



GLOBAL GRANTS COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

RESPONDENT'S INFORMATION: Edna Mejia Garcia

What is your involvement in the local community at large?

I am a teacher and principal of Telesecundaria 65, where I have had the privilege of teaching students from the community for several years. In addition to my teaching work, I have worked on the implementation of educational programs that seek to improve the academic performance and personal development of young people. I have also collaborated with parents and other community members on extracurricular activities and community projects, such as literacy campaigns and cultural events. My commitment to education and student well-being has allowed me to build a strong and trusting relationship with the community.

What is your involvement with El Reino de los Niños specifically?

For 15 years, I have taught the students at El Reino Orphanage that have been instrumental in their academic and personal development. The results have been very positive, since many of the graduates of El Reino orphanage have managed to obtain significant achievements as professionals in various areas of knowledge.

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

Describe the characteristics (such as geographic information, main sources of income, population size, and access to education and health services) of the specific community where this project will take place.

Location: Maneadero is located approximately 14 kilometers south of the city of Ensenada, on the Baja California peninsula.

Climate: The region has a semi-arid Mediterranean climate, with warm summers and mild winters.

Population: The community of Maneadero has a population of approximately 20,000, according to the most recent data.

Agriculture: Maneadero's economy is mainly based on agriculture, with crops such as tomatoes, cucumbers, strawberries and other horticultural products.

Basic and Secondary Education: Maneadero has several preschool, primary and high school. There are both public and private institutions that serve the community.

Health Centers: Maneadero has clinics and health centers that provide basic medical care to the population. These centers can cover primary health needs, although for more specialized services, residents usually go to hospitals in Ensenada.

Infrastructure: Although Maneadero has basic services, such as drinking water and electricity, there may be challenges related to road infrastructure and access to telecommunications services.

NEED

This project provides assistance to orphans. What is your perception of the orphan situation in your community? For instance, do you believe there is a relatively high number of orphans? Are you aware of the circumstances surrounding their parents?

The situation of orphans in our community, especially those cared for by the Children's Home El Reino de los Niños, reflects a complex and challenging reality.

The community of Maneadero and its surroundings has a significant number of children and young people who, although not all of them are orphans in the strict sense (loss of both parents), are in situations of extreme vulnerability that require intervention and support.

Many of the children who come to El Reino do so due to various adverse circumstances:

Economic: Families who are unable to provide basic necessities due to poverty.

Abuse: Children who have been victims of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse in their homes.

Abandonment: Cases where parents have abandoned their children for various reasons, including addictions, mental health issues, or simply the inability to take care of them.

Explain what you think would happen to these children if Kids Kingdom did not exist.

Vulnerability: Many children would be left without a safe place to live, exposing them to greater risks of abuse, exploitation and violence on the streets.

Precarious Living Conditions: Without adequate housing, children could end up in unhealthy and dangerous living situations, such as living on the streets or in temporary shelters without the necessary resources.

Food and Health: Without the support of the home, many of these children would not have regular access to nutritious food and medical care, which would affect their growth and overall well-being.

Education: The absence of an environment that values and provides education would

result in many children being out of school, limiting their future opportunities.

Skills Development: Without El Reino's educational and personal development programs, children would not have the opportunity to develop critical skills for life and work.

Delinquency and Drug Addiction: Lack of support and opportunities can lead children and young people to engage in criminal activity or fall into substance abuse as a means to survive or escape their reality.

Exploitation and Trafficking: Without a safe haven, these children are vulnerable to being exploited by human trafficking networks and other types of abuse.

Cycle of Poverty: Failure to intervene appropriately for these children would perpetuate the cycle of poverty in the community, as without education and support, it would be

Social Problems: The increase in street and unsupported children could contribute to an increase in social problems, such as juvenile delinquency and marginalization.

El Reino not only provides a safe place, but also provides the tools and support necessary for these children to break the cycle of poverty and abandonment. Without this type of intervention, children in vulnerable situations would be left without hope and without the necessary opportunities to have a dignified and productive life.

In summary, the existence of El Reino de los Niños is crucial to the protection, development, and future of many young people in the community of Maneadero, as well as in other parts of the state of Baja California. Their absence would have devastating consequences for children and the community at large.

COMMUNITY STRENGTHS, NEEDS, PRIORITIES, AND PROJECT DESIGN

What do you believe are your community's greatest strengths and resources?

Mutual Support: The community of Maneadero is known for its strong sense of solidarity. Neighbors tend to support each other, especially in times of need.

Natural Environment: The proximity to the ocean and various natural areas offers opportunities for tourism and recreational activities.

What do you see as challenges in your community?

Insufficient income: Many families in Maneadero live in poverty, which limits their access to basic needs such as food, housing, and education.

Unemployment and Underemployment: The lack of stable and well-paid employment opportunities is a recurring problem. Many residents rely on temporary or low-paying jobs in the agricultural sector.

Lack of Alternatives: The lack of economic diversification limits opportunities for growth and development for the community.

This project provides funding for reconstruction of the perimeter wall for the Kids Kindgom Orphanage. Are you aware of thefts or other dangerous criminal activities in the surrounding community? Please provide details or examples.

In and around the community of Maneadero, security can be a concern, and there have been cases of robberies and criminal activities affecting residents and institutions such as Casa Hogar El Reino de los Niños.

Property Robberies: There have been reports of burglaries at residential and commercial properties in Maneadero. These thefts can affect both individual households and small local businesses.

The presence of gangs and juvenile delinquency can be problems in some areas, affecting the safety and well-being of young people. This is particularly concerning for children who are at risk of being lured into criminal activity due to their economic and social status.