

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER PARA LOS NIÑOS

The Power of Two Drops

Clean Water for San Marcos de la Sierra, Honduras

What a great treasure it is to have access to clean, safe drinking water every single day. Yet this is a privilege that is only fully appreciated by those who have lived the opposite reality — where clean water to drink has not been an opportunity available to everyone.

At Shoulder to Shoulder para Los Niños, we work every day to bring hope, health, and education to the most vulnerable families in our communities. We do this alongside municipal governments, who share our commitment to improving the quality of life of their residents.

Background

The border municipalities of western Honduras form part of what is known as the Dry Corridor: a region where water for household use is scarce, and safe water for human consumption comes at a cost that many families simply cannot afford. Those who have the means buy it; those who don't, access it wherever they can find it: rivers, streams, open wells, no matter how contaminated it may be. That same water, which should sustain life, is all too often the very thing that makes the community's children sick.

Why San Marcos de la Sierra?

The municipality of San Marcos de la Sierra is one of Honduras's seven border municipalities, and not only the poorest in Intibucá, but one of the poorest in the entire Lenca region. Here, extreme poverty is not a number in a report: it is the children growing up without clean water, the mothers walking long distances carrying water that is often unsafe, entire families exposed every day to illnesses that could be prevented with something as simple as a couple of drops of chlorine.

It is hard to imagine that much need, but it is real, and it is happening right now. We know we cannot change everything, but we also know that when we come together, the difference we make is deep and lasting.

Purchase and Distribution Process

On a rainy afternoon, we traveled into the city to load the buckets we would bring to the municipal government of San Marcos de la Sierra. There, municipal staff welcomed us warmly and helped us unload them, ready to begin the journey to the communities that needed them most. Some of the buckets reached the communities by truck; others were carried by the people on their shoulders.



Municipal staff and our team loading buckets bound for San Marcos de la Sierra.



The final stretch: community members carrying buckets by hand along mountain trails where trucks cannot reach.

The Impact: Two Drops That Change Lives

Thanks to the support of our donors, we have had the opportunity to reduce the risk of waterborne illness for 500 families. Yes — 500 families in San Marcos de la Sierra have received a bucket, a dropper, and a bag of chlorine. But even more important than these supplies, mothers have received something that will serve them for a lifetime: the knowledge to purify, on their own, the water their children drink every single day.



Mothers and children of San Marcos de la Sierra with the buckets, droppers, and chlorine delivered to their community — July 21, 2026.



Demonstrating how to add two drops of chlorine per liter of water.



A community member practices the purification method with guidance from our team.

With just two drops of chlorine per liter of water, these families can now prevent illnesses such as diarrhea, cholera, and other infections that, in communities like this one, are among the leading causes of childhood illness and death. It is a simple change, but its impact is enormous: it means fewer visits to the health center, more school days for children, and the peace of mind of knowing that the water on the family table is no longer a threat.

We are also grateful for the continued support of the municipal government of San Marcos de la Sierra, a key partner in making the distribution of these buckets possible across every community.

Two Drops. A Lifetime of Difference.

There are still many families in San Marcos de la Sierra waiting for their own bucket, dropper, and bag of chlorine. Your gift — of any size — can bring them the same simple, life-saving solution: two drops at a time.

Join us — shoulder to shoulder. Learn how you can help at shouldertoshoulder.org.

Thank You for Making This Possible

None of this would be possible without you. To each and every one of our donors: thank you for believing in the families of San Marcos de la Sierra, for trusting our work, and for turning your generosity into safe water, health, and hope for those who need it most. Every donation, no matter its size, translates into real drops that save lives.

There are still many families waiting for their bucket, their dropper, and their bag of chlorine. We invite you to keep walking alongside us — shoulder to shoulder — and to keep giving the gift of clean water to those who need it most. Together, two drops at a time, we keep changing lives in San Marcos de la Sierra.