



Native Community – San Salvador, Peru

PRJ-062647

Community members in the Native Community of San Salvador grappled with a dire water crisis. Alberto, an 81-year-old fisherman, shared his community's experience: "The muddy ground was always a problem. It was difficult to carry our buckets when they were full. The river's water quality was poor—we had to boil it before drinking. Snakes and small crocodiles were the most common dangers when collecting water."

"I have lived here since I was a child. When we needed drinking water, we relied on the river and hand-dug wells. Every day at 6 p.m., my uncle and I went to the river to bathe and bring water home. One day, my uncle felt very tired, so we took him to the nearest health center. He was diagnosed with anemia and tuberculosis. They treated him with medicinal herbs and boiled river water, but his condition worsened, and it eventually took his life. This was our reality—all because of consuming dirty water and being wet for long periods."

Depending on unsafe water from the river and open wells robbed residents of their time, health, and loved ones. Constant medical costs drained family incomes, while missed work due to illness worsened financial hardship. Coping with ongoing sickness made it difficult for students to maintain academic performance, and absenteeism was on the rise. Yet, amid such suffering, residents refused to give in to hopelessness.

Local leaders knew there had to be a sustainable solution available. When they heard of Living Water International's work in the area, they immediately reached out. Living Water Peru responded by drilling a new borehole and installing a hand pump. For the first time in living memory, safe water flows freely for the 165 residents of San Salvador! "Now, we are more than happy and grateful to have safe water access nearby," Alberto said.



Residents must risk encountering snakes and small crocodiles to collect water from this river, which is unsafe, leading to waterborne diseases.



These girls rejoice over having safe water easily accessible for all their daily needs, empowering them to stay healthy and pursue their bright futures!