

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT PROPOSAL

PROJECT 1628



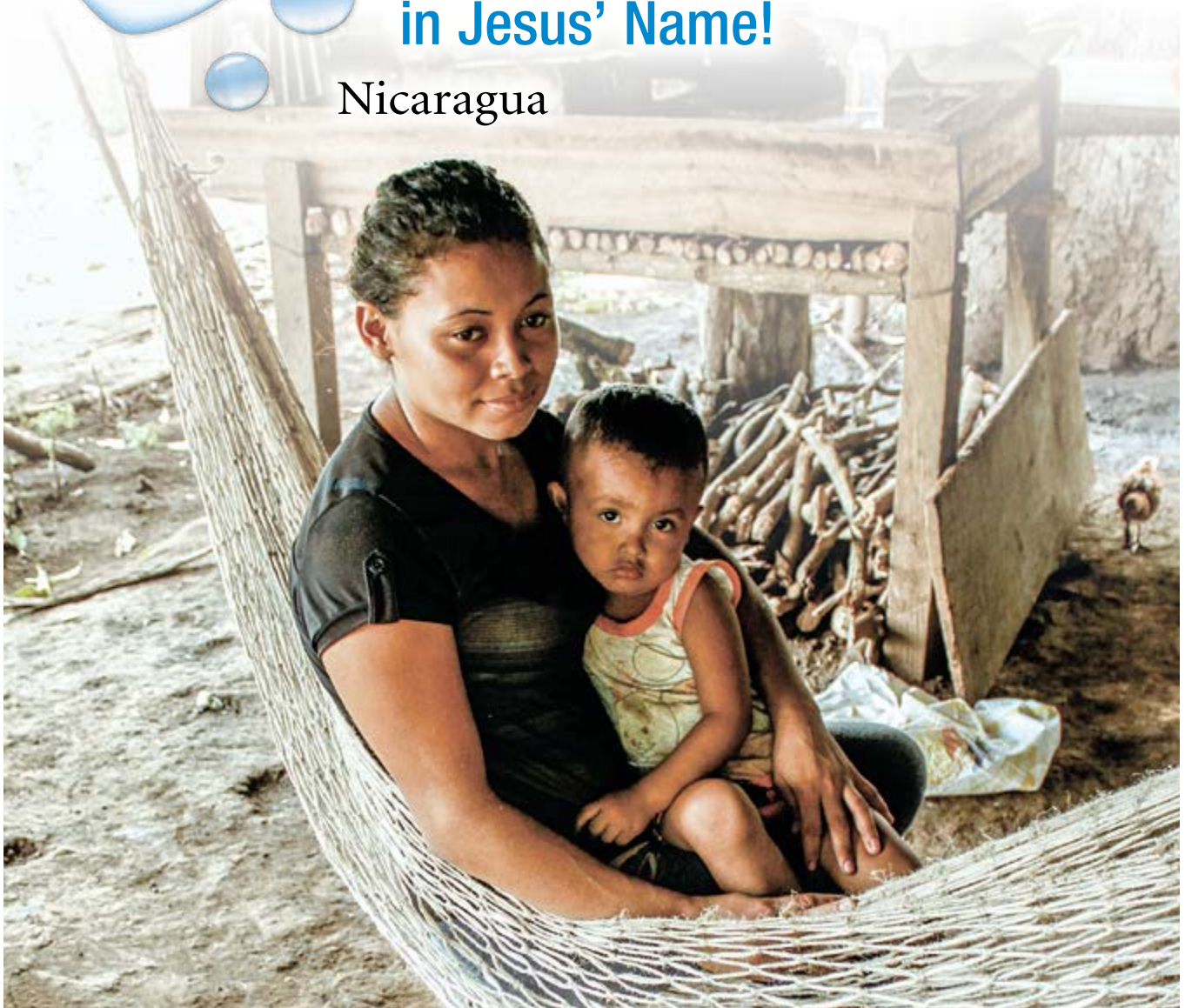
Cross International

Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope in the Name of Jesus

Love La Danta

Respond to an Urgent Water Crisis
in Jesus' Name!

