



Wapassi Community, Burkina Faso

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Water scarcity created constant hardship for the residents of the Wapassi community. The community had a single, shallow borehole, but the well often ran out of water. The women and children then had to search for other water sources, spending hours looking for what their families needed for drinking, cooking, hygiene, livestock, and chores. It was a difficult and time-consuming task, especially when they had to make several trips in a single day. When they were desperate, they resorted to collecting water from a contaminated pond.

Having unsafe water sources meant that water-related diseases were common in the Wapassi community. If they were sick, the adults were unable to work or care for the crops they depended on to feed their families. Children and their underdeveloped immune systems were more vulnerable to waterborne illnesses, and they were often the ones who suffered the most. Diarrhea and dysentery made it difficult for them to attend school, putting their futures in jeopardy.

Sawadogo Amadou is a 63-year-old farmer in Wapassi. Sawadogo said, “We had drinking water problems because we only had one borehole for the whole population. Before we got our well, we used water from a pond. That water was not drinkable. Consuming water from the pond made us sick, especially the children.”

He and other community members knew that they were drinking unsafe water, but they had no alternatives. They were caught in a vicious cycle of scarcity, need, and ill health that they couldn't escape on their own. When Sawadogo heard about Living Water’s work in a neighboring community, he reached out to see if they could help.



Women of the community resort to collecting water from a contaminated pond.



Living Water drills a new borehole in the Wapassi community.

Living Water Burkina Faso visited the community and found that the residents were in dire need of a water source they could count on. The staff returned with a drill rig to construct a new well in the center of Wapassi. Now, the community's women and children could easily and safely gather water.

Sawadogo is happy to have plenty of safe water in Wapassi: "Now we have two boreholes which will improve the availability of drinking water in the community. Our health will improve, and our women and children will no longer spend a lot of time looking for water."

With safe water at their fingertips, the residents are able to heal holistically— mind, body, and spirit. No longer will the community feel the burden of trekking for water or rationing their portions. Now, whenever they collect water, they will be reminded of God's divine and faithful hand.



Water collection is now simple and safe in Wapassi!