



Barrio 6 de Noviembre, Guatemala

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The residents of Barrio 6 de Noviembre faced a severe water crisis that affected their health, daily routines and well-being. To meet their everyday needs, community members relied on shallow wells that were often unreliable. During droughts, the situation worsened as the scorching sun dried up these wells, leaving many families with depleted water sources. This scarcity forced families to ration the limited water they had, making it difficult to maintain proper sanitation and hygiene—such as washing clothes, cleaning homes or attending to personal cleanliness.

Community members did their best to replenish their water supply but had to travel long distances to do so. As the primary water collectors, women often endured exhausting journeys that led to chronic back pain and joint problems. The water they collected was also contaminated and caused outbreaks of waterborne diseases such as diarrhea and cholera.

In response to the water crisis, community leaders reached out to Living Water International for help. Living Water Guatemala visited Barrio 6 de Noviembre and worked closely with local leaders to assess the situation. After evaluating the residents' needs, they drilled a new borehole and installed a hand pump surrounded by a concrete wall to protect the water source from wildlife and other contaminants. At last, the community members of Barrio 6 de Noviembre now have access to safe water!



Lilian Álvarez, a 71-year-old resident, is excited about the many benefits safe water will bring to her community. She says, "With the new safe water source, we will have better health and easier access to drinking water."



Chosen by their peers, these residents serve on the water committee and are responsible for maintaining the new water point.