



Parcelamiento El Arisco, Guatemala

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Community members in Parcelamiento El Arisco showed incredible resilience in the face of a severe water crisis. Osiel Adonias Rios Barrera, a 38-year-old farmer, shared: “Because our artisanal wells only provided unsafe water and were unreliable—drying up during the summer months—some families in the community were buying bottled water from local vendors for a long time. It was very expensive. Families who could not afford to purchase water would drive out to the river every weekend to collect water. They were drinking water directly from the river, making them very sick.”

Due to the high cost of purchasing water, most families stored it and rationed the supply across several days. However, without education on proper sanitation and hygiene practices—like safe water storage—the bottled water often became contaminated. Residents found themselves caught in a cycle of loss and disease. Ongoing illness meant children could not attend school consistently, adults missed work, and hard-earned wages went toward medical bills.

Despite the overwhelming stress of their circumstances, residents refused to succumb to hopelessness. Searching for a solution, local leaders immediately reached out upon hearing about Living Water International's work in the region. In response, Living Water Guatemala drilled a borehole and installed a hand pump.

“Now we have a good source of safe water to drink and use for all our needs. It won’t run dry in the summer or make us sick. Local families are very happy because the money they used to spend on water can be spent on food and other essentials,” said Osiel with a smile.



Living Water Trip participants and staff hold sanitation and hygiene trainings, equipping residents with life-saving skills such as handwashing.



The Living Water staff drills 56 meters to reach a safe, underground aquifer. After treating and testing the water for safety, they will manually install PVC piping and a new hand pump for easy access.