



Villa Esther, Peru

PRJ-061193

The struggle for water was a daily challenge in Villa Esther. The river, the only water source in the community, was contaminated with debris. Trash discarded by passing boats clogged the section where residents collected their water, creating a dangerous mess. This debris wasn't just sticks and leaves; garbage also contaminated the water with pollutants. Residents had no choice but to drink this water, and because of this, residents suffered from diarrhea, anemia, parasites, and malnutrition. The tropical climate also increased the threat of dengue, a disease carried by mosquitoes that breed near stagnant water, adding to the mounting health problems for the community.

The trash and debris in the river were a contaminant and a barrier. Community members were forced to clear the trash and debris regularly to make space to collect water, but it was a never-ending battle. Compounding the danger were snakes that lurked among the rubble, posing a severe risk to women and children, who are the primary water collectors for the community. The community still mourns the loss of a neighbor who drowned tragically while tending to his fish trap and gathering water. Since that day, the people of Villa Esther approached the river with a heightened sense of caution, aware of its potential threat.

Residents felt that the local government had turned a blind eye to their plight, leaving them to fend for themselves, so they looked for a solution to their water crisis. When they heard of Living Water International's work in the region, they knew they had found their answer and reached out for help. Living Water Peru responded by drilling a borehole and installing a new hand pump in the middle of the community. For the first time, the Villa Esther community finally had safe water!



This river is the primary water source for the community. Unfortunately, trash and debris contaminate the source and make it difficult to collect water.



Living Water staff drill a new borehole until they reach a safe water aquifer 60 meters underground.

Juana, a resident of Villa Esther, shared how grateful she and her neighbors are for the new safe water source and its many benefits to their community: “I think the new hand pump will change our lives a lot. Collecting water from the river and bringing it all the way to our houses was tiring; the worst thing was that it was contaminated. But now the water will be safe water to drink. It will be very helpful, and above all, we will no longer contract parasites.”

Residents now have a reliable, safe water source in the middle of their community. The tiring task of carrying heavy buckets of water from the river is in the past. Residents will no longer have to clean debris and trash to access their water source. Community members can enjoy drinking safe water without fear of contracting parasites or waterborne diseases to the detriment of their health. The new safe water source offers more than just physical nourishment—it rekindles a sense of hope within the community. Villa Esther’s new well is a physical reminder of Jesus Christ’s divine grace and care for his people.



Residents celebrate their new safe water well!