



GUATEMALA

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THE PROJECT

Project Location: Calle Banco, Nueva Concepcion, Guatemala

GPS Coordinates: Latitude 14 08.849 N Longitude 091 19.028 W

People Served: 250

Report Presented To: Mitchell's Life Church

THE COUNTRY

According to the most recent UNDP report, Guatemala is ranked 116th out of 169 countries with comparable data in the United Nations Human Development Index. In 1996, the country emerged from a 36-year-long civil war that claimed more lives than conflicts in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Chile, and Argentina combined. Guatemalans live in one of the most inequitable societies in the region. More than half of the population lives in poverty and nearly 17 percent in extreme poverty. The average schooling of the adult population is 5.4 years; for the indigenous population, this number drops to 1.9 years.

Like many of its neighbors, Guatemala struggles with high crime rates and gang violence. Because of its location, the country is vulnerable to hurricanes, flooding, mudslides, and other natural disasters that impede the development of infrastructure. Additionally, millions of Guatemalans still lack access to clean, safe water, with an estimated 80 percent of illnesses classified as water-related.

While recent figures indicate a large majority of Guatemalans with access to improved water sources, those working on the ground and living in rural areas would argue that these numbers are inflated and that the situation is actually much worse. Coastal families often drink from unprotected sources such as hand-dug wells or rivers. Women in Highland communities still trek long distances through the mountains in freezing temperatures to access lower-altitude municipal water sources.

OUR WORK IN GUATEMALA

Living Water Guatemala is a registered NGO in the country with a trained team of nationals working with mission teams to drill new wells for communities in need. Since 2001, Living Water has completed more than 200 water projects in Guatemala, mostly as part of mission trips. Clean water is only part of the solution—while the well is being drilled, health and hygiene classes teach the women and children how proper sanitation contributes to the overall health of the community. With so many small villages in the region in desperate need of clean, safe water, the biggest challenge for Living Water Guatemala is the sheer amount of work that needs to be done. In 2011, Living Water will lead 52 well-drilling trips to Guatemala, bringing life-saving water and the message of the gospel to those who are in desperate need.

THE DATA

Population: 14.7 million

- 6% without access to an improved water source
- 19% without adequate sanitation services
- 13% living below the poverty line

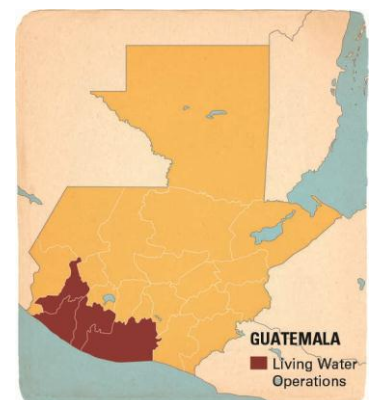
Life expectancy: 71 years

Infant mortality rate:
40 per 1000 live births

GNI per capita: \$4167 USD

Sources: World Bank, UNICEF, USAID, UNDP, CIA World Factbook

Official statistics often understate the extent of water and sanitation problems, sometimes by a large margin. Insufficient resources for monitoring population and/or coverage as well as varying definitions of coverage and access contribute to statistical variability.



GENERAL INFORMATION

A LWI Guatemala team member commented, "It was amazing to see the adults joining in on the fun. We were ahead of our normal schedule, so we actually started to develop the well on Tuesday. As always, the kids started to play in the water first, but then the older kids and teenagers started to play in the well water. By Wednesday, everyone was getting into the fun. The men, women, the elders of the community, and even the pastor all were soaking wet! I told the pastor that he had a great community, because the people seemed to me to be much more than just a normal community. Everyone seemed to really enjoy each other and really come together because of that pastor. It was really amazing to see everyone enjoying the water that God provided for them. The pastor also spoke about how he had been praying for three years for the Lord to bless them with clean water. Their water there was nothing that I had ever seen in my time here in Guatemala. It was yellow and smelled so bad. When the pastor began to tell everyone about his prayer, he began to cry. This was a powerful testimony to prayer and God's faithfulness." When the LWI Guatemala team arrived, community members were utilizing an unprotected hand dug well located .1 of a kilometer away from the community, to meet all of their water needs. Because of this, families were suffering from cholera, dysentery, diarrhea and severe dehydration among other preventable water related illnesses. The LWI Guatemala team was pleased to learn of the community's use of a covered pit latrine as this will help prevent further spread of disease in the area. During the team's stay, community members assisted the team with the water project whenever possible, provided any materials they had available, made food for the team and provided security over the water project during the night. Most community members earn a living by farming and ranching or by teaching at the nearby school. The school is located .15 of a kilometer away from the community whose students, teachers and administrative personnel all have access to the new, safe water source. Before leaving the community, the team provided community member, Jorge Fernando Salazar Lopez, with a LWI Guatemala contact number in case their well were to fall into disrepair, become subject to vandalism or theft.

