



Cerros de Aminilla, Dominican Republic

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Residents of Cerros de Aminilla were in a desperate situation. Their primary water source—a hand-dug well—was exposed to dangerous contaminants and ran dry seasonally. As a result, they had no choice but to purchase water from water trucks. Not only was the water expensive, but it was also unsafe for consumption, leaving them prone to waterborne diseases. The high costs also forced many to compromise on other basic needs, such as cooking, washing and cleaning. Amid illnesses, some families faced the painful decision of forgoing medicine or worsening their financial situations with hospital expenses. Children, most vulnerable to sickness, suffered the greatest under these conditions. Weakened by waterborne illnesses, they often had no choice but to stay home from school and fall behind in their studies.

Brígida Mención, a 69-year-old farmer, shared her experience with the water crisis: “Things were really hard for us. We didn’t have safe water. We were always worried about getting sick, and many people in the community had health problems from consuming the unsafe water. There were times we didn’t have enough to cook or bathe. We couldn’t grow our own food because there just wasn’t enough water. It was a constant struggle, and we felt like we were doing everything just to survive another day.”

Community leaders heard about the work that Living Water International was doing in the area and reached out for support. Living Water Dominican Republic responded by drilling a borehole and installing a submersible pump. A new solar panel system reduced operating costs, allowing families to invest their finances elsewhere. At last, 400 men, women and children in the community can enjoy reliable access to safe water!



The old borehole had broken down, forcing families to purchase unsafe water from vendors—an expense many could not afford.



Brígida says, “With safe water at home, we won’t get sick. The children can stay in school, and we’ll have more time to work, take care of our families, and even grow food. Life will be healthier and easier for everyone. It gives us hope for a better future!”