



## Providing Clean Water in Puerto Rico

The school has access to a water source but after completing tests, we found that it is not of the best quality. The school impacts three communities (Sector Las Cuevas, Villa Cañona I y II, and Villa Repollo) that are all low-income areas. The children attend school and talk about their concerns about the water in their homes and in the school.

The town of Loiza has its roots in the abolition of slavery and the area has always been marginalized. Hurricanes, not only the recent storms, but also those that have passed over many decades, have had a strong impact on this town and its communities, driving the area into further poverty over time.

Project HOPE has been committed to this community since first starting their work in Puerto Rico, including the deployment of one of their Mobile Medical Units into this school. The AquaTower project will build on their other work in the area as they continue supporting the rebuilding of Loiza.



### SECTOR LAS CUEVAS, LOIZA Escuela Celso Gonzalez Vaillant

Number of Students: 290

GPS Coordinates: 18.426077, -65.880432

Village Population: 20,000 (approx.)

PROJECT  
(24)



PROJECT

(24)

## *School Principal Explains Their Essential Need* **Community Access to Water**

**“As a school director for the past 25 years, I am very concerned about all of the people living in our three communities, to which we give services. Soon after the passing of Hurricane Maria, the water service was interrupted. Upon its return it had a lot of turbidity and possibly bacteria. We knew the filtration systems of the AAA (local water agency) were not to be trusted. And this happens every time there is an interruption in our service. With the tower we can provide a program that will assist the school, community and our neighbors so that they have access to clean and healthy water.”**

**- Director Santos Casado Archeval, 55 years old,  
School Headmaster**



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



*“I don’t drink the water from the fountain because it’s contaminated. And for that reason I drink bottled water. With the tower I will be able to return to drinking water without fear that it may be contaminated.”*

- *Angel, 10 years old, 5th grade student*

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.



*“As a teacher and member of the community, I worry about the drinking water quality. When it goes out and then returns it is turbid and has a bad smell, so for that reason we buy bottled water. The tower will be beneficial for the community and students.”*

- *Carmen River, 48 years old, Teacher*



*“As an act of precaution after the hurricane, I prefer to drink bottled water. I understand that with the interruption of the electrical system, the Authority’s (AAA) pumps and filtration systems are not functioning correctly.”*

- *Ivan, 57 years old, Staff Member at the School and Community Member*

