua Potable y Saneamiento / Community Water and Sanitation Committee) to provide the above mentioned training activities which are now 98% complete. In addition, construction of the water system is well underway, with 5,764 linear meters of pipelines installed (90%) and the construction of two new water catchment facilities at the two main water sources are now 80% complete. Construction of an 8,500 gal capacity storage tank has also reached 35% completion and 95 household water posts have been installed (out of target 102). Latrine construction activities have reached 15% completion with the initial work of identifying the proper location and digging the pits (semi elevated pits) now finished.

The local community has also made a significant contribution to the development of these infrastructure activities, including the contribution of a total of 14,8720 labor hours as well as construction materials. Additionally, community members meet with project staff every 15 days to evaluate progress, receive health and sanitation trainings and plan community mobilization and education activities. Furthermore, an agreement was signed between PCI and the municipal government of Pantasma who have contributed both materials and local staff in support of this project.

Through November 2009, PCI has expended a total of \$23,109 (45%) of the total project budget (\$51,055).