



Native Community – Bena Jema, Peru

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Residents of Peru's native community of Bena Jema battled a dire water crisis daily. Saraida Yuimachi Castro, a 41-year-old teacher, described her community's experience with the water crisis: "The water accessible to us contained dirt and debris. Even though we are close to the city, there is no good water. The most common danger was vomiting from drinking poor-quality water that we collected from the lake.

"Many families in the community don't have the financial resources to send their children to school, and sometimes, they don't even have food. So, I search for funds and help provide everything the library needs so children can study and eat. It was heartbreaking that every day we had to fetch water from the lake, even though it was contaminated. There have been serious accidents where, due to a lack of safe water, infected wounds led to people losing fingers—even a leg."

Regardless of how helpless they felt, local leaders continued to hope for a sustainable solution to this crisis. The moment they heard about Living Water International's work in the area, they reached out. Living Water Peru responded swiftly, drilling a borehole and installing a hand pump. For the first time in living memory, the 220 residents of Bena Jema have reliable, safe water access!

"I am very grateful to God and Living Water for blessing us with a well. My joy and gratitude are infinite. Thank you so much," Saraida said. "This new water source will bring relief to both teachers like me and children. They will no longer have to leave their reading lessons just to go home and drink contaminated water. This will improve our quality of life. Now, we will be better prepared to cook and provide food."



Women must collect unsafe water from this lake on behalf of their community, even though it's filled with bacteria that lead to illness.



Living Water staff hold sanitation and hygiene workshops, teaching residents key disease-prevention skills like handwashing with soap, oral care, and more.