



Aldea Almolonga Community, Guatemala

PRJ-061458

The water crisis was an everyday reality for residents living in the La Planta sector of the Aldea Almolonga community. The residents had multiple water sources, including a piped water system, but they still struggled to get enough water. The piped system was old; The pump often burned out, and the water that came out of the rusty pipes wasn't fit for drinking. The water usually ran out before it reached all of the 850 houses in the community. To compensate, residents dug their own shallow wells or purchased water from vendors. But buying water was expensive, and the community members could never be sure if the water was safe for drinking. The hand-dug wells were contaminated by bacteria and pathogens.

As a result, waterborne diseases such as diarrhea and dysentery were common in the community. When the children were ill, they were unable to attend school. This in turn made them more likely to drop out of school altogether. When the adults had a waterborne disease, they were unable to work or care for their homes and families. The water crisis was not only affecting the health of Aldea Almolonga; it was also affecting the socioeconomic well-being of the community.

Luis Alfredo Sandoval Davila lives in Aldea Almolonga. He described the various water sources in his community, none of which were safe or sufficient: "There is piped water in most houses in our community. However, due to improper maintenance, the pipes are full of mud and rust which contaminated the water. Some people have a well at home, but these wells are not deep, so the water is also contaminated. Families had to boil drinking water. The community also has an electric well and water pumps, but these often didn't work."



The old electric pump no longer works.



Construction is underway!

Irregular access to safe water was impacting all parts of life in Aldea Almolonga—children were sick, school was increasingly difficult for ill children, and families spent their hard-earned money to purchase medicines. The community leaders came together to search for a solution and felt a glimmer of hope when they discovered Living Water Guatemala was working in a neighboring community. They quickly reached out to request a safe water system of their own. Upon conducting a preliminary assessment, the Living Water team realized a new well would safeguard the community.

When the staff returned with a drill rig, they not only began construction on the new well, but also shared the gospel with the residents of Aldea Almolonga. A crowd of 228 people gathered to hear the good news of the gospel. Then, as a community, they prayed over their well, asking that it be used to advance God's Kingdom. Each attendee left with gospel literature to keep and share with their friends and family.

Luis knows the new well will transform his community. He stated, "Families will no longer have to drink the contaminated piped water, nor will we have to boil the water we collect. Now we can go to the well and get safe water easily. The well will be a blessing for the families of Aldea Almolonga. Having a manual well ensures we will always have water even if the power goes out."

Safe water has transformed Aldea Almolonga!



The children celebrate easily accessible safe water!