



Aldea Santa Rosa, Guatemala

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Residents of the Aldea Santa Rosa community battled a dire water crisis. The community's primary water source was a piped water system sourced from an open well. This well was shallow and dried up seasonally, making the system's supply inconsistent. Not only was scarcity a significant challenge for residents' daily lives, but the water from this well was also highly unsafe.

Alex Ramos, a 29-year-old resident, shared: “Women and children were the ones to collect water. Most of the time, the taps ran dry, so they had to go to the river instead. We dealt with water shortages often. This was especially hard for the elderly because the path to the river was steep, muddy, and far. The worst part was how sick the water made us. It was common for people to suffer from constant vomiting, stomach pains, or diarrhea.”

For women, balancing water collection duties and severe illness made it nearly impossible to care for their families, work, and tend to other household responsibilities. Missed work due to disease and costly medical bills brought financial hardship to local families. Children struggled to focus during class while coping with illness, hindering their academic progress. Often, they were too sick and exhausted to attend school at all. Despite their unwavering resilience, it was clear that residents were desperate for a solution to their suffering.

Local leaders sought a sustainable solution, so they reached out the moment they heard about Living Water International's work in the area. Living Water Guatemala responded by drilling a new borehole, installing a 5-horsepower electric submersible pump, and rehabilitating their piped water system.

“Everything will change now that we have better access and distribution of water in the community. Water that is reliable and won't make us sick,” Alex concluded.



Living Water Trip participants and staff lead sanitation and hygiene workshops, equipping students and residents with lifesaving skills.



These residents, elected by their peers, form the local water committee, tasked with ensuring the well's sustainability.