

A man wearing a light blue short-sleeved button-down shirt, grey trousers, and a camouflage baseball cap is walking on a rocky, uneven path. He is leaning his right arm against the thick, textured trunk of a large tree on the left. The path is composed of large, dark grey rocks and is surrounded by dense, lush green foliage. The lighting is natural, suggesting daylight. The overall scene conveys a sense of being in a rural or forested area.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

La Guaruma

Where every drop of water is carried uphill.

ACHUAPA • LEÓN • NICARAGUA

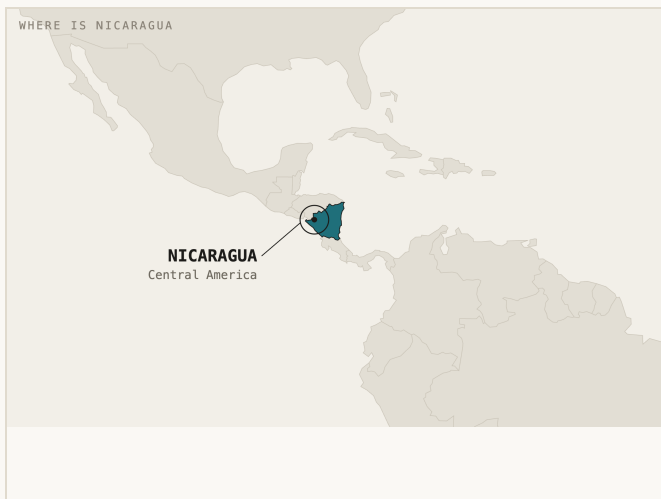
One spring, one hundred and forty lives, and nowhere else to turn.

The trail starts easy, winding through dry trees and the loose dust of the season. But within minutes it drops into a gray, rocky ravine, and there – beneath the roots of a century-old tree, among stones covered in fallen leaves – lies the single water spring that all of La Guaruma depends on.

There is no other source. No well, no nearby river, no pipe reaching the houses. Just this dark pool, no bigger than a small room, shared by roughly 140 people – 35 families in total – for drinking, cooking, bathing, and washing.

Every day, someone from each household walks down this same path, fills whatever they can carry, and climbs back up. It has always been this way, they say.

WHERE THIS IS



Nicaragua sits between Honduras and Costa Rica, in Central America.



La Guaruma lies in the municipality of Achuapa, department of León.



Every bucket counts. Each family draws only three jugs a day, so the water in the spring is enough to go around — then everyone waits for it to recover.

TESTIMONY

“I’m not farming right now, for lack of water and rain.”

NOEL GONZÁLEZ • FARMER, LA GUARUMA COMMUNITY

Noel has grown corn and beans for as long as he can remember. This year, like much of the community, he left his land unplanted: without rain, and without water to spare for irrigation, no harvest is worth the effort. To support his family, he says, he does a bit of everything while the land waits.

“During the day, families can only draw three jugs of water each,” he says. “They spend all day hauling water because there’s never enough – walking down a ravine and back up again with the containers full.”



DAILY RHYTHM

Three jugs, every day

Water doesn't reach the houses — it has to be fetched. Walk down the slope, bend over the pool, fill each jug by hand, and climb back up carrying the weight of the day.

