



Nyangu Village, Zimbabwe

More than 30 years have passed since a devastating drought near her home, but Mary Nyagu still remembers the walk.

When the wells dried up, Mary, a 47-year-old farmer in Nyangu Village, Zimbabwe, had no choice but to walk more than three miles to the nearest river for water. Day after day, Mary, and other women and children, carried that burden, returning home with water that was often unsafe to drink.

“The water we used to drink was dirty,” Mary recalled. “Community members were walking long distances to collect water, which was a risk for children and women.”

Even after the drought ended and water became available closer to home, it came from contaminated hand-dug wells—and waterborne diseases spread throughout the community. Children frequently missed school because they were sick, while parents stayed home from work to care for them and struggled to cover medical expenses.

Mary and her neighbors wanted something different for the next generation.

Community leaders came together to find a lasting solution. When they learned about Living Water International’s work in the area, they reached out for help.

Then the sound the community had hoped to hear for decades finally arrived—the drilling rig. Living Water Zimbabwe drilled a new borehole and installed a hand pump just steps from residents’ homes, giving 250 people reliable access to safe water.

Today, children spend more time in classrooms than on long walks to collect water. Parents have more time to care for their families instead of searching for safe water—and a memory that shaped one generation no longer defines the next.



These women are grateful that they no longer have to walk long distances to collect water from the river.



Community members celebrate having safe water close to home, freeing up time for education and work.