



Nuevo Chambira, Peru

PRJ-062634

Nuevo Chambira is an indigenous community in rural Peru. The residents experienced a severe water crisis, primarily due to the contamination of the river, the community's only water source. The water from the river, which was murky and full of debris, posed significant health risks to the community. Residents reported seeing worms in the water, but they had no other option. Consequently, children in the community were in a constant cycle of illness, leading to regular visits to the health clinic for deworming treatments. Despite these interventions, the cycle of infection persists due to the continued consumption of contaminated river water.

Santiago Carihua, a local fisherman, shared an alarming story of the water crisis in Nuevo Chambira. He said, "The quality of the river water was bad and contained a lot of bacteria that affect our health, but it was our only source. For many years, we drank the river water. We always saw cases of parasites, and it affected the children most. One day, a child screamed, saying, 'I'm suffocating, help me!' I saw him and realized that parasites were coming from his mouth and nose. I was very scared, but I tried to help him. Thank God he is now healthy."

The residents needed a consistent and safe water source to protect themselves and their families from the deadly parasites that plagued the river water. When they heard about Living Water's work from a local clinician, they knew they'd found an answer to their cycle of sickness.



This river is the primary water source for residents. The water is visibly contaminated, and community members, especially children, are prone to getting sick from drinking it.



Living Water staff use a drill rig to drill 18 meters to access a safe water aquifer. This aquifer will serve as a reliable source of safe drinking water after being chlorinated and sealed from contamination.

Safe water has significantly transformed the lives and well-being of Nuevo Chambira residents. The new safe water source does away with the arduous and hazardous treks to the contaminated river, dramatically improving safety for women and children and reclaiming valuable time previously lost to water collection. The instances of waterborne diseases and parasitic infections have plummeted, leading to healthier, more energetic children able to attend school regularly and participate in community life. Families can save money they spent on frequent visits to health clinics now that they are free from the constant threat of illness and the need to have their children dewormed regularly.

Santiago is grateful for the benefits of safe water for his community. He said, “The new pump will be a wonderful blessing to everyone in this community. Women and children will no longer be in danger of collecting water from the river. This drinking water will be very safe and improve our lives.”



The community members celebrate the gift of safe water at the well dedication ceremony!