

Project update, 6th April 2011

The purpose of this note is to give an update on the development of Phase 1 of the water project at La Unión and Nuevo Amanecer since the last formal project update, presented on 31st January 2011.

Progress to date (Implementation Phase 1)

- 90% of the trenches have now been dug. Some community members have not yet completed the 41 metres of trench they have been assigned. Other trenches have been left until the last minute to allow access to all parts of the community.
- All the sand has now been transported to the site.
- The materials purchased for the construction of the pumphouse and the repair of the water tank have been delivered to the site.
- The water tank has been repaired and a fence installed.
- The new pumphouse is 50% complete.
- The old pump has been removed from the borehole.
- The area around the well has been legally signed over to the Mayor and has been fenced off.
- The pipes for the distribution system have been delivered and are now being laid (more pipes will be purchased once it is known how many of the old pipes can be reused).
- An experienced plumber has been contracted by the Mayor's office to supervise the installation of the system.
- Water meters and shut-off valves for domestic connections are being installed with the pipes.
- A contract has been let for the installation of the power lines and transformer.
- A request for connection to the mains has been submitted to Unión Fenosa along with detailed plans for the electrical installation.
- A pump with 5 HP motor, associated headworks and control panel have been purchased. They will be installed by the supplier once the electrical installation has been completed. It has been confirmed with documentation provided by the manufacturer that the pump and motor are suitable for temperatures of up to 50°C (the water temperature is around 45°C) and the pump is guaranteed for one year. The energy costs should be around C\$6 (\$0.27) for every 1,000 gallons pumped (at current prices).
- A final report has been submitted to the Mayor of Telica for Phase 1. Although the project is not complete, all funds contributed by the Mayor have now been spent. The submission of this report allows the Mayor to release funds for subsequent phases of the project; it would be advantageous to install the two distribution systems at the same time since they use the same trenches.

Social aspects

There have been significant challenges in the implementation phase with respect to the social aspects of the project. It appears that the water committee ('CAPS') was not constituted correctly according to the procedure outlined in the relevant legislation and is merely a duplication of the 'Citizen Power' committee ('GPC'). Its legitimacy is disputed by some in the community. There has been an ongoing power struggle between the *de facto* leaders of Nuevo Amanecer and La Unión and this has been damaging to the functioning of the CAPS. A recommendation was made to the Mayor of Telica that the CAPS be dissolved and reconstituted in accordance with the procedure laid out in the relevant laws, but this was deemed to be unnecessary at this stage. It was also recommended that the participation of women in positions of authority should be actively encouraged. It has been noted that the women members of the CAPS are generally more willing to work together than the men. After meeting with the mayor and members of the community in Nuevo Amanecer on Friday 1st April, it appears likely that the presence of the plumber in the community to supervise the installation of the distribution will be sufficient to increase motivation and encourage enough participation to complete the installation of the network. However, it is most unlikely that the CAPS in its current form will be able to effectively manage the water system, collecting monthly tariffs and paying for the electricity and maintenance of the system. The Mayor has promised to revisit this issue once the installation is complete.

Financial Summary to 31st March 2011

	Nov-Dec 2010	Jan-Feb 2011	Mar 2011
Implementation phase 1 (funded by Mayor of Telica)			
Materials purchased	23,726.20		
Pumping test	400.00		
Transport of sand		2,819.52	
Electrification			13,650.00
Pump and headworks			8,907.90
Reimbursement of sales tax			- 2,712.32
TOTAL	\$ 46,791.30	2,819.52	19,845.58
Implementation phase 1 (not funded by Mayor of Telica)			
Materials purchased		381.37	202.55
Analysis of water sample		378.35	
Extraction of old pumps		800.00	
Staff time (Nuevas Esperanzas)	2,725.81	5,952.99	1,527.78
Vehicle use	333.95	1,061.45	343.70
Subsistence	31.54	631.25	276.39
Tools		504.10	
Hydraulic Engineer	1,182.50	691.11	
Electrician		500.00	
Site foremen		1,768.12	660.64
Other direct costs	48.35	84.63	152.07
Reimbursement of sales tax			- 79.00
TOTAL	\$ 20,159.64	12,753.36	3,084.13

Donations of US\$ 12,500 from Friends of Students for 60,000 have so far been received. More funds are urgently needed to pay the \$7.7k deficit and to fund the completion of the project.

Construction of the new pumphouse in Nuevo Amanecer



The fenced area around the borehole in Nuevo Amanecer



The inside of the newly repaired water tank in La Unión

