



# Santiago Tillo, Mexico

PRJ-063099

The community of Santiago Tillo faced an unprecedented water crisis. Although many homes in the community were connected to a piped water system, the pipes were dilapidated and the water it housed was left untreated. In addition, the pump responsible for operating this system was electric. With the high demand for water and the expensive cost of electricity, it was far from sufficient for daily water needs. To save money, the pump was shut off for long periods, leaving community members no choice but to travel long distances in search of water to supplement their needs.

The residents typically relied on open wells as an alternative water source when their pipes were shut off, but these wells were unprotected and filled with contaminants, leading to a rash of widespread waterborne diseases throughout the community. Residents were sick, tired, and financially burdened by the water crisis.

**Irais Castellanos Sánchez lives in Santiago Tillo and has first-hand experience with water scarcity. She shared: “The water from our system was not treated with chlorination because we did not know how important it was to keep the water safe for our health. We drank water that was not safe. During our seasons of drought, it was difficult because the water demand increased, and we could not afford the high electricity costs, so families could not get enough water. They looked for other options that were often unsafe. This problem continued for a long time.”**

The community members desperately needed an upgrade to their piped water system. So, when community leaders like Irais heard about Living Water’s work in the region, they immediately reached out for help. Living Water Mexico came to the community and installed a new solar submersible pump, solar panels, and a chlorination system. Now, the community doesn’t have to worry about expensive electricity bills and can trust that the water from their pipes won’t make them sick!



This pump is electric, and costs the residents huge sums to keep running.



Community members are happy to have uninterrupted water availability in their community!