



Agua Para La Vida

2311 Webster Street
Berkeley, CA 94705
(510) 643-8003
apl@igc.org
www.aplv.org

Board of Directors
Gilles Corcos, Co-Director
Charlie Huizenga, Co-Director
Erik Decamp
Bill McQueeney
Kelly Naylor
Debbie Parducci
Jean-Philippe Vial

December 2004

Mudslides damage water projects and leave 2,500 homeless

Heavy June rains caused dozens of mudslides in the region of Rio Blanco, Nicaragua, killing 25 people, leaving over 2,500 homeless and partially damaging eight Agua Para La Vida water projects.

The underlying cause of the heavy damage is the deforestation that has taken place over the past few decades. Trees help retain the soil and reduce runoff from storms. Nicaragua lost nearly 50% of its forest cover since 1950 and it continues to lose it at an increasing rate.

For the past 10 years, Agua Para La Vida has been actively working to protect and reforest the watersheds in the communities where we work. The extent of the damage caused this summer underlines the importance of this work.



Community members working on a fence of live trees that protect the land around the spring from grazing animals.

Emergency Relief

We have been working closely with the mayor's office of Rio Blanco, the International Red Cross, and UNICEF to help coordinate relief efforts in the area. Ten shelters have been set up to house those people displaced by the damage and APLV has funded the construction of latrines for the shelters. Our students had the

opportunity to get some added experience supervising the construction of the latrines, which were built by the people living in shelters.



A shiny new latrine will have a big impact on these children's health.

Rebuilding

Beyond making improvements to the conditions in the shelters, APLV has been planning and fundraising to repair the damage caused to existing projects. We are grateful to UNICEF, UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief), Rural Water Ventures and several individual donors for their financial support as we begin to rebuild. The damage to our projects makes our fundraising efforts even more important this year.

1,000 more people have clean water!

APLV completed five new water projects in 2004, bringing clean water and improved sanitation to nearly 1000 people. Projects were completed in the communities of El Palancito, Walana, San Isidro, Pueblo Nuevo, and El Bijagua. El Palancito and Walana were done in collaboration with Rural Water Ventures and El Bijagua in collaboration with El Porvenir.

Students to graduate in January

After a little more than two years of studying and hard work, 3 women and 3 men will be graduating from ETAP (APLV's technical school) in January. Our instructor, Jim Stacey, has been responsible for their training and has done an excellent job. The school is an important part of our mission to develop local capacity to build quality water projects. We hope these six enthusiastic young people will go on to make a difference!

What you can do...

- Make a **financial contribution** to APLV. Consider making a larger gift than you did last year.
- **Spread the word!** We've enclosed a copy of our brochure- pass it along to somebody you think will want to help improve the lives of some of the poorest people in the Western Hemisphere.

We thank you for your support and wish the whole world a year of peace, good health and clean water.



Agua Para La Vida
2311 Webster Street
Berkeley, CA 94705

- I'm interested in learning more about the APLV Nicaragua Project Tour next spring
- Please add the following person to the APLV mailing list
- I would like to support APLV in bringing clean drinking water to the people of Nicaragua. Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of:
 - \$25 Material cost for drinking water for one person
 - \$50 Material cost of 500 seedlings for reforestation
 - \$100 Material cost of a latrine for a family
 - \$200 Sponsorship for one APLV technical student for one month
 - \$300 Material cost for drinking water for an entire family
 - \$500 Drinking water, latrine and trees for an entire family

Name _____
Address _____
City, State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
(no need to fill this out if we have your address already!)