



**EL SALVADOR**  
*El Gran Chaparral*  
*Decimus*  
2015 INVESTMENT

# WATER

## Community Details

Before the Living Water El Salvador team entered El Gran Chaparral, the team learned from the community leaders that if safe water were provided, the water would directly bless 25 families that currently live in desperate need of a safe and reliable water source. The water the people were using was collected from shallow wells that were contaminated by a nearby sugarcane plantation, as chemical runoff seeped into the community's primary water wells. The people also and unknowingly further contaminated their water sources by making unsafe hygiene and sanitation decisions. There were some families, though few could afford the luxury, that purchased water to drink, but many, because they are so poor, had no other option than to drink the dirty, chemical-contaminated water from the shallow wells. Not only were the people embarrassed by their limited, unsafe water options, but they were also weak and tired as the consumption of unsafe water opened and sustained doors to cholera, respiratory illnesses and other water-related diseases. Many families earn a living in El Gran Chaparral by working long, laboring hours for small, daily wages, and the people oftentimes will go for hours in the hot sun without water. When laborers do find water out in the fields, they drink from surface water sources or very shallow wells knowing that although their thirst may be quenched temporarily, they will most likely suffer disease later. Hopeful to end the cycle of sickness and disease that crippled health and stagnated community development, community leaders contacted the Living Water El Salvador team and asked for help, and because a generous donation was received from Decimus, the Living Water team was able to respond to the community's request and enter El Gran Chaparral with safe water.

To secure safe drinking water in the community, the Living Water team drilled a 36-meter-deep well, chlorinated the well and capped it with an Afridev hand pump that allows the well to yield 200 liters of safe water per minute. The people formed a three-person water committee who were trained to maintain the well and help keep the water safe. The water committee was also tasked with collecting a monthly well maintenance fee in case their well were to fall into disrepair or become subject to theft or vandalism. While the water committee was trained to maintain the well and manage water resources, other beneficiaries were shown how to make good, informed hygienic and sanitary decisions so that they could keep both their bodies and their water safe. During the hygiene and sanitation lessons, the Living Well Club also worked with the short-term team to weave in Scripture and Bible stories so that the people would have an opportunity to also learn about their Savior. To further engage the people in Scripture, the local churches, Iglesia Dios Todo Poderoso and El Gran Chaparral Asamblea de Dios, worked with the team to encourage families to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. The local churches will continue to work with families to help cultivate not only ambassadors for Christ, but also new believers so that the impact of the "living water" can extend beyond El Gran Chaparral to other unreached communities in El Salvador. Thank you, Decimus, for your donation that has truly changed lives and impacted many eternities in for many thirsty Salvadorians.

## Project Details

Product	New
Location of water point	El Gran Chaparral, La Paz, Zacatecoluca, El Salvador
Type of Institution Served	Village
GPS Coordinates	Latitude:013 28.191 N Longitude: 088 50.320 W

## Construction

Altitude	80 m
Total depth drilled	36 m

Static level		11 m
Total depth of casing		36 m
External Diameter of casing		100 mm
Casing material		PVC
Screen	Start: 30 m	Stop: 36 m
Pump Type		Afridev
Depth of cylinder		19 m
Gravel Pack		Yes
Gravel Pack Depth		25 m
Well yield		200 Liters/minute
Sanitary seal depth from surface		6 m
Shock Chlorination		Yes

**Well Platform**

Platform is concrete with reinforcing steel		Yes
Dimension of Platform (H*W*L)		.30*1.50*2.50
Drainage Channel or soak pit installed		Yes
Anything else constructed		Protective Fencing

**Water Quality Results**

Water Purity Test		LWI Test Kit
	Total Dissolved Solids (as per T.D.S meter) :	147
	pH:	5.5
	Total Hardness:	0 Ppm
	Nitrate/Nitrites:	0 Ppm
Bacteria Test		Coliform Bacteria NOT detected (Colorless or Light Yellow color)

