

# PRESS RELEASE

September 2024



Bessey, Halder, Knipex, Parat and Stabila support construction project in Ecuador

## Tools that matter

A cause for great joy: six selected families in El Laurel, a rural community in the canton of Daule in the Ecuadorian province of Guayas, have recently been able to move into their new homes. These were built with material and financial support by the tool manufacturers Bessey, Halder, Knipex, Parat and Stabila and are part of a collaboration between the manufacturers, the Ecuador-Hilfe El Laurel e.V. association, and the Fundación Hermano Miguel.

Planning for the charity project already began in 2023 and the companies exchanged first ideas. A common goal had been crystallized and everyone agreed that the families in Ecuador should be helped. This decision was reinforced, not least, by a close personal connection and positive experiences with the Fundación Hermano Miguel. Under the name "United by Tools - Helping Hands and German Tool Brands" and the jointly designed logo, the renowned tool manufacturers have joined forces to support the house-building project. This help includes, on the one hand, donating the tools required for construction from five partnered manufacturers and, on the other, providing direct financial assistance regarding construction costs for the houses.

The delivery of the tools had been very eagerly awaited by both the project managers and families in El Laurel. Equipped with hammers, clamps, pliers, levels, and toolboxes, the workers on site were able to carry out the first necessary surveying work quickly and accurately. Once the prefabricated parts of the houses had also been delivered by truck, construction could finally begin and the installation of the electrical and sanitary equipment started. Most of the houses were erected after just a few weeks and the construction work was completed in just three months. The chosen construction method offers the advantage of being able to use renewable raw materials, realize the construction quickly, and carry out much of the work by the families themselves.

As in various South American countries, economic inequality in Ecuador remains very pronounced despite the slow economic upturn, and many people are denied a share in this development. A lot of families live on low incomes, as the parents usually work as day laborers in agriculture, with their earnings heavily dependent on the rice harvest. Leaky roofs, damp walls, and damaged floors exacerbate living conditions, especially in winter, so that for many houses the only remedy is demolition and new construction. This is where the five-tool manufacturers' project comes in, offering these families targeted support and opening up new horizons. The municipality of El Laurel covers an area of 130 km<sup>2</sup> with 31 villages and around 20,000 inhabitants.

The Fundación Hermano Miguel is committed to improving the local infrastructure and developing education, for example by building a medical clinic, a school, and an orphanage, as well as providing individual support for families in need.

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After the six families moved into their new homes and received their title deeds, the positive feedback from Ecuador shows how important the project has been for the region and the families. "You have all helped to ensure that six families can start a new life in dignity and without fear," says Fundación Hermano Miguel. The tools sent will of course remain on site and can therefore also be used in future projects. "We will continue to handle these tools with care and use them for the benefit of the people in El Laurel," promises Fundación Hermano Miguel.

After the completion of the six houses and the heartfelt gratitude from the new homeowner families, one can look forward to seeing whether the "helping hands" of the "United by Tools" partners will take on more projects in the future.

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IMAGE MATERIAL:



Image 01

Previous living situation: Particularly in winter, leaking roofs, damp walls, and damaged floors often worsen living conditions.



Image 02

The arrival of the tools in Ecuador is causing great anticipation among everyone involved.

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**Image 03 + 04**

After the timely delivery of the building components, the workers assemble the houses. The chosen construction method allows for the use of renewable resources.



**Image 05 + 06**

Two of the six families receiving their title deeds: Their deep gratitude is reflected in the positive feedback.

Image link:

[https://filetransfer.parat.de/d/s/10BueRq4SnSDSDddAgutddedSNmYAZL5/PVFWaO5bRUEe716WUdXBX4\\_7DS9bPESq-NrXgFCwlrws](https://filetransfer.parat.de/d/s/10BueRq4SnSDSDddAgutddedSNmYAZL5/PVFWaO5bRUEe716WUdXBX4_7DS9bPESq-NrXgFCwlrws)