Nicaragua



“To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.”

Revelation 21:6



La Danta — put the name up on your fridge. Blog it, tweet it, Facebook it. Do whatever you can to get the word out about this poor Nicaraguan village and the crisis its people are facing. **Their water is poisoning them, so we need to act quickly on their behalf.**

We rally to help La Danta because God loves its families, and we love those whom God loves. This is one of those moments when a community needs to be rescued from life-threatening circumstances, and as God's messengers of life and hope, we must do something profound to change their fate.

The problem is that E. coli, pesticides and human waste have tainted the village's shallow wells. Everyone is getting sick — especially the children. Fortunately, God has heard their prayers and has begun moving through local Christians to provide a powerful solution. That ministry has the expertise to solve La Danta's problem — if we can step up to fund the work.

Because the effort is being managed by a local Christian ministry, the outreach will also produce more than safe water to quench the village's thirst. It will also share the Living Water that is Jesus Christ!

Today, we challenge you to love La Danta as God does. We challenge you to become Christ's hands and feet among these families in crisis. By responding today, you will help provide a lasting solution in La Danta that will quench thirst, save lives and restore hope through a sharing of the Gospel.





Executive Summary

Project Description

This project will install a water system that will pipe an abundant supply of clean, filtered water directly to 96 households and over 576 people.

Purpose

To free families from dependence on contaminated wells that spread disease, and to carry out this plan as a tangible response to Christ's call to love the poor and vulnerable.

Location

La Danta, a rural village near Nicaragua's Pacific coast.

Campaign Goal

\$181,333 is needed to drill a new well, install the pumping system, storage tanks and distribution system, and connect the water to 96 homes.

