



Nicaragua Country Update & Manna Project Site Update

To date in Nicaragua, 127 have been killed, more than 1,000 have been injured, and 116 have been unlawfully detained for participating in protests (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights). The majority of those killed have been youth, with the youngest victim just 14 years old. Looting, arson, and increased crime have affected all major cities in Nicaragua. As a safety precaution, some businesses have been operating on a limited schedule and residents have been advised to stay at home after 6pm. Due to blocked road access, food and gasoline shortages have been reported in various cities throughout the country. Merchants have also reported devastating economic losses as commerce has declined and tourism has come to a halt. As a response to the crisis, businesses have cut employee hours or laid staff off.

Many of you have probably wondered if there is something you can do to help.

In times of crisis, thanks to Manna Project, residents of Nicaragua can still access critical health services. Our two clinics in Cedro Galán and Villa Guadalupe have remained open throughout the recent protests and will continue to provide high-quality, affordable health care to our community members. Our dedicated local staff works every day to provide essential health care to community members. We also continue to collaborate with local partner organizations to provide family planning services, lab exams, and health education.

For less than a dollar, our patients receive a high-quality medical consultation and any prescribed medications. The current crisis has had strong economic implications and many community members have seen their income reduced due to job layoffs and the inability to report to work as a result of travel difficulties. Continued access to health care is crucial for residents during this crisis who otherwise would have no viable options to seek care. To read a full update on the state of Nicaragua healthcare and our clinics, [please visit this page](#).

Your financial support is vital to ensuring ongoing patient consults and treatment, along with the salaries of on-site staff.

Please consider aiding our clinics and donating below!

AID OUR CLINICS!

ECUADOR UPDATES

Bienvenidos to our Summer Interns!



This month, the Ecuador site welcomed 11 new summer volunteers! Spending either four or eight weeks with Manna, volunteers are welcomed on site with full days of orientation, cultural activities and community programs. This past weekend the group got to explore Ecuador and visited the historic center of Quito and the city of Baños. Short term volunteers lend an important hand to the site and are a welcome change of pace. We are looking forward to working with them for the next few weeks before the second summer session of interns arrives! To learn more about the summer intern experience, check out the [summer intern blog series](#) on the website.

NICARAGUA UPDATES

Preventing Cervical Cancer through Health Education



Earlier this month, Dr. Silvia Parrales presented a talk on cervical cancer to women at Clínica Médica MPI in Villa Guadalupe. Dr. Parrales is a current Masters of Public Health student at the Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios de la Salud (CIES) in Managua. Pictured above is Dr. Parrales (in red), two fellow public health students, and Sandra, a survivor of cervical cancer. Sandra shared her story of how she was diagnosed with cervical cancer after a routine pap test. Nicaragua has the highest cervical cancer rate in Central America and is the leading cause of cancer-related death for women ages 15-44. Clínica Médica MPI is dedicated to preventing cervical cancer through health education which reinforces the importance of regular pap tests. Last year, Clínica Médica MPI provided 157 pap tests to women in Villa Guadalupe. [Support our clinics here!](#)

Antorcha de la Vida Special Olympics



Recently, Manna Project and three local foundations assisted in hosting a Special Olympics event to support our partner organization, Antorcha de la Vida. Young adults and children competed in a series of swimming races and our volunteers had the opportunity to be the judges of these events. Both the participants and volunteers had an amazing time! To be involved with our Partner Organizations in Ecuador, [apply to be a Program Director today!](#)

Local Staff Take the Lead



This month, MPI has turned to our local staff to keep the Cedro Galán community clinic up and running while Program Directors are away from site due to the ongoing political situation in Nicaragua. Nurse Selma has taken over patient intake and vitals, while Dr. Wendy handles patient consults. Thanks to them, we have been able to continue providing high quality medical care to the community! [To support our health clinics during this critical time, please donate here!](#)

Celebrating Birthdays with Hogar de la Madre



Program Directors work with local women's shelter [Hogar de la Madre](#) twice a week, providing homework help and conflict resolution activities. In doing so, the PD's have become close friends with the girls and their babies, and hold birthday celebrations for them each month! This month we had a mother and daughter pair celebrating together, so everyone came together to eat cake, sing Happy Birthday and spend time reflecting on the best memories from the past year. Feliz Cumple to Andrea and Evelyn!

Welcoming New Babies to 1,000 Days of Difference!



This month we would like to highlight one of the newest additions to our 1,000 Days of Difference program in Villa Guadalupe. Baby Wilber was born on April 26th to 23-year-old, single mother Sara! He is one of 17 babies now born into the program, with one more on the way. Through the program, Sara will continue to receive medical services, breastfeeding support, and health education to ensure that Wilber gets the best possible start to his life! To become a 1,000 Days of Difference donor, [support us here!](#)

Calling All Manna Family in DC/MD/VA!



On June 14th we're hosting an extended happy hour at Sudhouse on U Street in DC! From 6:00-9:00pm, a portion of Sudhouse's profits will be donated to partnering organizations, Manna Project International and Lacrosse the Nations. Come wind down after working enjoying not one, not two, but three hours of restaurant specials support of these two organizations! All are welcome, so invite your friends, family and coworkers to start your weekend off right!

RSVP to our Facebook event [HERE](#).



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