



UCD Volunteers Overseas  
UCD International  
Gerard Manley Hopkins Centre  
University College Dublin  
Belfield, Dublin 4

ElectricAid,  
c/o ESB,  
Gateway Two- 4<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
East Wall Road,  
Dublin 3.

8<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Mr. James Foley,

Please see attached to this letter UCDVO's end of project report for the construction of the multi-use classroom at the Centre for Rural Education (CEAR) near Somoto, Nicaragua, in which ElectricAid contributed €6,000 towards.

Both UCDVO and the Centre for Rural Education are extremely grateful for the support and kind contribution from ElectricAid, and it is our hope that we can work with you again in the future.

If you have any questions with regard to the report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Joanne Mulligan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joanne" being more prominent than the last name "Mulligan".

Joanne Mulligan  
Manager, UCD Volunteers Overseas



**Project Reference No: 17-A-053**

## **PROJECT REPORT**

Project Name: Construction of a multi-use classroom at the Centre for Rural Education (CEAR), Nicaragua

Organisation Name: UCD Volunteers Overseas

Date Funds Received: 13 July 2017

Referee: Mr. Deaglan O'Donnaill

### **Notes to Reporters:**

**A brief, concise, and to-the-point report of two three pages is what we require. Insert as much text as you feel is appropriate, but do not feel obliged to write a long report when a short one would suffice. The questions in Sections 1-5 must be clearly addressed.**

**A report must be sent within 12 months of funding – even if the project is incomplete. Failure to do so will disqualify you from consideration for further funding.**

**Reports should be submitted by e-mail to [electricaid@esb.ie](mailto:electricaid@esb.ie). In exceptional circumstances, hard copies may be sent to:**

ElectricAid  
c/o ESB  
Gateway Two - 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
East Wall Road  
Dublin 3  
Ireland

## 1: Projects Outcomes – the results achieved.

(Include here a brief comparison between original project goals and actual outcomes.)

The construction of a multi-purpose classroom at the Centre for Rural Education, established by UCDVO's partner organisation Institute for Human Promotion (INPRHU), was the result of this project. In turn, the completion of the classroom ensured that the centre would be strengthened to enable it to work towards further sustainability by allowing it to provide further training programmes and in turn increase its capacity for such programmes. It allows for an increase in space at the centre to provide training to local farmers within the surrounding communities in crop diversification, food processing and marketing, and animal husbandry, with the use of new and improved classrooms. Similarly, the multi-use classroom allows the centre to provide technical training for rural youth in computers, vocational programme and arts & crafts due to the increase in space. This, in turn, allows for an increase in skills and knowledge of the local community and participants of the additional training programmes.

The multi-use classroom has also been used by surrounding community members for community meetings and events as it provides an open and safe space.

## 2: Financial Accountability – how the money was spent.

(Include here a brief financial account of the spending of the ElectricAid funding. Also account for any unspent balance. Receipts as appropriate should be attached.)

ElectricAid provided €6,000 towards the construction of the multi-use classroom. All funds were spent on the materials and workforce to carry out the construction. Furthermore, UCDVO received €3,000 from Henkel through its MIT programme towards the construction project, and UCDVO contributed €12,656 in 2017 which came from volunteer fundraising throughout the year.

The breakdown of funds spent on Year 2 of the construction is found below:

Purchase	Amount C\$	Amount USD	Amount €
4,000 Bricks	14341.00	476.00	425.00
60 pounds of nails, 6 metres of stone, 6 metres of grit	10020.00	333.00	297.00
Angular, rod, platinum, disc cut metal, anticorrosive , rush, multiple wire, conduit tubes, porcelain, corks	33628.72	1,116.00	995.00

