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Providing Clean Water in Puerto Rico

Located just outside of El Yunque National Forest, a precious tropical rainforest and tourist attraction, stands Cubuy. Tucked away in a mountainous area, its remote location in the region, Cubuy continues without power and there is no clear timeline in place for when electricity will be restored. As a result, the community struggles without safe and reliable access to clean water.

An underground cistern provides water when the Aquaduct runs out. However, the water is untreated and creates variability in water access, leaving the community without a source for safe drinking water.

The Escuela Georgina Baquero serves multiple nearby communities and was a distribution center after the Hurricanes devastated the island. Because this school has been such a lifeline and central asset for the community, the Agency of Public Buildings for Puerto Rico has recommended the site for an AquaTower because of the impact it will have for so many people in the surrounding area.



CUBUY Escuela Georgina Baquero

Number of Students: 350

GPS Coordinates: 18.266403, -65.873785

Village Population: 5,000 (approx.)

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Where Leptospirosis has Claimed Life

Cubuy Embraces AquaTower

“Cubuy is in a remote mountain region, distant from the metro area. It is a community with few resources, and 76% of the students come from families who live below the poverty level. When the Authority of Aquaducts and Sewage (AAA) interrupts water service, it can take days or even weeks to return. When water access does return, it is turbid and smells bad. The first death from Leptospirosis after Hurricane Maria hit was reported in Cubuy. The community is hopeful that in the future there will be a solution for the water quality problem.”

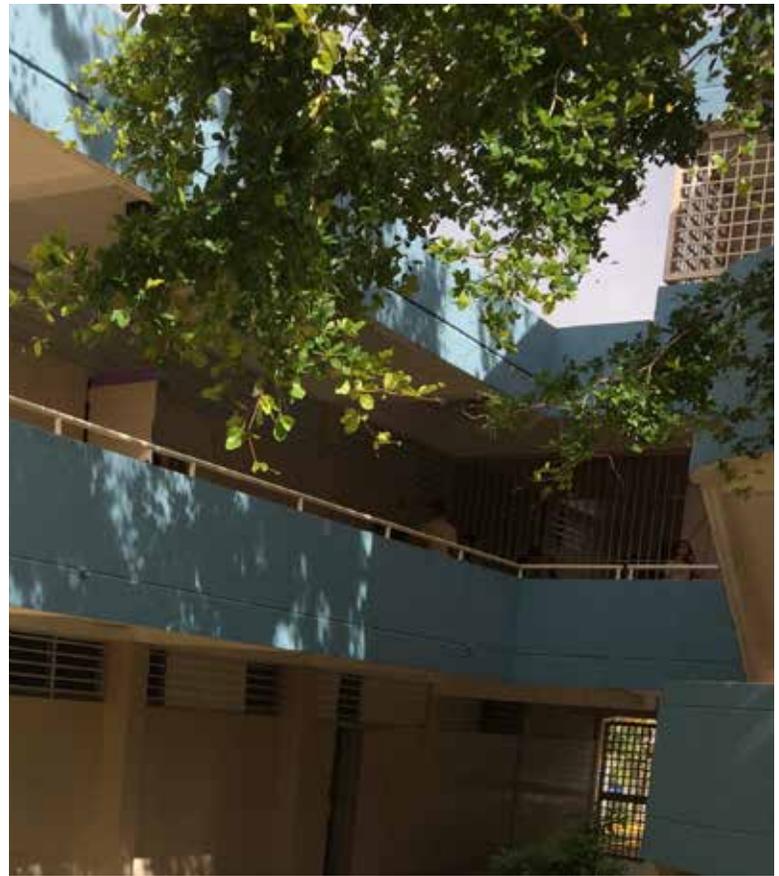
- Director Manuel Quiñones Lebron, 50 years old,
School Director



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Planet Water Foundation is a U.S.-based non-profit that develops strategic partnerships that support Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts that align with four of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Quality Education; Gender Equality; Reduced Inequalities; and Clean Water and Sanitation. Project 24 programs and initiatives support these four SDGs with longitudinal support in each community for five years. Project 24 is Planet Water Foundation's World Water Day advocacy and engagement platform around the world's critical need to solve water poverty since its inception in 2015.



“Soon after the hurricane hit, the death of a school bus driver was reportedly caused by Leptospirosis - related to the quality of water that was coming from the faucet. As a result of this, the entire community, including my household, only drinks bottled water. With the AquaTower the community will have confidence that there is a source of potable and safe water in the school.”

-Ruth Marin, 56 years old, School Secretary

