



Sabana Santiago, Dominican Republic

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Residents of the Sabana Santiago community grappled with a complex water crisis, depending on sporadic water truck visits to supply water to their homes. Mildred, a 45-year-old resident, shared: “Water arrived at irregular hours, often late at night or early in the morning, disrupting our sleep and daily routines. The water quality was also poor, coming from unreliable sources without proper treatment, which posed significant health risks. Everyone helps collect water, but women and children traditionally carry the heaviest burden. I remember nights when we had to stay awake until midnight just to fill our containers. The lack of sleep made it hard to function the next day, and my children often struggled to focus at school. Limited water availability also made it difficult to maintain cleanliness and hygiene, adding to the stress and health risks we faced daily.”

Coping with scarcity and illness had devastating ripple effects on the economy and community morale. Schools experienced record absenteeism while adults struggled to attend work consistently. Lost income and high medical bills generated community-wide financial hardship. Still, local leaders held out hope for a sustainable solution. Upon learning about Living Water International’s work in the area, they immediately reached out for help.

In response, Living Water Dominican Republic drilled a borehole and installed a three-horsepower solar submersible pump, which ensures a continuous flow of safe water to an elevated plastic tank treated by an automatic chlorine dosing pump. This gravity flow system distributes safe water to 120 households and the local school, impacting 613 residents.

“We expect this to significantly improve our lives. Reliable access to safe water will reduce waterborne diseases and increase our overall quality of life, supporting agriculture and other essential tasks for community development,” Mildred added joyfully.



These residents were elected by their peers to form the local water committee. They are tasked with ensuring the water system’s sustainability.



A Living Water Trip participant teaches students about safe oral hygiene practices and other disease-prevention behaviors.