

Campeche Tortue, Haiti

PRJ-061506

The people of Campeche Tortue endured a severe water shortage that deeply impacted their lives and health. Without a local water source, residents walked over an hour to collect water from a nearby community's hand pump, which couldn't meet the demands of both communities. Some resorted to a mountain stream, but the hike was dangerous, especially while carrying heavy containers. Joseph Rose-Carmène, a student, described the hardship:

"We had a lot of problems. We usually went very far to get water. Carrying water on our heads caused us a lot of pain. Sometimes, children were late for school because they were collecting water. Often, we also went to school without eating. I would look for water in a stream up the mountain. Once, I was carrying a big gallon of water on my head. When I was coming back, I slid down from the mountain and fell and hit my head against a tree. My head still hurts from time to time."

The lack of water extended beyond drinking needs. Scarcity made sanitation impossible, spreading disease, while the contaminated stream increased illness risk. Families struggled to bathe, clean their homes, or prepare meals, often skipping meals altogether. Seeking relief, community leaders reached out to Living Water International. Living Water Haiti drilled a new borehole and installed a hand pump, bringing safe, accessible water to Campeche Tortue.

Joseph shared her gratitude: "Oh, our situation will change greatly. We now have water very close to our home. Having safe water will be wonderful." Now, she no longer fears the treacherous trek. Instead, she looks forward to focusing on her studies and a brighter future.



Joseph [right] shares how the water crisis impacts her education.



Safe water flows in Campeche Tortue!