TESTIMONY

The LWI Guatemala team had an opportunity to meet with thirty-eight year old community member and pastor, Jorge Fernando Salazar Lopez, who stated, "First, our number one problem here is that our water is yellow and smells really bad. We had the water tested and found that it was not good for drinking. Also, at times, we did not have any electricity to pull the water out of the wells. The water was contaminated, smelled really bad, was yellow, and when the power was out, we could not get anything out of the wells. Now, we have this well from Living Water. This water is clean and pure. Everyone will have access to this water. It is not just for the church, but everyone in the community. We do not have to go and get water from other wells. I remember that I would have to stop reading my Bible to go and fetch water from other houses along ways away. This use to really bother me, but not any longer. Thank you Living Water."

CHARACTERISITICS OF THE WELL

Project Details

Location Name	Calle Banco, Nueva Concepcion, Guatemala	
GPS Coordinates	Latitude:14 08.849 N	Longitude: 091 19.028 W
Altitude	39.93 m	
Total depth	38.1 m	
Static level	2.22 m	
Diameter of casing	100 mm	
Casing material	PVC	
Screen	Start: 24.38m	Stop: 36.58 m
Pump Type	Afridev	
Depth of cylinder	10.67 m	
Well yield	1590 liters per minute	
Gravel pack	Yes	
Sanitary seal depth from surface	12.8	
Community Population	250	

WATER QUALITY TEST

Test Results are from

LWI test Kit

Total Dissolved Solids (as per T.D.S meter) :	167
pH:	8.5
Total Hardness:	0 ppm
Nitrate/Nitrites:	2/0.5 ppm

Bacteria Test

Coliform Bacteria NOT detected (Colorless or Light Yellow color)

Chlorination

Yes

(It is policy of Living Water International to shock chlorinate water wells at a minimum: after completion of drilling and installation of pump and before use by end users, After the well seal is broken during maintenance or rehabilitation and before use by end users.)

HYGIENE EDUCATION

During the hygiene education, the LWI Guatemala team addresses: Hand washing, how to properly transport and store water, disease transmission and prevention, how to maintain proper care of the pump, as well as signs and symptoms of dehydration and how to make Oral Rehydration Solution. All of these lessons are taught in a participatory method to help community members discover ways to improve their hygiene and sanitation choices, and implement community driven solutions.

EVANGELISM

Before leaving the community, the team shared oral bible stories with community families and distributed Bibles. Considering 80% of developing countries are oral preference learners, oral disciple making methods are Living Water International's core component of sharing the Gospel in areas of work. Living Water International provides pastoral care and discipleship of field staff, so pastors and LWI staff are better able to share the Gospel with spiritually thirsty communities. To make disciples of oral learners, LWI Guatemala uses stories, proverbs, drama, songs, chants, and poetry to better engage communities. LWI Guatemala tells Bible stories to community families and asks questions to help guide community members to interpret scripture into their own context.

PHOTOS



Project in process.



Previous water source utilized by the entire community to meet all of their water needs.



Completed water project accessible by the entire community and will be used to meet their most immediate water needs.



Community children playing in their new, safe water source.



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Water committee members who are responsible for helping maintain the well and who were provided with a LWI Guatemala contact number in case their well were to fall into disrepair, become subject to vandalism or theft.



LWI Guatemala team.



Close up of plaque.