



Providing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene [WaSH] Intervention in Villa Vasquez, Dominican Republic

A Report on Your Gift of a Clean Water System at the Sembrando Esperanza Child Development Center

Photo: A new area was created in the building's second story as the concrete slab was poured.

Kit and Marilyn, once again it is our blessing to say “thank you” for stepping forward to provide access to safe water at the Sembrando Esperanza Child Development Center in Villa Vasquez, Dominican Republic. Your generosity in providing a clean water system and implementing hygiene/sanitation training at the center will soon be transforming lives throughout the community. It is our privilege to provide you the following update on the progress of this important intervention.

RECAP OF PREVIOUSLY REPORTED PROGRESS

As we reported in our last update, the intervention was launched this past July with orientation and planning meetings between Compassion DR staff, partner church pastor Santos Pérez, and selected church and center leaders.

In addition, Pastor Jorge Calderon of the Compassion partner church in Villa Gonzalez volunteered to serve as project consultant, free of charge. With his engineering background and experience with a similar project at his own church—also made possible by your generosity—Pastor Calderon designed both a plan for infrastructure modifications and a budget for the intervention at Villa Vasquez.

MOST RECENT PROJECT MILESTONES

At the beginning of September the infrastructure modifications were launched. As of the latest report from Compassion DR, dated December 15, these modifications are about 50 percent completed. The construction is reportedly progressing smoothly, with the following accomplishments to date:

- Modifications to the water well on the partner church premises

- An underground cistern with a 10,000-gallon capacity
- The roof and basic structure of the facility to house the water purification system

We are especially pleased to report that Pastor Pérez and the project committee have been diligent stewards of your gift, ensuring both the quality and cost-efficiency of materials and supplies. Specifically, they have been able to obtain significant discounts on construction materials from suppliers, as well as a tax exemption on both the materials and the water purification system.

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Prepared for:
Kit and Marilyn Garren
Presented by: **Rob Porter**

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In addition, volunteers from among the partner church members and children's caregivers have been recruited to provide for the project's general labor needs at

a minimal cost, and Christian leaders from the community with expertise in different areas of need (e.g., plumbing and electrical works, concrete work and general contracting) are contributing

their services.

This coming together of the community is resulting in a 40 percent labor savings over the original budget.



Left: The progress in the construction following the sketches or design originally submitted can be seen here as walls are laid atop the foundation.

Below Left: The front of the Sembrando Esperanza Child Development Center is seen here in September 2015 before the start of renovations.

Below Right: Cement cinder blocks sit next to the new construction.



The project committee is also in the final stages of selecting a supplier for the reverse osmosis filtration system. Although MEGAGUA was an outstanding supplier for the system at Villa Gonzalez and will likely be the final choice, the committee is taking the time to review all options. The system requirements for meeting the clean water needs in Villa Vasquez include the following:

- Capacity to produce up to 6,000 gallons per day (1,200 5-gallon containers)
- Capacity to store 5,000 gallons of untreated water
- Capacity to store 2,000 gallons of purified water

- Free warranty coverage for at least one year

Pastor Calderon is faithfully guiding and monitoring all project activities, and according to the latest report, “He is a high-profile civil engineer whose meticulousness is adding profitability to the project.”

Barring any unforeseen obstacles, the infrastructure modifications and water system installation are on schedule for completion in March.

An initial information meeting about the project was held with assisted children and their caregivers at the end of October, and a second one was planned for December 18, in conjunction with the Compassion center’s Christmas celebration.



Above: The original front façade of the center can be seen here behind the new construction.

Right: A construction worker manipulates rebar that will be used to strengthen the load-bearing walls of the new structure.





Above Left and Right: A new area was created in the second story as the concrete slab that serves as the second story floor was poured. The new area in the first story is space for the water purification system.

Below Left: Here is the new construction as seen from the rear of the center.

THE IMPACT

This project is already having a significant impact on Villa Vasquez' 2,500 citizens. It is providing them with a much-needed sense of development and progress, which is anticipated to raise their commitment to making lifestyle changes in regard to hygiene and sanitation.

In addition, the reputation of the

church as an effective change agent for the community's benefit is growing, and Pastor Pérez, as well as Compassion Center Director Ruth Reyes, are being viewed as prominent local leaders. The church is already holding discussions with the mayor about plans to construct new classrooms above the system's housing facility. The mayor has indicated his full support for this future project.

Most important, the elevation of the church and its Compassion center in the community's eyes will certainly lead to more open doors for sharing the gospel and growing God's Kingdom in Villa Vasquez. Pastor Pérez also reports that this intervention is building "a remarkable cohesion of the church members around a holistic vision of the church for the community for years to come."



THANK YOU

Kit and Marilyn, we look forward to reporting to you again in the next few months on the progress of this life-changing intervention. In the meantime, we join you in praying for its successful completion. Thank you again, and may God continue to bless you!

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

JEREMIAH 29:11 NIV

THANK YOU! Your generosity meets critical needs for children and touches God’s heart. We are grateful for your partnership! If you would like more information or want to discuss your goals for the Kingdom, I would be honored to connect with you.

Rob Porter | 864.986.8423 | rporter@us.ci.org