Project Summary

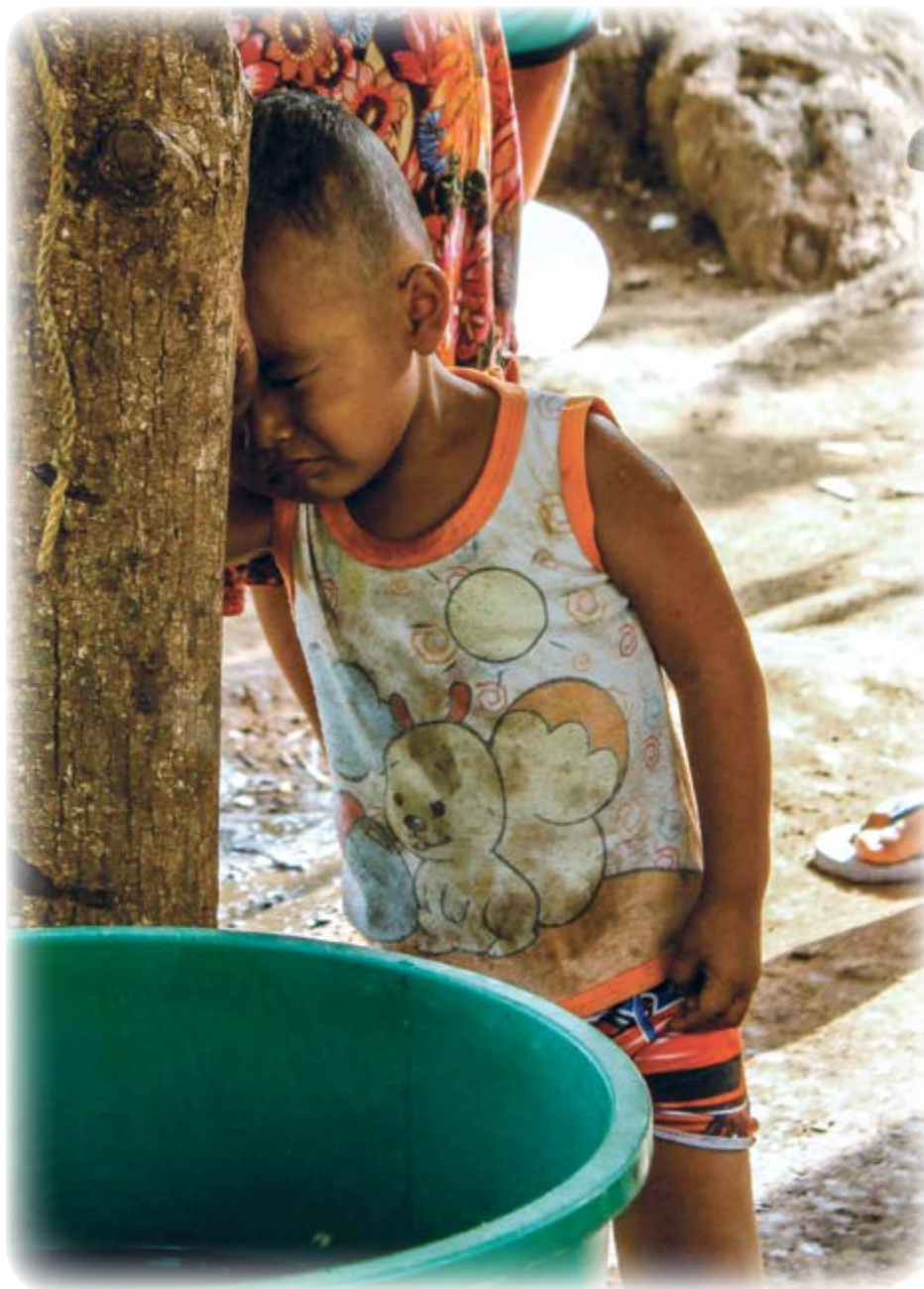
THE NEED

- Poor rural families suffer from thirst, unsanitary living conditions and a plague of waterborne illnesses resulting from the use of unsafe water sources.
- Fetching water is a time-consuming task, especially when the closest wells run dry during summer.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Your support will help install a community water system capable of pumping as much as 300 gallons of safe, filtered water daily to each house.
- Your generous gift will achieve this goal by empowering a local Christian ministry that has already successfully installed similar systems elsewhere.
- La Danta villagers will participate in the installation and will be trained to oversee the use and maintenance of their new water system.
- God will be glorified as the relief workers and the poor they serve come together to work and fellowship in a spirit of prayer and thanksgiving.
- This water system is a crucial component of a broader outreach aimed at making Christ more visible among Nicaragua's rural communities through a holistic plan to improve the health, education and economic power of the poor.

“Love La Danta” by meeting the desperate village’s urgent need for clean water!



And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13



Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	i
SECTION I THE NEED	
<hr/>	
In La Danta, Water is Life...and Death	1
A Village in Crisis	3
A Village in Need of Love	4
SECTION II THE SOLUTION	
<hr/>	
Clean Water at Every Home	7
Our Partner: John Bland	8
Work Alongside the Poor	9
The Result: Healthy Living	10
Long-Term Transformation	11
Clean Water Project Budget	12
Give Water. Give Love. Give Jesus.....	13





With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Isaiah 12:3



Love La Danta | Project 1628

SECTION I

THE NEED

- In La Danta, Water is Life... and Death
- A Village in Crisis
- A Village in Need of Love



I spread out my hands to you; I thirst for you like a parched land.

Psalms 143:6



In La Danta, Water is Life... and Death

Ana's Worry

For Ana Ramirez Hernandez, the shallow, hand-dug well just outside her dirt-floor shack is both a blessing and a curse. While she must admit it sustains her family's life, the well is also a persistent source of fear, illness and suffering.

Her first fear is for the physical safety of her children. Each time the single mother of three goes out, she must depend on her 8-year-old daughter to keep a close eye on the younger siblings. If 4-year-old Cesar or 15-month-old Kimberli were ever to stray from their sister's reach, they might fall into the open well and drown.

