



Colonia Peña Flor Community

PRJ-063768

Residents of Colonia Peña Flor in Guatemala faced a severe water crisis. They relied on small, shallow wells contaminated with insects, dirt, and bacteria, causing waterborne diseases. Women and children bore the responsibility of collecting enough water for cooking, bathing, washing, laundry, and drinking. However, these wells often ran dry, forcing residents to make impossible choices, such as prioritizing cooking and drinking over cleaning or bathing. This intensified disease spread, further diminishing community member's quality of life.

Frequent illnesses such as diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, and skin infections caused residents to miss work, accrue expensive medical bills, and kept children from attending school. Inconsistent attendance made it difficult for teachers to maintain their curriculum, limiting educational progress. Even when students attended class, illnesses and dehydration hampered their ability to concentrate. Financial burdens increased parental anxiety about their children's health and education. Women and girls were especially vulnerable, lacking adequate sanitation facilities and hygiene education to manage menstruation safely. Morale declined, and residents endured growing hardship. Yet, they faced each day with resilience, hoping for a lasting solution.

Their hope became reality when community leaders reached out to Living Water International after hearing about their work in the region. In response, Living Water Guatemala drilled a borehole and installed a hand pump in Colonia Peña Flor. Now, for the first time in living memory, all 300 residents have reliable and sufficient access to safe water close to home!



These girls from the community are overjoyed to finally have safe water close to home! Now, they can stay hydrated without fearing sickness.



During a sanitation and hygiene workshop, Living Water staff teach children and their families about how to prevent waterborne diseases.