

WATER BRIGADES UPDATE: **BREAKING GROUND IN BUENA VISTA**

On Monday, August 13, 2012, the community of Buena Vista broke ground on their new water project! Water Brigades staff, the community's Water Council, and the people of Buena Vista are hard at work to get the project off to a strong start. About 150 community members are working on the system, each representing a household that will ultimately be connected to the system.



To begin, work groups leveled the ground where the new storage tank will be built and dug its foundation six meters in diameter. Other work for the week included cleaning the area around the dam for construction, collecting large rocks for the foundation of the new tank, and preparing the existing tank for repairs, which includes chiseling off the existing outer layer of cement to replace it with a new, water tight cement seal. This tank will serve as a cistern and installation site for the pump. This week the community also began digging trench near the water source. Plastic piping will be installed and buried in this trench for the system's conduction line, the pipeline that connects the water source with the storage tanks. Work groups will continue trenching as well as carrying materials to the new tank site to be able to begin construction in the near future.



In addition to the physical work being done on the system, materials have also been delivered to Buena Vista! This week, 2,294 PVC pipes, 63 metal pipes, 150 bags of cement, 4,000 bricks, 165 pieces of rebar, and hundreds of piping accessories, ranging from pipe elbows to water faucets, have arrived in the community and are safely stored and inventoried in the work shed of a member of the Water Council. The community has also secured all necessary rocks, sand, and wood for the project.



Juan Carlos Nuñez with his wife, Lesly Suyapa Vazquez, and his two daughters, Gabriela Alejandra and Jamie Marisela, ages 14 and 5.

People in the community are very excited about starting work on the project. Juan Carlos Nuñez, a community member who has lived in Buena Vista his entire life, is working on the water project. Currently, his family of five collects water from a small spring that is about a 10 to 15 minute walk away from their home, and they make about three trips a day to carry water back to their house. While they treat their drinking water with chlorine, he said that they are looking forward to the finished system to not only have a water connection at their house but to also have cleaner water that arrives already treated.

He expressed his thoughts about the new system: "We are very happy and very motivated because a lot of the materials have already arrived. We are excited because the women are tired of hauling water. Not everyone likes carrying water; it's very tiring. We are very happy about the new project. The important thing is to keep moving forward."



Work groups from Buena Vista leveled the land of the new tank site and dug the area for the tank's foundation.



Community members prepare the current tank for repairs by removing the old cement seal.



A truck delivers over 2,000 PVC pipes and several boxes of piping accessories to Buena Vista.



A work group collects large rocks to be used for the foundation of the new tank.



Community plumbers and Water Brigades staff assemble cleaning and control valves to be used in the system.



Water Council President, Water Brigades staff member, and community plumber show the completed valves!



Calf wanders over to investigate the new PVC pipes.