



## Chacuey Community, Dominican Republic

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The Chacuey community, nestled near Dajabón, Dominican Republic, is a poignant example of resilience in the face of adversity. For years, the community members grappled against the harsh reality of water scarcity, which was exacerbated by recurring droughts. The arid months from November to April were especially challenging because their piped water system ran completely dry. In a region where water is not just a physical necessity but a lifeline for agriculture, livelihoods, and the people's overall well-being, the scarcity posed a grave threat to the Chacuey community's way of life. Families had to travel long distances in search of water, and even then, the water they found was often contaminated and unsafe for consumption. This struggle became a defining feature of daily life, a constant reminder of the community's vulnerability in the face of nature's unpredictable patterns.

Altagracia Sosa is a 53-year-old pharmacy technician in Chacuey. She witnessed the harm caused by the water crisis. She shared, "In times of drought, our water source was totally depleted, and we had to wait for a tanker truck to travel 20 kilometers from Dajabón to our community. We bought water from them at expensive prices. Even then, the water was not enough to meet everyone's needs, especially in times of drought. It was very difficult to carry out daily tasks."

Amidst these trials, the Chacuey residents demonstrated remarkable strength and perseverance. They banded together to find a sustainable solution to their water crisis and reached out to Living Water for help.



As a pharmacy technician, Altagracia witnesses the direct impact unsafe water has on her neighbors' health.



A Living Water Trips team works alongside local staff to install miles of new piping.

When Living Water staff visited the community, they realized that the community's old water source could be rehabilitated. By installing a new submersible pump, the borehole could reach the deep, plentiful aquifer, and provide unfettered access to everyone in Chacuey. The staff, assisted by Living Water Trip participants, installed miles of additional piping to connect the water source with an existing piped water system. Finally, they installed a chlorination center to ensure the water is continuously free from bacteria!

Altagracia is thankful for the revitalization of the community's water system. She said, "We are so happy because this project came to our community. We hope that we will never experience shortages again. Now, we have enough water for everyone."

With renewed access to safe water, life in Chacuey has undergone a remarkable transformation. Residents no longer face the daily burden of water scarcity, enabling them to focus on improving their overall well-being, agricultural productivity, and local economic opportunities. Now, the residents can rest assured each and every person in their community has access to water that will only better their health!



Young students at the local school celebrate having abundant safe water!