**Groundwater Training in Nicaragua**

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The United Nations (UN) reports that 771 million people lack access to a basic drinking water source around the globe. In Nicaragua, the water crisis impacts many small communities that still rely on shallow wells for their everyday water needs. For many of these communities, the shallow aquifers have been exposed to contaminants from their hand-dug wells and latrines. Because they consume unsafe water, residents face a health crisis as they suffer from a number of respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases.

To alleviate these problems, the people of Nicaragua need access to sustainable, safe water sources. Generally, this involves drilling wells into deeper aquifers and constructing them with quality materials and standards that protect them from contamination. For the past three years, Living Water International has been working on training and equipping one of our global teams of drillers in Somotillo, Nicaragua, to serve communities with reliable solutions to their safe water needs.

However, Living Water International's country program has needed help locating clean, confined aquifers. To address this issue, a team of geophysicists and hydrogeologists from Houston have traveled to Nicaragua to train 11 students to use hydrogeology and DC resistivity to locate aquifers that are at least 30 meters deep.

This training was conducted in the Los Balcones and El Caimito communities, where the need for water is great. Water projects for these communities have already been in plan for the first quarter of 2023 Living Water programs, and the local drill team has identified locations that indicate the presence of water using resistivity. Soon, the local team for Living Water International will begin drilling in the Los Balcones and El Caimito communities. Through our collaborative trainings using the new resistivity and hydrogeological tools, we are hopeful that the people of Nicaragua will have a safer, healthier, and more prosperous future!