



# **EL SALVADOR**

*Hacienda San Rafael Community*

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISSI CATHOLIC CHURCH**

# HACIENDA SAN RAFAEL COMMUNITY

SANTA ANA, CANDELARIA DE LA FRONTERA, EL SALVADOR

LATITUDE: 14.063843, LONGITUDE: -89.623385

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## ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

The 160 residents of Hacienda San Rafael struggled to access their most basic need: water. There were three hand-dug wells serving the whole community, and the water from these sources were both insufficient and unsafe. Although the residents covered as best as they could, they could not prevent all contagions from entering the water sources. The wells were shallow and therefore rife with ground contaminants. Furthermore, the means of drawing the water from the wells introduced other contaminants.

The unsafe nature of the water made the community members susceptible to water-related diseases. Furthermore, the scarcity of the water compelled the community members to ration it strictly. They would forgo hygienic uses, and this perpetuated the spread of illnesses. In this way, the community members were caught in a terrible dilemma. They could either drink the water and risk illness or abstain and suffer from crippling dehydration.

The community members did not want to pass this legacy on to their children. They imagined how life would be healthier and daily routines would be more efficient if they had a reliable safe water source. They had faith and prayed for a solution to arise.



This is one of the hand-dug wells the community members got their water from.



This is a typical home in the community.

A community leader named Vilma Granillo knew there was hope for her community when she heard about Living Water International. She decided to reach out to request Living Water El Salvador's assistance. The staff were glad to respond by scheduling a visit to the community to assess what they could do. Once they witnessed the dire situation and the residents' willingness to work together to sustain the resource, they confirmed a water project was feasible. The community members were elated to learn that a safe water well construction project could begin soon, thanks to your generous

POPULATION	<b>160</b>
MAIN WATER COLLECTORS	<b>women, children</b>
TERRAIN	<b>rural</b>

sponsorship and willingness to participate, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.

The drilling team soon returned and set to work on the well project along with a Living Water Trips team from your congregation. The team drilled until they reached a safe water aquifer at 24 meters deep. They flushed out the borehole to clear it of sedimentary rock debris. Once the drilling team cased the borehole with PVC, formed a gravel pack, treated the water, and mounted a hand pump, the well was complete!



The team has begun work on the well.



The well is complete!

## CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

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ALTITUDE **678 m**

DEPTH DRILLED **24 m**

CASING EXTERNAL DIAMETER **100 mm**

CASING MATERIAL **PVC**

PUMP TYPE **HAND PUMP**

GRAVEL PACK DEPTH **17 m**

SHOCK CHLORINATION **YES**

PLATFORM MATERIAL **CONCRETE**

DRAINAGE CHANNEL **YES**

## WATER QUALITY TESTS

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TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS **130 ppm**

PH **7**

HARDNESS **0 pmm**



Community members excitedly pump safe water for the first time.



The Living Water staff is glad to work with your team!



Thank you for your hard work.

## SUSTAINABILITY

In order to prepare the residents of the community for a future of safe water access, the Living Water El Salvador team led them in a sustainability training. With their guidance, the community members nominated a water caretaker. The caretaker would collect a small fee per household for use of the water in order to save a fund to cover the cost of future repairs to the well. The caretaker would also remain in contact with Living Water El Salvador about the functionality of the pump. This proactive planning would help to prepare the community members to shift into their new role as good stewards and advocates of safe water management in in their region.

"The water in our community was contaminated by our pit latrines, and bad weather made the water muddy. The new safe water well will change our lives."

— *Maria Ester Duarte, 70-year-old farmer*



Maria shares her story with the staff and team.

## SANITATION & HYGIENE

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The Living Water Trips team and staff also led a sanitation and hygiene training for 42 community members. Some of these participants included students. The lessons in the training were discussion-based, interactive, and supplemented with visual aids, making the subject matter universally understandable.

The team first explained how to use the pump correctly and store water in a sanitary way. They also explained the nature of germ spread and disease transmission using visual aids. The participants learned that proper and regular handwashing was the best way to protect themselves against these threats. They were taught proper technique and given the opportunity to practice using a water-saving device called a "tippy tap." They also learned how to brush their teeth correctly through the use of an oversized set of plastic teeth.

A more prescriptive lesson used a specialized doll to illustrate how dehydration and diarrhea become a cycle that drains the human body of fluids. The team taught the participants how to mix a solution of safe water, salt, and sugar to treat these symptoms. They distributed a total of 35 spoons designed for the ratios in this mixture.

The participants were thankful to learn about everyday methods of keeping their homes healthier. They left feeling well-equipped to begin implementing them.



The Living Water Trips team members and staff lead a sanitation and hygiene training at the school.



Community members learn to wash their hands using a device called a tippy tap.

## IN JESUS' NAME

The Living Water staff led an evangelism session for the community. They taught Bible stories using narration, audience repetition, question-and-response, and memorization. Through this method, called Bible storying, the participants learned the stories, "The Samaritan Woman at the Well," "The Miraculous Catch of Fish," "Jesus Washes the Disciple's Feet," and "The Parable of the Good Samaritan."

The community members would always remember the way the love of God was shown to them through your team's hard work and quality time. At the end of the team's time with them, they led a well dedication ceremony where they gave thanks to God for the success of the project. They prayed for continued blessing over the community.



The team leads a Bible storying workshop.



The community members send their love and thanks!

## YOUR IMPACT

The gift of safe water that you gave this community will have ripple effects in generations to come. Due to the abundance of safe water just outside their homes, the community members will live healthier lives. A reduction of water-related illnesses will mean increased time that the community members can spend on more lucrative pursuits. Furthermore, the stress associated with rationing water was alleviated. Now, the community members had plenty of water for all of their needs.

By blessing the community of Hacienda San Rafael, you also blessed the Lord. Jesus said in Matthew 25: 34-35,40b (NIV) “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For... I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

Thank you for giving water, for life, in Jesus' name.



Thank you for giving the gift of safe water!