



Los Colorados, Honduras

HOW RESIDENTS OVERCOME ARSENIC POISONING WITH SAFE WATER

In Honduras, the Los Colorados community grappled with a severe water crisis that critically affected the residents' health. The community members relied on open wells for all of their water needs, but the water was contaminated with a highly dangerous compound: arsenic.

As a naturally occurring element in the earth's crust, arsenic can easily seep into water sources that are unsealed or poorly maintained. The residents of Los Colorados knew their water was contaminated, but they had no alternative. Arsenic poisoning was slowly spreading throughout the 250-person population. When left unchecked, residents exposed to arsenic could develop cancer, pulmonary diseases, or cardiovascular diseases.

Marcelina Martinez, a mother in Los Colorados, highlighted the community's dire water crisis: "Without water, we couldn't do anything. It is an essential part of personal and household hygiene. In my case, I have small children, and we suffered a lot without water in the house. It was especially hard for my children, whom I could not give the living conditions they deserved."

The water crisis in Los Colorados affected every aspect of life, from health to economic stability. Community leaders sought a solution, so when they heard of Living Water International's work in the region, they immediately reached out for help. Living Water Honduras responded by drilling a new borehole and installing a hand pump in the community. Finally, the Los Colorados residents had reliable access to safe water!

Now, residents no longer have to worry that their water is poisoned. Access to arsenic-free water has significantly improved the health of the community, reducing the prevalence of waterborne diseases and chronic health conditions. This positive change has brought immense happiness, as residents now enjoy a better quality of life and peace of mind knowing their water is safe.



This hand-dug well contains dangerously contaminated water.



Residents are equipped to safeguard their health after completing several sanitation and hygiene activities!