

Community Overview- Caimonial

Location: Municipality of El Cercado, San Juan Province

Population: 380

Climate: rainy season from August-November. Mountainous, average temperature 70-85°F with low humidity. Nights are cooler

Economy: Agriculture: cultivation of coffee, rice, coffee, onions and fruit trees

BTC Commitment: 2012-

Program Areas: Health, education and housing

Education

The community presented a need for a classroom to meet the demands of the growing student population in the local elementary school. With the support of BTC and volunteer groups, a classroom to house for 4th and 5th grade students was completed in 2013.

With the construction of a youth center in the next door community of Derrumbadero, youth from the Caimonial community were invited to participate in the youth development program to build skill sets and receive empowerment workshops. There are active youth from Caimonial that receive workshops on leadership, self-worth, problem-solving, personal health and family planning, identifying resources, etc, allowing for an empowered generation of tomorrow's leaders.

Health

Latrines: When the BTC community assessment was executed, the results showed that only 30% of households had their own latrine. Since then, BTC can proudly state that 100% of the families in Caimonial now have a dignified and sanitary latrine to use.

Stoves: In 2015, BTC built 25 wood-reducing stoves in a campaign to reduce the amount of firewood needed to cook in an area where deforestation is a big problem.

Dominican Republic

Traditional cooking is done over an open fire with pots balancing on 3 stones set in a circle on the ground. The BTC model build the stoves to waist height, and include a chimney to guide smoke out of the kitchen, thus relieving respiratory and vision illnesses. The stoves also require 85% less wood, freeing up time from wood gathering as well as ensuring that less of the remaining forest is destroyed. The enclosed fire also allows meals to be cooked quicker.

Organic nursery: Since November 2013, the nursery has distributed over 1000 fruit trees that have been planted throughout the community of Caimonial. Deforestation is highly evident in the community, and the organic nursery was started to educate the community the importance of trees in our ecosystem and the need for reforestation of clear cut lands. The nursery consists of organic, grafted fruit trees that provide a local source of fruit for consumption and as a source of income for the farming community.

The nursery also has a vermiculture center which uses worms to produce concentrated, natural fertilizers to enhance the resistance, quality, nutritional value and yield of crops and trees. The community's economy is agricultural based, creating a need to have a natural, easy to manufacture organic fertilizer. In the future, the liquid and solid fertilizers and the worms will be commercialized for sale in nearby communities and towns.

Housing

Of the 89 homes in the community of Caimonial, 54 were deemed as having substandard living conditions: most have dirt floors, rotting wood walls and collapsing roofs. A few repairs around the house can drastically improve the health and protection of a family as well as contribute to boosting morale and pride in the community.

Bridges to Community repairs roofs, pours cement floors, replaces walls, installs new windows/doors, and adds a bright coat of paint to houses in need of renovation. Being a community with very limited economic resources, families contribute to an ongoing local reforestation project instead of payment. Each family will be responsible for planting and taking care of 100 native trees in the community of Caimonial.

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