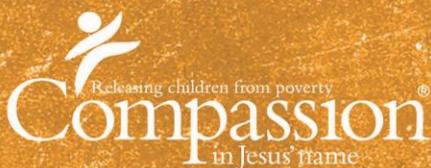




DRAINAGE SYSTEM

Colonia Ivan Betancouth, Comayagua,
Honduras

Completion report for initiative HO-014105





OVERVIEW

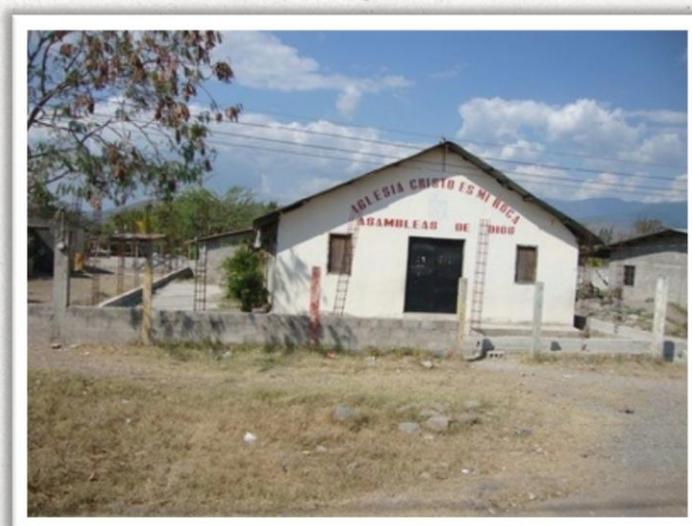
LOCATION	Colonia Ivan Betancouth, Comayagua, Honduras
PROJECT	H0-256: La Roca de Salvación Student Centre
CHURCH	Iglesia Cristo es mi Roca
INITIATIVE	Drainage system
BENEFICIARIES	231 Compassion registered children and 9 adults
FUNDING	£5,816
START DATE	January 2014

BACKGROUND

Compassion's work in Honduras began in 1974. Currently 47,738 children participate in 202 child development centres. Compassion partners with churches to help them provide Honduran children with the opportunity to rise above their circumstances, and become all God has created them to be.

Located about 90 kilometres north of the capital, Tegucigalpa, the city of Comayagua is home to approximately 2,800 residents, most of whom earn a living by working in factories or selling produce like corn or beans from small-scale agricultural projects. Partnering with Compassion, Cristo es mi Roca [Christ is My Rock], is currently working with 231 children of the community, liberating them from spiritual, economic, social, and physical poverty and enabling them to be responsible and fulfilled Christian adults.

La Roca de Salvación Student Centre has faced significant challenges in the past as a result of poor drainage and stagnant water in Comayagua. In the equatorial climate, stagnant water can quickly become hazardous. Acting as a breeding ground for mosquitoes which transmit diseases like dengue fever and malaria, the water also incubates many kinds of bacteria and parasites. This RESPOND Initiative was launched to improve the drainage system at the centre in order to protect both children and staff from waterborne diseases.



IMPLEMENTATION

Through this RESPOND Initiative, La Roca de Salvación Student Centre has built an effective drainage system which allows stagnant water in the project to flow away. Project staff first selected a contractor to construct the drainage system. Some of the workmen were church members with the skills and experience to carry out the required work. A safe, easily accessible place was then chosen for the storage of the construction materials. The local church pastor secured necessary construction permits from





the local city hall offices. Project staff then compared quotations for the construction materials and selected the best options. The necessary payments were made, materials were delivered and construction was able to begin.

The ground was excavated to approximately two feet deep and a pipeline installed which takes the drained water into a small lake behind the church. Once this was complete, a concrete slab was cast over the pipeline. The slab has a drainage grid on one side where the storm waters flow when it rains. There were no significant challenges to the implementation of the initiative.



Before



After

IMPACT

Most poor families in this area would not have access to safe play areas, and gang activity is a considerable threat to young people in Honduras. The new drainage system is giving the children opportunities to develop their creativity in a safe space, to interact with their friends and tutors in ways they might not be able to outside of the project. It is helping the church to deliver quality programmes and events.

Project Director Gustavo Velasquez expressed, “The stagnated water was becoming a serious problem especially during the rainy season. Now our children can play outside at any time of the year and the project is much cleaner.”





INTERVIEWS

Interview with Project Director of La Roca de Salvación Student Centre, Gustavo Alexis Velásquez Bonilla.

Please describe how the completed initiative will affect the lives of people in this community.

I have been serving at the project for nine years now. This drainage system is helpful for registered children and our project staff, especially during recreational activities. We can now benefit from the space that used to get flooded and we get to give classes to children there. The drainage system has improved the children's emotional development because they have more opportunity to play. The drainage system has also helped to improve the children's health, as they used to get sick from the dirty water as well as from the bites of mosquitoes breeding in the stagnant water.

The church has the advantage of this area to hold celebrations or outdoor activities. Youth in the community also use the area for sporting events and concerts.

How would you describe the impact of this initiative to those who made it possible?

1 Samuel 2:30 says "those who honour me I will honour". The impact of the drainage system is outstanding for the children's emotional wellbeing. In previous years during break times, children were disappointed when they played soccer, since they had to deal with dirty water. Now things have changed and the children can't wait for breaks and play time together. We send our deep appreciation to those who made it possible.

Interview with beneficiary Oscar de Jesús Adriano Martínez.

What was your life like before this initiative was implemented?

I am 17 years old and I live with my mother Alma, my brother Erlan, my sister-in-law Damaris and my nephew Edgardo. We have lived in Comayagua since I was a baby. We used to get bored during break times at the project, since we could not play because of the dirty water that emerged in the soccer field and because of the lack of a proper drainage system. We also had to deal with a lot of mosquitoes every time we had breaks.

How is your life different now that this initiative is complete?

It is fun now. Sometimes, we have classes outdoors and do not have to worry for mosquito bites or flooded areas. We can also ride our bikes, play soccer and play tag together.

What will this initiative mean for the future of children and youth in the community?

I am about to complete the Compassion programme, however I consider it will benefit the development of the children who have recently enrolled. New generations will not deal with flooded areas because of the lack of a proper drainage system.

How would you describe the impact of this initiative to those who made it possible?

The impact is huge. Our break times have changed drastically since we feel motivated to play outside. May God continue blessing those who made it possible and we appreciate their support.



RESPOND

WITH COMPASSION



The completed drainage system and concrete slab.



RESPOND

WITH COMPASSION



The concrete slab has provided a safe area for children to play.



RESPOND

WITH COMPASSION



The completed drainage system is removing the risk of contagious diseases due to stagnant water.



BUDGET

ITEM	REQUESTED AMOUNT	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Construction materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cement • River sand, gravel • Stone • Timber • PVC piping • Plates and angles • Electrodes • Paint • Purchase tax 	£3,005 (£347 local contribution)	£3,005 (£347 local contribution)	-
Labour	£1,648 (£49 local contribution)	£1,648 (£49 local contribution)	-
Administration	£1,163	£1,163	-
TOTAL	£5,816 (£396 local contribution)	£5,816 (£396 local contribution)	-

Due to the diligence of the staff at the church the work was completed on budget.

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for funding this RESPOND Initiative. The children and staff at La Roca de Salvación Student Centre are already benefitting greatly from the improved drainage facilities, as you can see from the photographs.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Preston on 07830 791899 or at MarkP@compassionuk.org. Thank you.

