Palo de Rueda, Nicaragua

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Residents of Palo de Rueda battled a severe water crisis. Itza Damaris Casco Flores, a 27-year-old housewife, shared: “All our wells were dug by hand. During the rainy season, they became even more contaminated. These wells were nearly two miles from our homes. Years ago, we used to go to the river for water. We all dug wells by hand along the riverbank to have water.” Sadly, these water sources were exposed to dangerous contaminants such as animal feces, dirt, and insects—causing rampant waterborne disease spread.

“We all consumed the same water and used it for cooking and bathing. But during winter, the river water would rise and destroy the wells we made. That caused a lot of sadness. Our hearts became heavy,” said Itza. Regardless of their resilience, residents found themselves caught in a cycle of unsafe water and relentless illness—leading to missed work, income loss, and rising school absenteeism. Mounting medical bills placed further financial strain on families, adding stress and anxiety to an already difficult situation.

Determined to find a sustainable solution, local leaders reached out for support the moment they heard about Living Water International’s work. Living Water Nicaragua responded by installing a hand pump only a short walk from residents’ homes and conducting several sanitation and hygiene workshops in Palo de Rueda. For the first time in living memory, these 130 men, women, and children have reliable access to safe water!

“Now we will have safe water—a drilled well—and guidance on water use and sanitation and hygiene practices,” Itza continued, “Having a water source like this is a blessing. Our lives will improve greatly.”

Living Water staff equips local students with key disease-prevention skills like teeth brushing, handwashing, and more.

The Living Water staff drills 61 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.