



Honduras Report 2021



El Obraje Community

STONEBRIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

The 250 residents of the El Obraje community were subject to the whims of the water crisis. The community relied exclusively on two wells, both of which were over 30 years old, to meet the needs of the entire community. The government-funded wells reached household taps once a week, causing the women in the community to rush to fill tanks and containers for the week. Even then, taps only ran for a handful of hours. While the taps were shut off, residents relied on water vendors to supplement their water supply, often traveling long distances to obtain enough water.

In the summer, residents especially suffered from water shortages due to the sweltering heat. Such scarcity forced residents to consider rationing their water supply, often having to make decisions on whether to use it for drinking, cooking, cleaning, or hygiene. This impossible decision led to a lack of proper sanitation, allowing illnesses to spread rapidly among the community. Families with lower incomes could not afford to purchase medicines or treatment, further entrapping them under the subjugation of the water crisis.

Residents of El Obraje felt captive to the cycle of scarcity and need found in their community. They knew that close, reliable, and safe drinking water would interrupt this cycle, so they began looking for outside help.



THE COMMUNITY'S PREVIOUS WATER SOURCE IS OVER 30 YEARS OLD.



THE COMMUNITY IS SURROUNDED BY LUSH VEGETATION.

CONSTRUCTION

Leaders in the community heard about the work that Living Water International was doing in their region and reached out for an initial evaluation. The Living Water Honduras staff traveled to El Obraje and determined that the community urgently needed a new water source.

After concluding that the well project was feasible, the Living Water staff returned to the community with a drilling rig and dug a borehole 78 meters into the ground to access an aquifer filled with safe water. The staff flushed the borehole free of debris and installed a PVC pipe and sanitary seal. Next, they treated the well with a shock chlorination treatment and tested the water to ensure it was safe to drink. Finally, the Living Water Honduras team installed an Afridev hand pump and poured a concrete base. Stonebridge United Methodist Church, you made it possible for this project to come to fruition!

COMMUNITY DETAILS

TOTAL WATER USERS:	250
MAIN WATER COLLECTORS:	women
LOCATION:	rural

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

PUMP TYPE:	hand pump
PROJECT TYPE:	new simple system
DEPTH OF WELL:	78 m

WATER QUALITY TESTS

PH:	8
TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS:	188 ppm
HARDNESS:	120 ppm
COLIFORM BACTERIA:	absent



THE STAFF DRILLS A BOREHOLE DEEP INTO THE EARTH UNTIL HITTING A SAFE WATER AQUIFER.



THE TEAM HAS FINISHED INSTALLING THE HAND PUMP AND POURING THE CONCRETE PLATFORM.



RESIDENTS GATHER WATER FOR THE FIRST TIME!

SUSTAINABILITY

The Living Water Honduras staff helped the community establish sustainability practices to equip the residents for long-term success. The staff guided community leaders in creating a water committee, whose primary function is to manage the well's maintenance, upkeep, and day-to-day operations. In the El Obraje community, seven residents were elected to this position. In addition to caring for the well, the community chose to establish a monthly usage fee for residents in order to save for future repairs. This small fee allows the community to proactively prepare for the future.

The Living Water Honduras staff will continue to support the El Obraje community by staying in contact with water committee members in order to monitor the well's efficacy and quality. Residents feel empowered by their community's ownership of the well and are proud to be a part of sustainable solutions moving forward.



THE COMMUNITY APPOINTS SEVEN RESIDENTS TO SIT ON ITS WATER COMMITTEE.



MISAEI MORALES (LEFT) SHARES HIS STORY WITH A LIVING WATER STAFF MEMBER.

“The most difficult time was during the summer, when we didn’t have enough water and had to buy water from far away. This was more challenging for families with lower incomes because they did not have the resources to purchase from water vendors. They were the most vulnerable due to the lack of water.” *-Misael Morales, 64-year-old farmer*

SANITATION & HYGIENE

Residents in the El Obraje community were eager to learn how their new, safe water could be used to better their health. The Living Water Honduras staff instructed a variety of sanitation and hygiene lessons to community members by using interactive tools. Twenty-six residents attended the sessions, where they learned how diseases are transmitted and the ways in which proper hand-washing can combat illness. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, residents also learned how to prevent exposure by wearing masks. The team demonstrated how to properly transport and store water gathered from the well, allowing ample time for residents to practice their newly learned techniques. In addition, the Living Water Honduras staff taught residents the importance of oral hygiene as a building block for overall health.



RESIDENTS LEARN ABOUT ORAL HYGIENE DURING A HEALTH AND SANITATION LESSON.

IN JESUS' NAME

Your generosity also empowers the local church and shares the good news of God's love for residents in El Obraje. Members of the community attended Bible storying workshops, where 23 members learned how to share the gospel orally with their friends and family. At the conclusion of the project, a local pastor led the community in a well-dedication service, where 300 residents were given their own Bibles and heard about Christ's sacrificial gift of *living water*. The dedication service ended with community members praying over their well and thanking God for his provision through your gift.



A LOCAL PASTOR LEADS THE WELL DEDICATION CEREMONY IN PRAYER.

YOUR IMPACT

Stonebridge United Methodist Church, thank you for providing safe water to the residents of the El Obraje community. Because of your generosity, members of the community are able to free themselves from the confines of the water crisis, assured that they have safe, reliable water across their community. They will be able to use this water to improve their health as they implement the good habits they learned about from the training you provided.

Jesus says in John 10:10 (NIV), “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” Your gift empowers the people of El Obraje to seize their potential by taking charge of their health, livelihoods, and future through safe water.

Your gift will have lasting impact in this community, Stonebridge United Methodist Church. Thank you for giving water, for life, in Jesus’ name!