The well's other threat, by contrast, may seem more benign, but it is potentially just as deadly. ***Because they drink this water, the children keep getting sick.***

Each bout of diarrhea that keeps Ana's children up through the night is another confirmation that the water they drink is poison. The shallow, hand-dug wells she and her neighbors depend on are easily contaminated by everything from bacterial parasites to human waste to the pesticides that seep into the groundwater from the local sugar cane fields.

Unfortunately, in the rural village of La Danta, no alternative exists for Ana and families like hers.

All the poor woman can do is try to save enough money to buy liquid electrolytes and rehydrating medicine so her children don't get even sicker. It's a terrible and troubling cycle — to provide a temporary cure even though you know your children will only get sick again and again as long as the contaminated well is your only water source.

Shared Suffering

Ana's fears and challenges would be hard enough if they only involved her own family, but she shares the shallow well with three other households, including that of her mother, Margarita. Margarita lost her husband to kidney failure — a local epidemic among families who depend on contaminated wells.

Margarita blames the dirty water for her grandchildren's constant illnesses and school absences. She longs for the day when her village will be free of the curse of contaminated water, but she has long doubted if they will ever have safe water to drink, bathe and clean.

Your love can erase those doubts and show Margarita, her daughter Ana and the whole village of La Danta the incredible power of Christ-inspired compassion. No family should have to live under these terrible conditions.



Ana's daughter pulls a rope to draw water from a shallow well.

Love La Danta, and a solution can be found!



A Village in Crisis

Ana and Margarita are among more than 576 people struggling to survive in the poor, isolated village of La Danta, Nicaragua. In this village, clean water is incredibly scarce; and, depending on the season, great effort can be necessary to obtain any water at all.

Summer is the dry season, and villagers dread it because the water levels in their hand-dug wells are dangerously low. During those times, villagers often suffer from chronic dehydration.

During the rainy season, the water supply does become more plentiful — but so do the contaminants that bring illness and hardships. There is simply no relief at either time of year.



Three times a day, Joseling Herrera Hernandez draws water from the nearest well and carries the contaminated drink home. When her son Milton comes down with diarrhea, she treats it with pills and, ironically, sips of cold water. His illnesses aren't a matter of "if" but "when." Joseling hopes that someday soon, her son can finally be healthy.



Helplessness. That's what Darling Mayorga Areas feels when her 2-year-old son, Jhonatan, gets diarrhea from the well near their home. Unfortunately, this is her family's lot in life, and she feels she has no other choice but to risk using unsafe water.

The local families know these seasons of pain well, but scientific testing also confirms their experiences. A Christian ministry based in the nearby city of Chinandega has tested every well in La Danta and discovered that in every single case, the water contains frightening levels of the E. coli bacteria. But that dreaded bug is only part of the problem. The community has no sewage system or waste management infrastructure whatsoever, so the shallow wells absorb all manner of impurities.

Deeply impoverished and far removed from public resources, the families of La Danta have been suffering in isolation and starving for love. They have no escape from the cycle of thirst and illness, and no pathway for rising out of squalor...unless someone from outside intervenes on their behalf.

By loving La Danta through words and deeds, we can provide the relief they so desperately need.



A Village in Need of Love

God loves La Danta, but the hardships faced by the people of the village can steal away the joy that love should bring. Satan often uses pain and challenges to create hopelessness — and these people have suffered for a long, long time.

Christ encountered that kind of hopelessness among the poor when He walked the earth, and He often began encounters with the suffering by recognizing their pain and removing it. By manifesting love in this way, Christ revealed the power of God through compassion, and many came to believe as a result. Mercy was shown and souls were saved.

With your help, we want to make Christ more visible among the families of La Danta. We want to empower our local Christian ministry partner to work in this community, to come alongside local believers and to model the true faith in both words and deeds so that thirsting souls might be drawn to the everlasting Water of Life.

