

## FLOR DE AMANCAES

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT 12

COMPLETED  
MAY 2011



"Before, it was common that children suffered accidents; now it is much easier for us to access our homes, and we can do our work -- such as carrying water up to our families -- without worrying that we'll fall."

Fermin Rodaz López.

FERMIN RODAZ LOPEZ , a night watchman in Pamplona Alta, was outside his home washing his family's clothes when we stopped to chat with him.

Fermin told us that this seemingly small task of doing laundry had been transformed by a recent MEDLIFE staircase construction project in his community of Flor de Amacaes.

In Pamplona, piped water is a luxury, and most residents depend on a delivery system which leaves water stored in large, blue barrels. As the water is transported in trucks, it is left only near roadsides and thus fails to reach families that live higher up into the hills.

In order to cook, bathe, or wash clothes, residents must climb down to the source and then climb back up to their homes while carrying buckets full of water -- a task that is not only laborious and time-consuming, but also dangerous. Fermin noted that when it rains, the hillsides in his community turn to mud, making the task of bringing water to his house nearly impossible.

Before moving to Flor de Amancaes, Fermin rented a single room in his sister's house for himself, his wife, and his son. However, when he

BEFORE



AFTER

wanted to send his 18-year old son to school to study administration, he found that his modest income would not be enough to cover the price of rent each month as well as the additional school expenses.

After a friend told him about the possibility of building on open land in Pamplona Alta, Fermin decided to move his family to Flor de Amancaes.

Although they were finally able to build their own home, their community lacked basic services and infrastructure such as roads, stairs, plumbing, and a waste disposal system. Yet, Fermin is thankful that with the money he was able to save on rent, along with the extra income his wife brings in working as a housekeeper, he is able to make a modest living while also keeping his son in school.

Fermin says that the staircase project has changed the quality of life in his community, and hopes that -- little by little -- his neighborhood will continue to improve.