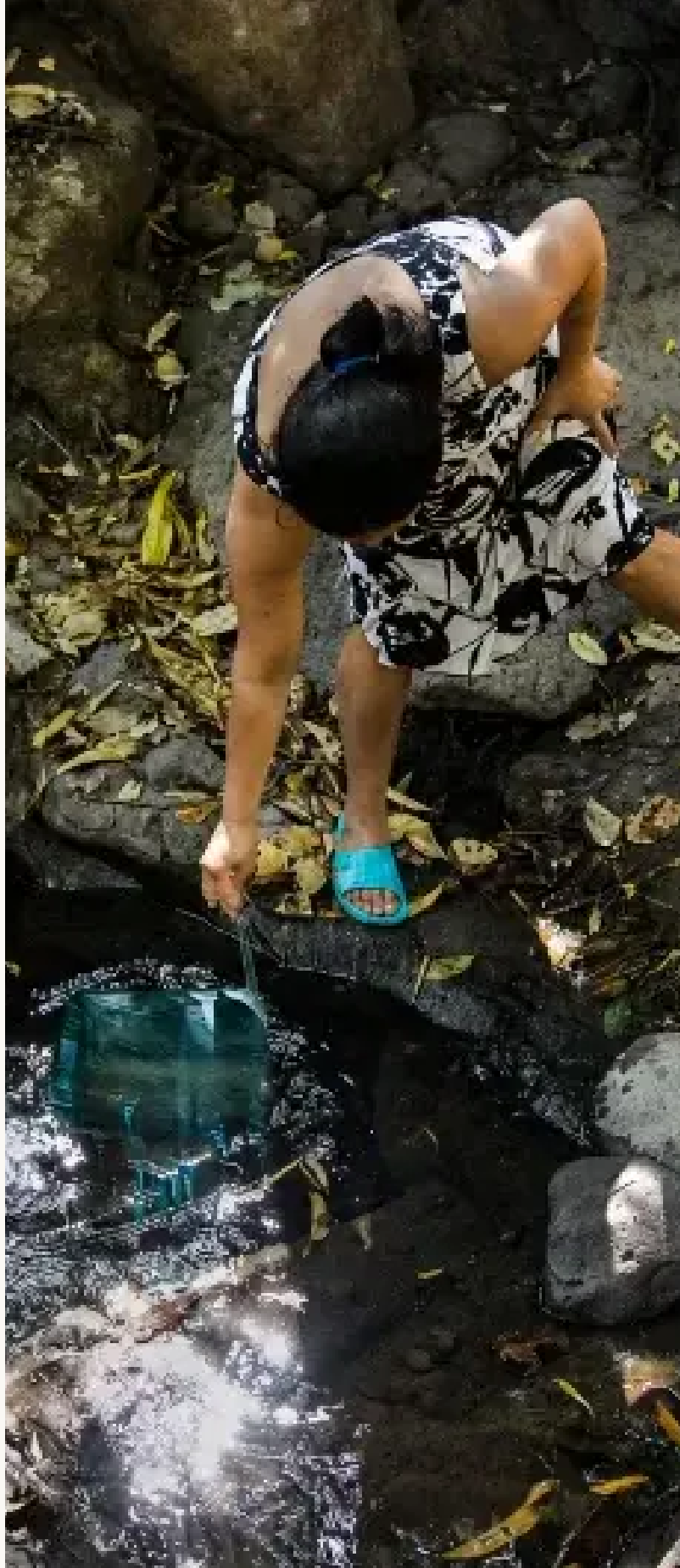
Three is not an arbitrary number. Each family takes three jugs so that the spring has enough to go around, and then everyone waits for it to recover. The limit is set by the water, not by the need.

Doing laundry takes planning. It has to happen daily, however tiring, because letting it pile up only means carrying even more water later. It's a rhythm that eats up hours that could otherwise go to farming, to school, to rest.