## FOR LIFE

### *Hygiene Promotion*

While safe water has the ability, when properly used, to improve health and serve as a building block for community development, it is essential that safe water be coupled with good hygiene and sanitation behaviors. To allow beneficiaries in El Gran Chaparral an opportunity to secure a foundation for community development and make informed hygienic and sanitary decisions that will improve their overall health, the Living Well Club used a participatory LWI Traditional Method to share hygiene and sanitation lessons. The Living Well Club even used the story of the “Woman at the Well,” to engage beneficiaries in the lessons and to simultaneously weave in Biblical teachings during the training. The following lessons, disease transmission, germs, healthy and unhealthy communities, hand-washing-proper techniques and water-saving methods, latrine perception, diarrhea doll-causes of diarrhea, good-bad hygiene behaviors, clean hands clean hearts, tippy tap proper care of the pump and keeping the water clean, were shared with 85 beneficiaries who now know how to keep both their water source and bodies safe from contaminants and disease.

### *Community Member Interview*

“First, we want to thank you very much and thank the almighty God for giving us this great blessing in our lives—for many long years, we have prayed for the great blessing of this well,” shared 48-year-old community member and construction worker, Carlos Antonio Flores. “One of our biggest problems, [in the community], was the water. The water is heavily polluted because the wells are not very deep, and we live near a sugarcane plantation where, with the use of many chemicals, our water becomes contaminated. [Because of this,] we suffer from stomach pain. But now we thank God because we have clean water! We also want to thank the people who came from far away to help us. Thank you.”

## IN JESUS' NAME

### *Christian Witness*

“In the community, El Gran Chaparral, the Word of God was carried through Brother Marvin as he spoke of the importance of the people not only needing physical water, but also spiritual water, which God alone can provide,” shared the a Living Water team member, “Marcela, a Living Water team member, also shared the Word of God with help from the short-term team. Together, Marcela and the short-term team in the drama of the ‘Good Samaritan’, they evangelized the children through puppetry—where most of the children made the prayer of faith to believe in our Savior Jesus Christ!” During the week, 70 people (26 men, 16 women and 28 children) were told about Jesus Christ and this was made possible through the gift of safe water. Thank you, Decimus, for your donation that has allowed the people of El Gran Chaparral to know both safe water and the “living water,” Jesus Christ.

**PHOTOS**



This is the well is an example of all community wells Chaparral. Most of the wells only reach a depth of 8 meters, and the water is contaminated because the people had no hygiene and sanitation training. The biggest problem is that the people lived near a sugarcane plantation where the chemicals would often reach their water source.



A close-up picture of the plaque that was secured to the cement base.



Lady Conception of Caranza Baquerano, who is a 58-year-old housewife and beneficiary, and who shared how happy she was for the blessing of safe water that came as a gift from God.



Mr. Miguel Angel, a 65-year-old farmer and beneficiary (left), Mr. Walter Flores, a 40-year old private security company owner (middle), and Mr. Manuel Lainez Goches, a 41-year-old radio technician (right), volunteered to form a community water committee and will be charged with collecting a monthly well maintenance fee of \$0.05USD per family.



Members of the US short-term team work to secure safe drinking water for the people of El Salvador.



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Marcela, a Living water team member, working to share good hygienic habits with beneficiaries Marcela had an opportunity to share hygiene and sanitation classes with the women and children every day, and to help them learn how to take care of their well, bodies and, most importantly, their health!



Maria Luisa Carranza, a 38-year-old community member and clothing company owner, learning how to wash hands without wasting water. Maria is using a newly-constructed tippy tap!





This is the home of Nelson Alejandro Martinez, a 36-year-old community member and beneficiary, who shared that although their community is poor, they all work hard and want their homes to look nice. The people here have much pride in their community and were encouraged to learn that having safe water in their community will help them keep their homes not only looking nice, but also clean and safe for their families.



The community constructed a fence around their well to help keep livestock from contaminating the well site. The people were very proud of their new water source and committed to keeping it safe.



Many people from the community gathered to celebrate the new blessing of safe water!