We have a plan to reach these families, and that plan is to meet their urgent physical need for clean, abundant water. But this cannot happen without the support of compassionate Christians like you. **That's why we invite you now to partner with Cross International to *Love La Danta*. By manifesting Christ's transforming love in this village, you will transform lives!**





SECTION II

THE SOLUTION

- Clean Water at Every Home
- Our Partner: John Bland
- Work Alongside the Poor
- The Result: Healthy Living
- Long-Term Transformation
- Clean Water Project Budget
- Give Water. Give Love. Give Jesus.



“Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

John 4:14



*With your help,
clean water will spring up in a dry and weary land
to quench the thirst of the poor!*



Clean Water at Every Home

Jesus Christ's call to "love your neighbor as yourself" is as important today as it ever was, and we believe demonstrating that love in a tangible way with the families of La Danta shows the watching world the transforming power of God-honoring compassion.

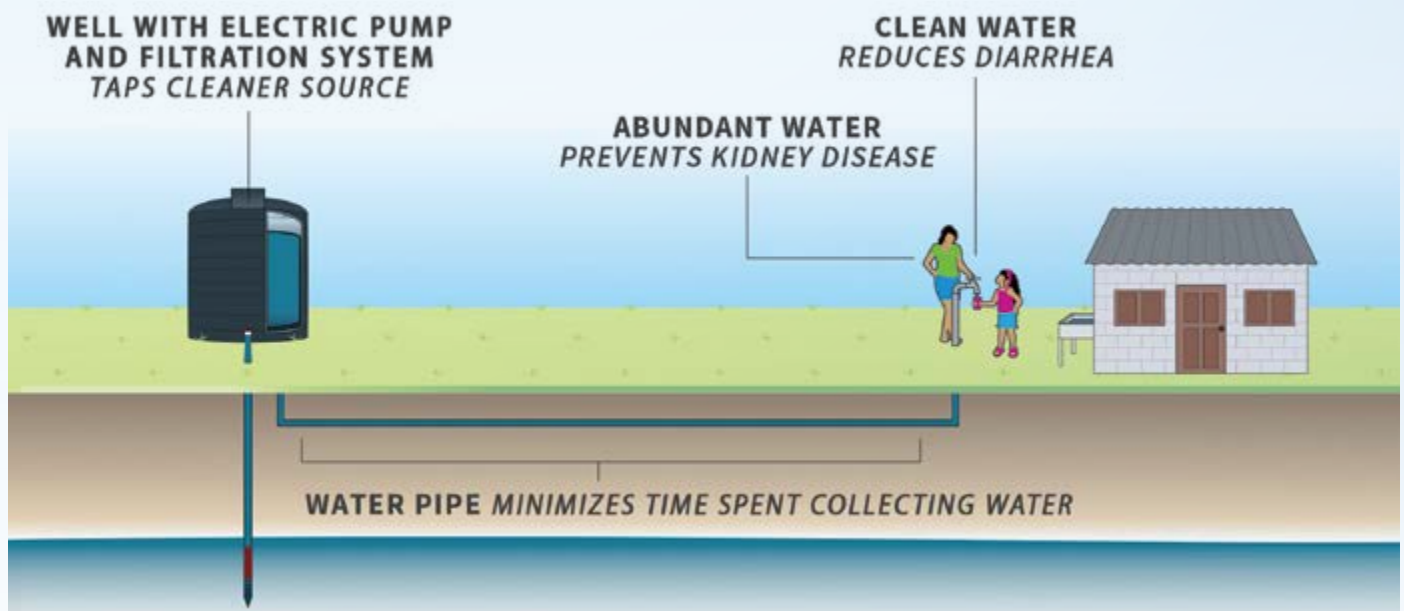
Surely, your heart breaks when you now think of how many parents in La Danta are giving dirty water to their children — and helplessly watching them get sick. Use that understanding to help them! Join us in ending their cycle of thirst and illness! A solution exists, and with your help, we **CAN** transform La Danta!