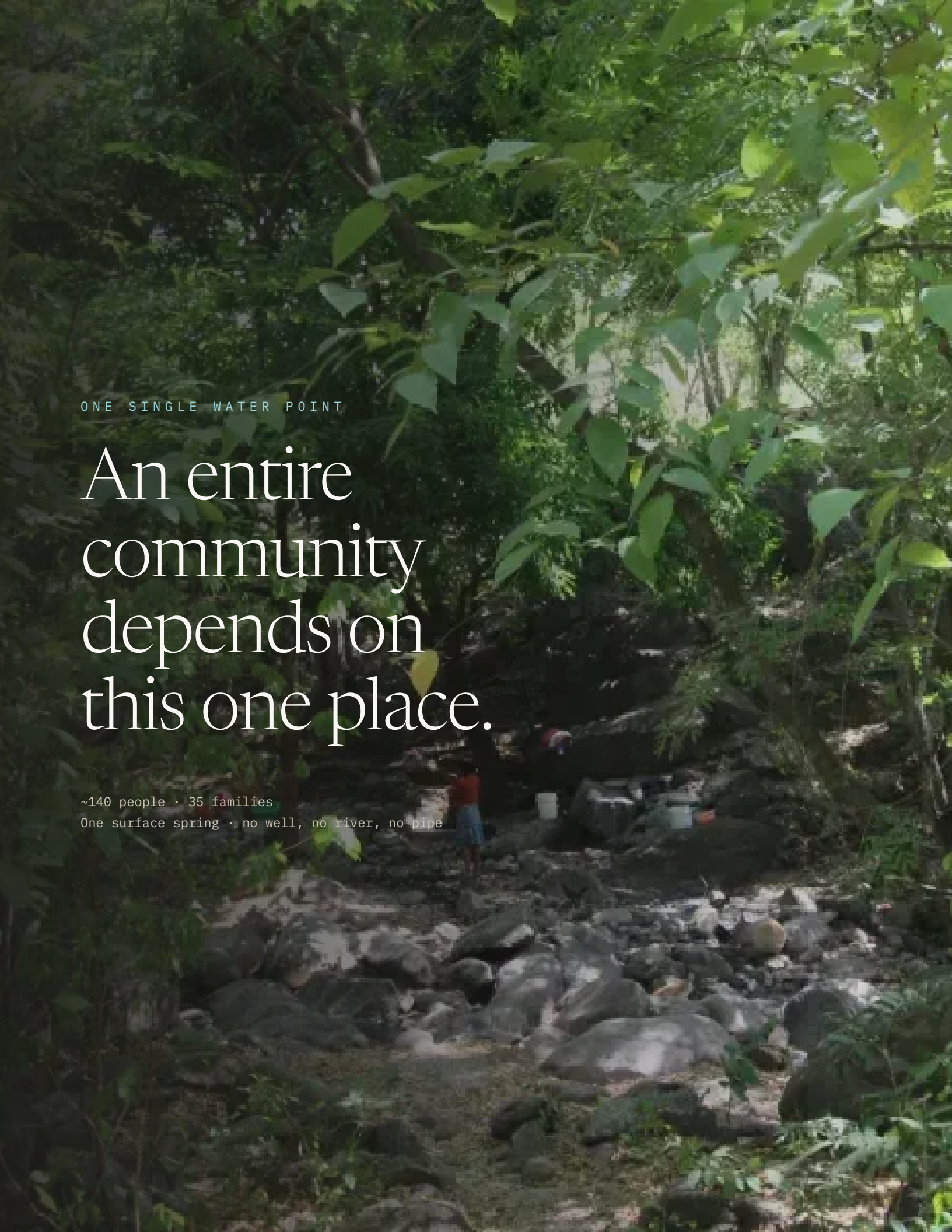
But in La Guaruma there is no alternative: until a second source exists, the community's entire life revolves around this one point of water.

POVERTY OF TIME

Poverty takes many forms. One of them is time: the hours a household must spend on required chores like hauling water, and cannot spend on anything else. In La Guaruma the cost of water is paid in hours, every single day.



María Antonia Centeno, the wife of a CAPS member, doing her family's laundry at the spring in La Guaruma, Achuapa.



ONE SINGLE WATER POINT

An entire
community
depends on
this one place.

~140 people · 35 families

One surface spring · no well, no river, no pipe

THE PROJECT

What comes next

The solution the community and the HydroLOGICA technical team have defined together is to drill a deep well – approximately 400 feet down – that will bring safe, reliable water to La Guaruma. The project covers the drilling and construction of the well, along with the installation of the pump and the water distribution system.

The full process, from the first agreements to launch, is expected to take between 12 and 20 weeks: site studies, permitting, drilling, water quality testing, and training the community to maintain the system.

It's not just a well. It's the chance for Noel to plant again without drought taking it all away. It's time given back to every family. It's a community that no longer has to carry uphill what should simply arrive on its own.

WELL DEPTH · ~400 ft

SCOPE · Drilling, pump, distribution system

TIMELINE · 12-20 weeks



Potential drilling location next to the catholic church – Our technical team and community members are conducting a seismoelectric survey.

“In the meantime, in La Guaruma, the walk to the ravine is still made every day.”

LA GUARUMA AT A GLANCE

LOCATION

Achuapa, León, Nicaragua

POPULATION SERVED

~140 people · 35 families

CURRENT SOURCE

A single surface water spring

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Drilled well, ~400 ft deep, with pump and distribution system

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

12 to 20 weeks

TESTIMONY

Noel González, farmer

This is the first of two stories from communities visited this week facing water access challenges. Each has its own path, its own people, and its own reason to keep going.