

## Guadalupe Loaisiga

**Community:** Pellizco Central, Chichigalpa, Chinandega  
**Occupation:** Agricultural Engineer, Municipal Councillor  
**Position:** President, Community Water Committee



*"Without water there is no life. Water is fundamental and that's the case worldwide, because nobody can survive without this vital liquid."* says Guadalupe Loaisiga Centeno with great conviction. The land and water, and knowledge of how to manage these are what sustains rural families. Water scarcity is one of the greatest vulnerabilities suffered by the communities in the Dry Corridor of Nicaragua.

*The Dry Corridor is a tropical dry forest region on the Pacific side of Central America with irregular and low rainfall. It is highly susceptible to climate change and variability. For the last four years, the region has been experiencing a drought.*

### The Weight of Water

*"Here we have lived through difficult times. Two years ago, we were carrying water from some four kilometers away. All of this responsibility fell on the shoulders of women and animals. We carried water in buckets on our heads or on horseback, depending on each family's possibilities."*

*"We had a hand-dug well with some metal sheets to cover the wellhead. We hauled the water out laboriously, and I say laboriously because we had to submerge a tin can or drum and manoeuvre it with pure arm strength. Because of this, we often had outbreaks of diarrhea and parasites in the community, especially among the children."*

# Water is Life

are two united words

### "A Dream Come True"

Guadalupe, full of determination, was not intimidated by the challenge, and took on the task of building opportunities to bring water to the community of Pellizco Central. The community is surrounded by large plantations cultivating monocrops such as cotton, sugar cane and now peanuts, which make extensive use of chemical fertilizers that pollute the water and land, and overuse machinery which creates dust clouds that impact the surrounding communities.

As an elected member of the municipal council, Guadalupe is well informed about municipal development plans. So one day, when attending one of the sessions of the municipal council, she contacted Change for Children's partner organization working in the municipality.

*"I told them about the need and problems due to the lack of water. I kept trying and trying, but it seemed like nothing would happen. Then on a day like any other, a truck arrived in the community with a lot of equipment and I could not even imagine what for. They entered asking for Guadalupe Loaisiga. The next day they started to drill and in a month and a half we were watching the water flow. We were born again. It was a dream come true."*



### Water within Reach

*"Truthfully, today I feel that my life has changed; the life of my family and of my community has changed completely. Everything I have done was first and foremost for the community. I was born to serve others. When I can serve my community, I feel fulfilled. When I can lend a helping hand, I feel very good."*

*The water well has an electric pump, a water tank, and piped distribution system that reaches every home. It has completely changed the lives of women in the community. Nowadays, we do not have to go far to look for water. The water comes to us. With this system, Eufemio, the pump manager, turns on the pump and the water is distributed through the network to each house. I no longer have to be thinking about going to haul water. I know what time the water comes to my sector."*

*Pellizco Central has changed a lot. I feel that development has reached my community, because when there is electricity and water, there is development."*

### Organizing for the Future

*"Nowadays we have to take care of the water. If I waste any water, I pay more and electricity is expensive. If I waste water, there are other neighbors who will not have enough water. We cannot forget yesterday: yesterday was hard, yesterday was painful. It is painful to remember carrying full drums of water on our heads."*

*As the community water committee, we have to learn to fly and to value this great dream. This is why we are legalizing our Water Committee and we plan to do things right. When we have the ledger, the daily book, and the minute book, we will keep clear accounts to conserve harmonious community relationships and partnerships."*