Your generous gift to Cross International will provide a **sanitary, community-wide water system** above and beyond anything these families have ever experienced. This lifesaving system will feature:

- A professionally drilled **WELL** that reaches deep below the water table.
- A powerful **ELECTRIC PUMP** that ensures an abundant year-round supply to the whole community.
- A large **HOLDING TANK**.
- A thorough **FILTRATION SYSTEM** to remove disease-causing contaminants.
- PVC pipes to channel the water to individual **TAPS AT ALL 96 HOUSEHOLDS**.



For the first time ever in La Danta, quenching thirst will be as simple as turning on a home spigot. This gift will be a dream come true and will mark the beginning of a healthier, more prosperous future for women like Ana and Margarita.





Our Partner: John Bland

Many of Cross International's projects are championed by a dedicated Christian living and serving overseas, and the effort to help La Danta is no exception.

John Bland's ministry began with a 1989 mission trip to the Chinandega garbage dump community. The extreme poverty he witnessed moved him to return a year later. Inspired by God, he eventually quit his lucrative job in Georgia and devoted himself to the work of serving Nicaragua's neediest families.

"That first trip to Nicaragua was my introduction to severe poverty. It was much different than what I experienced during my Peace Corps service in Paraguay," John said. "These people desperately needed help from someone. And I thought, why not me?"

Since then, John has become an incredible force for good, seeking to materially and spiritually bless Nicaraguan families by addressing the hidden needs that persist among small rural villages — places like La Danta. He has come to realize that what these communities need is not just a simple handout, but a relationship. John's vision is to transform these communities by gaining their trust, working alongside them and empowering them for long-term change. He seeks solutions that will "make Christ more visible" among the poor.

"The Bible teaches that service is one of the tangible ways we worship God," John says. "As we immerse ourselves in the lives of the poor, we show them that we will suffer with them; and by doing that, we demonstrate that our hearts are moved by the Lord. This is our witness to them."

Today, as John encounters children and families drinking dirty water from hand-dug wells and clutching their aching bellies, his reaction is visceral: **"It shouldn't be like this."**

He knows they have no control, no way out; and he can't help but ask himself, "If I lived in that community, what would I want?"

Now, John has turned his attention to the 96 families of La Danta. He has earned their trust, and they have told him what they want more than anything: a solution to their water crisis. Will you empower them to succeed?



John Bland (right) needs your help to bring clean, abundant water to the people of La Danta.



Work Alongside the Poor

One key to this project's success is that it relies on community involvement. This makes the project more than a "handout." It is a joining of concerned Christians to accomplish a greater goal. As a benefactor, you will be working alongside the La Danta community and helping the poor help themselves.

- **Hands-on labor.** Able-bodied villagers will help dig trenches to lay miles of PVC pipes.
- **Shared investment.** Each family has agreed to give a very small sum toward the cost to build the water system.
- **Water committee.** A local water committee, trained by our ministry partner, will ensure the project's success and longevity by:
 - Rallying their neighbors to do their part.
 - Providing education on health and sanitation.
 - Overseeing the long-term maintenance of the water systems.
 - Collecting small monthly fees to cover repairs and electricity usage.

Once their thirst ceases to be a debilitating burden, the potential for growth in La Danta will multiply exponentially!





The Result: Healthy Living

While our goal is to improve water quality and availability, we also ensure the 96 benefitting families actually experience overall improvements to their health. Our local Christian ministry partner has a comprehensive plan for this that involves tearing down the old bacteria-breeding latrines and educating villagers to greatly improve sanitary conditions community-wide.

Before the first shovel breaks ground, family health will also be addressed. All will be tested for bacteria, parasites and kidney disease — common water-related health problems in rural Nicaragua. After the water system is up and running, a second set of tests will be done to measure the project's impact. Our ministry partner will also install **modern bathrooms and showers** at each home to promote cleanliness and prevent contamination of the water table.

This means that before the spigots are turned on, positive changes will already be taking place. Villagers will be treated for infections, and everyone will be educated in good hygiene and sanitation so they'll be ready to get the full benefit from their water systems.



