



## Siteya Community, Sierra Leone

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Residents of the Siteya community battled a dire water crisis. They relied entirely on a hand-dug well for all their daily needs—cooking, drinking, cleaning, bathing, and doing laundry. Unprotected, the well’s water was contaminated by leaves, dirt, rain, parasites, and more. Animals also used this water source for bathing and drinking, which introduced additional bacteria. As a result, residents suffered from dangerous waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, vomiting, and skin infections. Making matters worse, the well was surrounded by venomous snakes. In addition to the ever-present threat of snakebites, collecting water from this shared source frequently meant residents endured other dangerous wildlife encounters.

Although this contaminated water was causing them serious harm, it was community members’ only option for survival. Women and children rose early to avoid the heat and walked several miles to collect water on their families’ behalf. Not only was this daily routine taxing and time-consuming, it put their safety and well-being at risk. Often, children arrived at school late and completely exhausted. This, combined with illness, made it hard for them to focus during class. Many times, children opted to stay home from school altogether. Similarly, frequent bouts of diarrhea and vomiting made it challenging for adults to work consistently. Lower income and mounting medical bills quickly turned this health and safety crisis into a financial crisis, too.

Despite residents’ resilience amid such suffering, local leaders were in desperate search of a sustainable solution. They reached out for assistance the moment they heard about Living Water International’s work in the area. In response, Living Water Sierra Leone drilled a borehole and installed a hand pump only a short walk from residents’ homes. Thanks to your generosity, these 325 men, women, and children finally have reliable access to safe water!



Residents risk snakebites just to fetch unsafe water from this hand-dug well, which also exposes them to waterborne diseases.



Living Water staff drill 34 meters to reach a safe, underground aquifer. After treating and testing the water for safety, they will install PVC piping and a new hand pump.