



September 1st, 2021

Dear friends,

It has been a summer of heat waves, forest fires, droughts, and flooding. The latest UN report warned us that the climate crisis has reached a “code red” for humanity. Our partners in Nicaragua don’t need scientists to tell them what they already know -- that severe weather and environmental degradation is threatening their livelihoods and their lives. But not all hope is lost.

Donate now to help Peaceworks support sustainable projects that mitigate the impact of climate change in Nicaraguan communities. We urgently need to raise \$11,200 for FEDICAMP’s El Pegador Water Project.

**Extreme Weather & Food Insecurity**

In the fall of 2020, two category four hurricanes hit Central America within a few weeks of each other. Hundreds were killed,

more than 100,000 families lost their homes or were otherwise displaced, and more than 6 million people were affected by floods and landslides. In Nicaragua, many small farmers, including those working with our partner FEDICAMP (The Federation of Rural Farmers), lost all or most of their crops, leaving them without enough food for their families as well as destroying their source of income.

CMIP6 - Mean temperature (T) Change deg C - Warming 2°C SSP5 8.5 (rel. to 1850-1900) - Annual (34 models)  
Regions: N.Atlantic-Ocean

Mean temperature (T) (Change, deg C)

Year: 1950, 1965, 1980, 1995, 2010, 2026, 2041, 2056, 2071, 2086, 2100

THIS CHART IS OUT OF CONTROL AND THE UN NOW REPORTS THAT HUMAN BEHAVIOR IS CAUSING HAVOC WORLDWIDE. THAT’S OLD NEWS IN NICARAGUA. BUT THERE’S ROOM FOR HOPE AND FEDICAMP’S MIGUEL MARIN WILL TELL YOU WHY.

**PeaceWorks, 1125 Woolley Avenue. Union NJ 07083  
917-301-6967, peaceworks.org**





*Extreme weather events are not new to Nicaragua, but two Cat 4 hurricanes in the matter of two weeks? These photos were sent to us from our partners at the El Porvenir Coffee Co-op in which plants and infrastructure were both badly damaged.*

The hurricanes followed years of drought and unusual weather patterns, making food production more challenging than ever. Less visible and reported on than superstorms, droughts continue to make everyday life harder in these Nicaraguan communities, increasing food insecurity and public health problems from water shortages. Nicaragua has become progressively hotter and scientists warn that if global CO2 emissions aren't drastically reduced, Western Nicaragua could be as hot as the Sahara desert by 2070.

Today, one of the most profound impacts of climate change throughout Nicaragua is food insecurity. At least 30 percent of Nicaraguan workers are employed in agriculture. When extreme weather damages crops, both their pocketbooks and stomachs suffer. Over the past decade, staple crops, like corn and beans, have stagnated and crop losses from droughts and floods have become more common. Of course, local consumers bear the brunt of cost increases resulting from damaged crops.

### **What can be done? Is the news all bad?**

The *good news* is that our Nicaraguan partners are working hard each day to increase the safety and resiliency of their communities. PeaceWorks partners at FEDICAMP have worked for years with small family farmers to mitigate the impact of climate change, introducing seed banks for more resilient crops, sustainable soil techniques, safe wells and new irrigation methods. The FEDICAMP team, including engineers and agricultural experts, is experienced and resourceful, working on the front lines of sustainable development. Of course, the task ahead is mammoth and overwhelming and the future uncertain. But FEDICAMP is always moving



FEDICAMP has been partnering with PeaceWorks and our friends at Green Empowerment to bring potable water and sanitation projects to homes, schools and clinics in their rural communities. In the tiny community of *El Apante*, FEDICAMP brought running water and sanitation to 35 homes, including 66 students. In the *San Antonio* barrio in the town of *Yalaguina*, they turned on the taps and built latrines for 277 families and 16 schools. Just this month, FEDICAMP will wrap up yet another water and latrine project in the community of *El Mojon* -- we're sending down \$7000 to help them get that job done.

Hold on though. There's another FEDICAMP project on the way.

FEDICAMP is poised to break ground on a new gravity-based potable water system for 250 people living in 55 homes (+2 churches, a school and health center) in *El Pegador*, a community in the town of *Las Sabanas* in the northern Nicaraguan Department of Madriz. Ironically, *El Pegador* is already known for water - it boasts a beautiful pond visited by tourists. Yet its current water delivery system is inoperable.

This new FEDICAMP project at *El Pegador* will cost \$60,000 with funding coming from our friends at Green Empowerment, the local *Las Sabanas* municipality, as well as \$2800 from the people living in *El Pegador* themselves. The community will also supply the muscle when FEDICAMP experts and engineers do the prep and installation.

PeaceWorks has been asked to contribute only a portion of the overall budget - \$11,267. **Can you help us get the water flowing in *El Pegador*?**

### **\$22,000 in New Grants for PeaceWorks Partners**

For the past two years PeaceWorks has been honored to pass through several grants to our partners from the Focus for Health Foundation. Their generous support has helped Axayacatl expand their work supporting women

fleeing domestic violence to start new, independent lives.

Focus for Health is now making a \$5000 grant to help *Inhijambia* with their programs working with street children and an additional \$7500 grant for FEDICAMP.

Also, the Emmaus Community here in NJ recently contributed \$10,000 to help *Inhijambia* construct a home for two young sisters who desperately need to escape lives of violence and despair on the streets.



PeaceWorks Board member Micha Loughlin with three happy families from *Inhijambia*. Behind them is one of four homes that will have been constructed with the joyful giving of the Emmaus Community in New Jersey.

Thank you, Focus for Health and the Emmaus Community for such generosity and kindness!



### A Quick Scare (but doing better!)

Throughout the pandemic we've reported on the serious nature of COVID in Nicaragua. This summer it hit very close to home. Marvin Hernández, the coordinator of the *Juan Venado Sea Turtle Sanctuary*, was diagnosed with COVID in July and it was touch and go for quite a while. He's not completely out of the woods but was well enough to send us a sea turtle report for the beginning of the hatching season. Marvin reported that they've protected 42 nests with 3100 eggs in the nursery. This year we've contributed \$2000 to support the work. If you've been on one of our delegations, you know Marvin and understand his passion for turtles and the natural world. We are so relieved he's recovering!

### September 11th Dinner Forum

It doesn't matter if you are near or far... join us Saturday September 11th for a live conversation with FEDICAMP's Miguel Marin. Miguel will talk in depth about climate change and the enormous challenges for the people of Nicaragua in the near future. Come on out for dinner at the Chatham Friends Meeting at 6pm. Then we'll bring everybody into a Zoom at 7:30, no matter where you are!

In friendship and solidarity,  
Denis, Diane, John, Micha, Maggie, Susan, Marilyn and Guy  
The PeaceWorks Board



Marvin Hernández in 2015. After a hard battle with COVID-19, he is beginning to make a strong recovery. Receiving his latest report has never felt so good!



### DONATE TO PEACEWORKS!

I'd like to help FEDICAMP launch the new water projects in *El Pegador*!

\$50    \$75    \$100    \$150 |  \$250    \$500    \$1000    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to help Marvin Hernández hatch more sea turtles this season:

\$50    \$75    \$100    \$150    \$250    \$500    \$1000    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to make a general support donation to PeaceWorks:

\$50    \$75    \$100    \$150    \$250    \$500    \$1000    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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