



Safe Water Provides Radical Change for Families in Peru

Nuevo Milagros, Peru

Residents of the Nuevo Milagros community found themselves in a disheartening situation. Since no safe water sources were available, women and children were forced to fetch their drinking water from the nearest river. While the river provided enough water for their daily needs, it came with many challenges. Dangerous wildlife lived near these waters, such as eels, piranhas, and snakes. Animal bites were common, and residents were filled with fear and anxiety over whether they would encounter an animal during water collection. As a result of drinking this contaminated water, community members frequently became ill with waterborne diseases.

Long-time resident Marisela Pisuri Huiñapi, a 74-year-old farmer, described what it was like living through the water crisis. “I moved to the community of Neuvo Milagro when I was 16. Throughout my life, my husband and I and our nine children relied exclusively on water from rivers, streams, and lagoons. My children suffered from severe intestinal parasites, frequent illnesses, and they complained of anal itching, stomach pain, diarrhea, and vomiting. It gave me great fear of losing them. Even though I did my best to buy deworming medication, it was a very difficult time. One of my children died from severe abdominal pain, causing our family immense grief. As my children grew up and started their own families, the situation remained very difficult.

There were many problems with collecting water from the river—the main one being how dirty the water is. We waited for the sediment to settle before drinking it, but the water quality was still very poor. We also faced danger at the river’s steep slope. During the rainy season, many people slipped and broke bones.”

Then community leaders reached out to experts at Living Water International who partnered with the community to install a hand pump. Now, with the installation of the hand pump, Marisela said, “Clean drinking water has brought about a radical change for our community and church. Children no longer must risk their lives by going to the river to fetch water. The new well is safe and has improved our quality of life. I am amazed and thank God, because this is the first time I have ever had safe water.”



Community members of Neuvo Milagros gather to celebrate their new hand pump.



Marisela has access to safe water for the first time at 74 years old.