



TGUP Project Details

School Renovation
Bangkukuk, Nicaragua



PROJECT NAME: School Renovation

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Bangkukuk is an indigenous community with 120 inhabitants located 35 miles south of Bluefields, the regional capital of the South Caribbean Autonomous Region of Nicaragua. The population is part of the Rama-Kriol indigenous territory spread in nine different communities in the aforementioned autonomous region. The school is made of wood and was constructed by the government in 2006.



The school building is in very poor condition. The roof is leaking due to extensive damage and missing roofing sheets. Wood in the walls has been damaged by moisture. The lack of a proper fence leaves the building unprotected from cattle wandering in the community. This project will totally replace the metal roofing sheets, install a new chainlink fence

(195 feet), replace damaged wood pieces of the floor, walls and the roof structure, and will apply a fresh coat of paint. SOL will provide the materials and transportation to the community and the community members will undertake the labor required to locally replace the missing wood pieces, make the repairs, and paint the school.

PROJECT PARTNERS:

- 1) The Global Uplift Project (TGUP)
- 2) Seeds of Learning (SOL)
- 3) Indigenous Community Council

- 1) **The Global Uplift Project (TGUP)** helps American students and individuals build classrooms and other infrastructure projects in the developing world from donations as small as one dollar (hence its name). Since its founding in 2007, TGUP has completed more than 225 such projects in 22 countries in Asia, Central America, and Africa. TGUP is an IRS registered 501c3 nonprofit.
- 2) **Seeds of Learning (SOL)** has worked with communities in Central America since 1991 to improve access to education. It has constructed 197 classrooms in 61 different communities across Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala. SOL has two offices in Nicaragua, and headquarters in northern California. SOL is an IRS registered 501c3 non-profit. SOL has the capacity to establish an office in Guatemala with Nicaraguan staff.
- 3) **Indigenous Community Council** is the elected community organization to deal with local development. They will recruit volunteers to implement the schoolwork, including timber sawing, fence construction, and school repairs.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT (for all listed above):

The Global Uplift Project

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PROJECT DATES: April 2022

TIMELINE:

- April 4-6: Trip to Bluefield and purchase of materials.
- April 7: Boat transport of materials to Bangkukuk.
- April 8-15: Project construction with community volunteers.
- April 16: Expected completion and inauguration.

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY AND PROJECT:

The Rama People belong to one of several different ethnic groups of the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua who have survived colonization for centuries despite marginalization, economic abandonment by the state, and the strong cultural and economic dominance of other cultures.



They have their own language, Rama (under risk of extinction) and live in nine different communities in the South Caribbean Autonomous Region. These communities have organized the Rama Kriol Territorial Government (GTRK) for self-ruling and advocacy purposes, made up of elected community leaders. Bangkukuk Taik is one of the nine communities or territories under the GTRK and is located 32 miles south of Bluefields, the regional



capital, in Eagle Point, along the Caribbean Sea's coastline. The community is inhabited by 120 people who live by fishing, hunting, and staple crops farming. Access is only possible by boat, sailing the Caribbean Sea from Bluefields.

The community has a single-classroom, single-teacher school that serves 35 students from first through sixth grade. The school was built sixteen years ago and is currently in

poor condition. The community's lack of resources and the absence of government support has led to a gradual deterioration of the school facilities over time.

Fortunately, the physical structure is not so far gone that it cannot be rehabilitated with prudent, conventional means such as replacing missing roofing and damaged floor boards, painting, reinforcing the fence, etc. The building is made mostly of wood, including the walls, the roof supports, and the floor, which is set on a raised concrete foundation to prevent moisture damage. The galvanized metal roofing sheets are damaged and many are missing. This causes a lot of leaking, leading to further deterioration of the wooden floor and affecting classes during the rainy season, which in this region spans over 10 months per year.



There are many rotted floor wood planks that require replacement. The school area was fenced with barbed wire to protect it from animals and have better control on kids attending the school. But the fence is old and rusted and no longer of use. The community members would like to replace it with chain-link mesh.

The project will refurbish the existing school to prevent further damage and the eventual need of building a new school. The work included in this project is:

- 1) Total replacement of the roofing sheets** with new galvanized metal sheets brought in from Bluefields;
- 2) Construction of a chain-linked mesh fence** of 195 feet using new wooden supporting posts;
- 3) Replacement and repair of damaged wood planks, pillars, and roof beams and purlins; and**
- 4) Total repriming and painting of the school building, inside and out.**

The materials will be procured in Bluefields by SOL staff and sent to the community by boat. The project already includes the cost of this transport. The community will be able to provide timber logs to replace the damaged pieces of the school. However, timber needs to be sawed to make the required pieces. Therefore, gasoline is included in the project for a chainsaw available in the community. **All the labor for the repairs will be contributed by the community.** SOL staff will supervise the work according to standards used in SOL's 160+ other classrooms constructed over the years.

Documentation of the completed work will be done through photos, as with all SOL/TGUP projects.

ANTICIPATED BENEFITS:

- Improved and more attractive school facilities, which will encourage children to attend school.
- Reduction of school class suspension due to heavy rains. More days of classes; improved education.
- Improved conditions for community members to meet and discuss community issues.
- Improved school attendance, completion and performance.



PRIMARY BENEFICIARIES:

35 school students
120 community members
1 teacher

BUDGET SUMMARY:

Materials	\$ 2,493.00
Labor (SOL)	\$ 758.50
Project Management	\$ 553.60
Community Contribution	<u>\$ 845.10</u>
Total	\$ 2,960.00

SUMMARY AND EVALUATION

This is a high priority project based on the following facts:

- The current school conditions cause frequent suspension of classes due to heavy rains in the region.
- If the school is not repaired soon, a new school will be necessary, leading to a larger, likely 5X-larger investment in the near future.
- The current school conditions make children lose motivation for attending school.
- The community members are aware of the need and are committed to providing 20% of the cost of the project in the form of local labor.

DETAILED BUDGET:

Bangkok School Refurbishment				
Category	Description	Unit Cost	Qty	Total cost in US\$
Materials and equipment	10 ft #26 galvanized zinc sheets	\$23.00	15	\$345.00
	Zinc nails (pounds)	\$3.00	5	\$15.00
	Paint (five-gal bucket)	\$110.00	5	\$550.00
	Thinner (gallons)	\$15.00	8	\$120.00
	3" galvanized nails (pound)	\$1.20	15	\$18.00
	Chainlink mesh (8 ft x 30 mt)	\$165.00	2	\$330.00
	1" galvanized staples (pound)	\$2.00	7	\$14.00
	Gasoline (gallons)	\$5.25	20	\$105.00
	Two-stroke oil (liters)	\$7.00	4	\$28.00
	Boat rental	\$275.00	2	\$550.00
	Diesel Toyota truck (gallons)	\$4.20	40	\$168.00
	Hotel (nights)	\$25.00	4	\$100.00
	Food & water SOL staff (daily per-diem)	\$25.00	6	\$150.00
	Materials and Equipment Subtotal			\$2,493.00
	Labor	Roof installation (sq. meter)	\$5.65	60
Timber sawing (days)		\$8.50	5	\$42.50
Fence installation (days)		\$8.50	5	\$42.50
Carpenter labor (days)		\$8.50	5	\$42.50
Paint labor (days)		\$8.50	2	\$17.00
SOL supervision (days)		\$55.00	5	\$275.00
Labor Subtotal				\$758.50
Project Management				\$553.00
Community contribution (labor)				\$845.10
			Amount Requested	\$2,960.00