

The miracle of El Salado

In 2000, 66 people were brutally murdered by paramilitary forces in El Salado, Colombia. The 7,000 local inhabitants fled the area, leaving it abandoned and overgrown. In 2002, under the leadership of women and young people, ten families moved back and began to rebuild. Ayuda en Acción, Fundación Semana and Fernovot contribute to the successful completion of the project.

300 homes are supplied by the new water system.

1.290 persons benefit.

500 meters of pipes installed.

11.000 cubic meters of drinking water supplied each year.

100 liters per home, by 300 homes (365 days a year). That is the same amount of water as would fill four Olympic swimming pools.

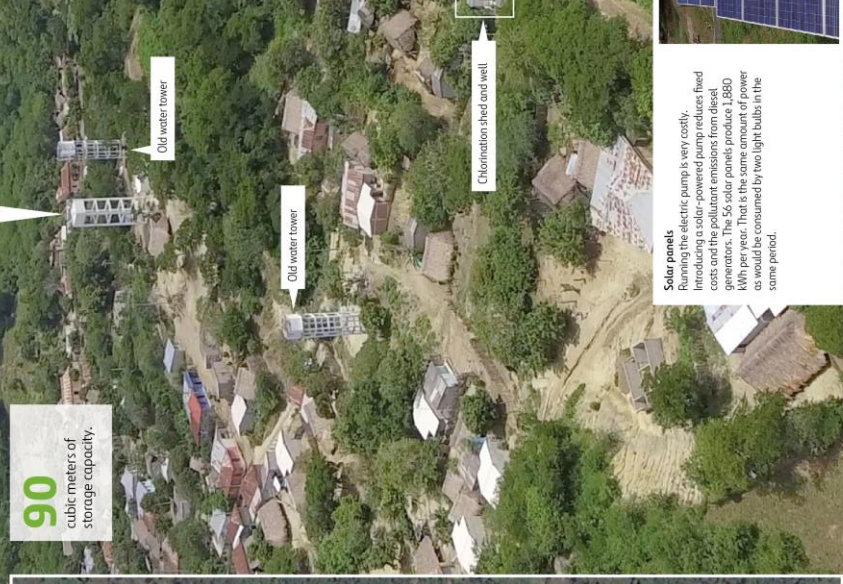


Monthly savings of **600,000** Colombian pesos, equivalent to 7,200,000 per year (€2,048). Ten times the minimum monthly wage in Colombia is €209,32 (73/717 Colombian pesos).

90 cubic meters of storage capacity.



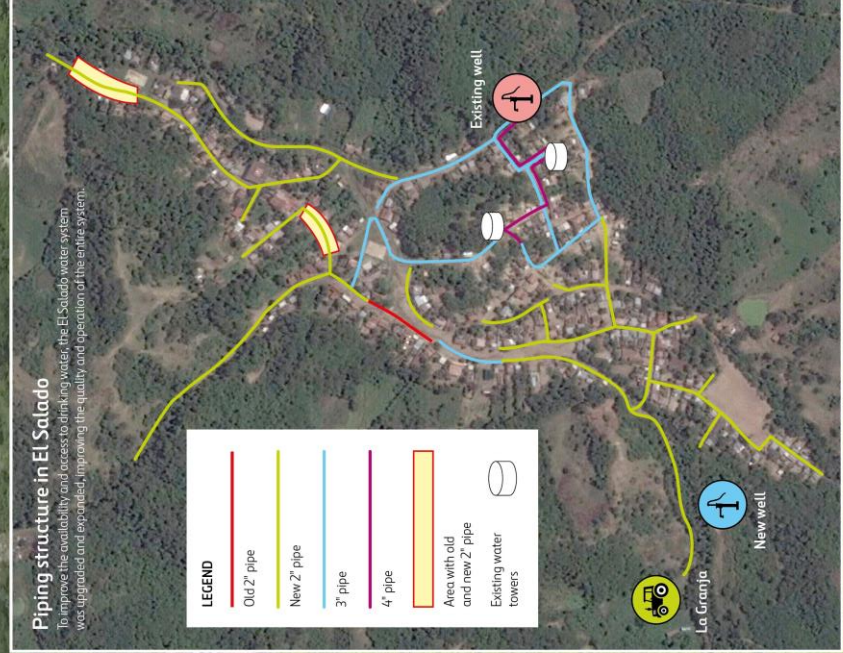
New water tower



Old water tower

Old water tower

Chlorination shed and well



Piping structure in El Salado

To improve the availability and access to drinking water, the El Salado water system was upgraded and expanded, improving the quality and operation of the entire system.

LEGEND

- 0.62" pipe
- New 2" pipe
- 3" pipe
- 4" pipe
- Area with old and new 2" pipe
- Existing water towers
- New well

The human side

In addition to upgrading the water supply system and improving water quality, the project aims to encourage the participation of women and children during project implementation in order to foster proper understanding of the water management system by the families and, finally, by the population as a whole. To achieve this, Fernovot implemented a **water governance** system, including an organization with bylaws.



Before and after the episode of violence, women contributed to the household income by working in tobacco production. They also played a fundamental role in rebuilding community spaces and in creating new businesses, all in a traditionally male-dominated context.



The plan to rebuild El Salado is divided into seven strategic areas:

- Infrastructure.
- Economic development.
- Education and communication.
- Community development.
- Healthcare development.
- Security.
- Health.

This will have a major impact on the population in surrounding areas.

Number of beneficiaries: **2,280**

Direct: 1,290

Indirect: 990



Solar panels

Running the electric pump is very costly. Introducing a solar-powered pump reduces fixed costs and the pollutant emissions from diesel generators. The 56 solar panels produce 1,880 kWh per year. That is the same amount of power as would be consumed by two light bulbs in the same period.

THE PROJECT IN FIGURES

- 300 homes are supplied by the new water system.
- 1,290 persons benefit.
- 90 cubic meters of water storage capacity.
- 43,000 cubic meters of clean drinking water supplied each year
100 liters/home/day x 300 homes x 365 days 15 Olympic swimming pools.
- 500 meters of pipes installed.
- 14.3 kWh per year produced by 51 solar panels.
The energy consumed by two light bulbs running for a year (the power used by one 100W light bulb running for two years would fill four Olympic swimming pools).
Savings of COP 600,000/month = COP 7,200,000/year = €2,043/year= 10 times the Colombian minimum wage (COP 737,717/€209.32)
- A new connection to the Villa Beatriz district (where there are 100 houses)
The water system has been extended to an area where the government has just built 100 houses. As a result, the entire community now has access to the water supply.
- Solar pumping.
- 162.000€ investment

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