iron, steel rods, welding, anticorrosive cuvettes, metal discs, angles, brushes, zinc foils, sweet tooth, ceramic	128342.42	4,260.00	3,799.00
Lamps, current drains, breaker, rod, multiply meters, union conduit, screws, cap, flanges, cuvettes, paint kit	33460.40	1111.00	991.00
20 bags of bondex to paste ceramics	1734.00	58.00	52.00
Wood, mooring wire, cement bags	91618.10	3,041.00	2,712.00
8 French sliding windows with wood-coloured aluminium and smooth bronze glass	75240.00	2,508.00	2,237.00
4 coloured wooden doors; installed and varnished	28000.00	929.00	829.00
6 doors for sliding dividing of 1x 2.20 mtrs; including installation	42500.00	1,410.55	1,258.00
Rails, locks, platinum, box, fast dry, welding, brushes	6218.93	206.40	184.00
Transportation services	36000.00	1,194.82	1,066.00
<b>TOTAL MATERIALS</b>	<b>501103.57</b>	<b>16,642.20</b>	<b>14,845.00</b>
<b>SKILLED LABOUR</b>	<b>170000.00</b>	<b>5,642.22</b>	<b>5,032.00</b>
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>60096.51</b>	<b>1,994.57</b>	<b>1,779.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>C\$731200.08</b>	<b>\$24,279.00</b>	<b>€21,656.00</b>
<b>ElectricAid contribution</b>			<b>€6,000.00</b>
Henkel contribution			€3,000.00
UCDVO & INPRHU contribution (2017)			€12,656.00

*\*Exchange rate upon transfer of funds from UCDVO to INPRHU €1 = \$1.12125*

### **3: Project Process Narrative – how the project was implemented or progressed to date.**

(Include here difficulties encountered, problems overcome, lessons learned etc. We are particularly interested in your experience in implementing projects such as solar power, micro-finance, rotating credit schemes.)

The construction of the multi-purpose classroom first began in July 2016, when a group of 6 UCDVO volunteers assisted with the levelling of the land to ensure it had strength

with withstand the building, and assisted with the laying down of foundations through UCDVO funding.

In June 2017, the construction of the multi-use classroom officially got underway with funding from ElectricAid, Henkel and UCDVO. A group of 14 UCDVO students worked alongside a small team of 3 local construction workers in Somoto to construct the classroom. The activities that were carried out over the course of the 4 weeks included:

- Building of external walls
- Securing concrete beams and reinforcing steel on the exterior
- Securing beam columns within the interior
- Assembling and installing the steel structure and roof cover
- Installing 8 French glass and aluminium windows along with protection gates
- Assisting with the installation of electrical system with 220 volt mains
- Installing ceramic floors with reinforced concrete cascade
- Construction of reinforced concrete side platforms
- Construction of drainage channels
- Finishing and thinning of walls in the internal construction area
- Painting anti-fungal paint on walls
- Installation of doors.

At the end of the four week period, the construction was 90% completed. This was a major success for the construction team as they had proposed a target to reach 60% completion by the end of the four week period. The remaining 10% was completed in August 2017 by a local group of construction workers in Somoto.

There were some day-to-day difficulties that arose over the construction period, mainly relating to the workforce. UCDVO volunteers were foreign to the Nicaraguan temperatures which caused some exhaustion among the group. It was a necessity for the group to rest regularly to ensure they maintained their good health. In future years on construction projects, UCDVO an INPRHU will ensure there is more assistance from local construction workers as there is a need to ensure volunteers are supervised at all times. In addition, the recruitment of more local construction workers ensures employment in the region.

A lesson learned was to ensure that all materials necessary for the construction was ordered and delivered to site prior to the arrival of the volunteers. This task was carried out in June 2017 before the arrival of UCDVO volunteers and this ensured that the construction could begin on time and volunteer time was utilised as much as possible.

#### **4: Visual Report – photographs.**

(Attach some photographs in electronic format of project implementation & results).





*UCDVO volunteers assisting Gregorio with measurement of walls (above).  
Local Nicaraguan construction workers on site in July 2017 (below).*







*The exterior of the multi-use classroom during construction in July 2017 (above).  
The exterior of the classroom at the end of the 4 week period when volunteers departed  
Nicaragua (below).*







*UCDVO volunteers on site during July 2017 (above)  
Classroom interior upon completion in August 2017 (below)*







*Classroom exterior upon completion showing wooden doors and windows (above) and full view of completed classroom (below).*



## **5: Your Comments.**

(Include here any other comments, learnings, or suggestions you have for ElectricAid)

The multi-purpose classroom has been a great benefit to the centre, to participants in courses, and to the surrounding community. The classroom is fully up and running as of September 2017, and additional training and classes have been added to the schedule at the centre.

Both UCDVO and INPRHU are extremely grateful to ElectricAid for supporting this project as it has resulted in the strengthening of the centres ability to provide training courses for the surrounding communities, thus resulting in increased skills & knowledge within the community.