



Magdalena Zahuatlán Community, Mexico

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The Magdalena Zahuatlán community in Mexico was subject to a long-standing water crisis. Although there was a piped water system that reached many homes in the community, there wasn't enough water to go around. Often, residents would turn on their faucets and only a trickle of water came out. Not only did their water system have a finite amount of water each day, but the water it contained wasn't safe to drink; it harbored millions of waterborne bacteria that led to rampant sickness throughout the community.

Illnesses like severe diarrhea and cholera threatened the residents each time they consumed water from their taps. They attempt to use the unsafe water for solely cleaning and other chores, but they often had no choice but to consume water they knew wasn't safe. Without a viable alternative, residents came to fear the water they had worked so hard to obtain.

Armando Don Juan Rojas is a 51-year-old volunteer and farmer. He shared his community's struggle against the water crisis: "Before the new water source, we consumed our water from a source that was not safe. We didn't have a chlorination system, which is why many people were not confident in the water's safety. Sometimes, we were sick because of the water. Having poor-quality water led to many health problems, especially gastrointestinal diseases. We were afraid to use the water."

Armando and his neighbors longed for a water source to supply every family in their community with plentiful water. They knew their water source had potential, but only if they found a way to decontaminate the water.



The construction crew works on installing a new chlorination center for the community's piped water system.



All of the community's water will be filtered and chlorinated through this station.

The Living Water staff traveled to Magdalena Zahuatlan to assess the situation and found a united community ready to steward a new water system. They announced that the existing system could be upgraded by construction. The staff constructed a water treatment system and laid piping all throughout the community. Finally, each and every member Magdalena Zahuatlan could access safe water!

Armando is relieved that he and his neighbors can trust their water source. He shared, “Now we can be confident that our water is safe and high quality. We are very encouraged because now we have a reliable source for our basic needs. This will help to reduce the number of diseases caused by contaminated water.”



A family reads their new Bibles together after attending the well dedication ceremony.