Eager for Change

Mayra Isabel Castro is a community leader who's lived in La Danta her whole life. All she's ever known here are hand-dug wells and the resulting stomachaches and diarrhea. She says many people have died from kidney failure because of the contaminants, but families keep drinking the same dirty water because they have no other options to quench their thirst. Her own water source is a shallow well that was dug by hand 18 years ago.

Mayra hopes that with your help, her 9-year-old daughter, Lisbeth, will have a future free from constant illness and agony. But her concern is not just for her family. The suffering of her neighbors, many of whom are far worse off than she is, weighs heavily on her mind. She's heard the good reports of what our local ministry partner has done in other rural villages, and she wants to see the same transformation in her own community.

Help us show Mayra how much God loves her and her community. [*Love La Danta!*](#)



Long-Term Transformation

When you fund this water project, you will jump-start a path to a bright future for the village of La Danta. That's because our local ministry partner forges relationships with rural communities for the long term. It's a strategy we've watched succeed time and again during our decade of involvement in transforming rural Nicaraguan villages.

After the water needs are met, other changes become possible. The poor will have the hope they need to pursue vital improvements, from building new schools to growing the economy. A beautiful tomorrow begins today!



MICROENTERPRISE support to grow their income...



New opportunities through **LEADERSHIP TRAINING**...



Once clean water is flowing, families' **HEALTH** improves, and many are provided with sanitary new kitchens free from smoke and bacteria...



SPIRITUAL EDIFICATION through ongoing fellowship with Christian relief workers...



and **EDUCATION** support for their children to pursue a bright future.



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Clean Water Project Budget for La Danta

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Water System Infrastructure	
Feasibility study	\$2,360
Well drilling	\$18,500
Pumping system	\$12,250
Storage system	\$21,000
Distribution system	\$82,400
Operational training	\$2,460
Subtotal	\$138,970
Leadership and Sustainability	
Community vision casting	\$2,070
Discover community influencers	\$3,105
Committee creation	\$2,588
Community labor organization	\$3,882
Training	\$10,869
Results evaluation	\$3,364
Subtotal	\$25,878
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$164,848
Cross International Project Management	\$16,485

TOTAL CAMPAIGN GOAL	\$181,333
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Help reach our goal and bring clean water to La Danta in Jesus' name!



Give Water. Give Love. Give Jesus.

This is the time to love La Danta!

Join us today and answer these families' desperate cries for clean, abundant water!

A water tap at every household will answer the prayers of these 96 families. It's also a powerful outward display of the grace that dwells within you as a follower of Christ. Just as Jesus gave his life for us, we must give of ourselves for the poor, the suffering and the marginalized.

You may choose one of the sponsorship levels listed below or indicate another amount you feel led to contribute. Whatever you decide, we are deeply grateful for your support. Your gift will make a profound difference!



TOTAL AMOUNT NEEDED: \$181,333

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

\$18,890 Greater Love Sponsor *Helps 10 families!*

\$15,112 Living Water Sponsor *Helps 8 families!*

\$9,445 Well of Salvation Sponsor *Helps 5 families!*

\$5,667 River of Life Sponsor *Helps 3 families!*

\$1,889 Streams of Gladness Sponsor *Helps 1 family!*

**Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord,
and he will reward them for what they have done.**

Proverbs 19:17

Our Promise to You!

Proceeds from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2019, the close of our ministry's fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.



Cross International

Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope in the Name of Jesus

Our Mission

We mobilize the global Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

How We Serve

Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving the poor. In addition to being the most cost-effective way of helping the poor, empowering these ministries allows us to support the Church's spiritual mission and its important position of leadership in poor communities.

Good Stewardship

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach. These detailed accountability measures have earned us ongoing accreditation by the following organizations:



Enhancing Trust



The Chronicle of Philanthropy
The nonprofit world's No. 1 news source



For detailed info about the impact of Cross International's global mission for the poor, go to **CrossInternational.org/Impact**.



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