



Caserío Coco Azul, Guatemala

PRJ-062878

Residents of the Caserío Coco Azul community faced a dire water crisis that fueled a cycle of lost time, poverty, and disease. “There is no water source in the community. Some houses have shallow wells, but they are drying up. Some people have government-piped water, but it never comes, so they still face shortages. They used to boil or add chlorine to well water to reduce the risk of illness, but it was time-consuming and unsustainable. Plus, it still made us sick. That was difficult because we needed water for everything—cleaning, drinking, and more,” said Ana Elizabeth Mendez Tuches, a 39-year-old resident.

The crisis weighed most heavily on women, who were primarily responsible for water collection. They spent hours searching for water, collecting it, and treating it as best they could. Often, this meant going to a neighbor’s house to use their open, shallow well—if it hadn’t run dry—or walking 30 minutes to the river. Afterward, they boiled the water and treated it with chlorine. However, without proper training in safe water treatment, management, and storage, even these efforts failed to prevent waterborne diseases. Ongoing illness led to missed school and work, costly medical bills, and low morale.

Determined to find a sustainable solution, community leaders reached out to Living Water International the moment they heard about the organization. In response, Living Water Guatemala drilled a borehole, installed a hand pump, and trained residents in sanitation and hygiene to maximize the impact of safe water.

“Now, everybody can easily access reliable, safe water. The burden of the water crisis has been lifted. We are so grateful,” Ana said.



Despite residents’ attempts to protect these shallow wells from bacteria by covering them with wooden planks, contaminants still seep into the water.



Residents and Living Water staff praise the Lord for his provision of safe water. Here, a Living Water team member shares the gospel.