



## Providing Clean Water in Puerto Rico

**San Isidro is one of the most populated barrios in Puerto Rico. Population growth in the area started when people settled in informal encampments following Hurricane Hugo. The river valley location elevates the risks of flooding from the river and rainwater.**

No drainage systems and limited sewage and water infrastructure creates dangerous conditions when flooding occurs. There is a lack of safe drinking water access made worse by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

The community waited for water service, but it was turbid and treatment systems were still not functioning. Water at the school is used for bathing, washing clothes and to clean, but there is no confidence in its safety for consumption.

Planet Water Foundation's AquaTower system, supported by Xylem, will provide a vital resource for this resilient community to support their water needs as their long rebuilding process continues.



### **BARIO SAN ISIDRO** **Escuela Jose Santos Quiñones**

Number of Students: 250

GPS Coordinates: 18.387556, -65.883981

Village Population: 50,000 (approx.)

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## *Remote Town Lacks Confidence in Water Supply* **Where Untreated Water Sickens**

**“The community of San Isidro has a population of approximately 22,000 people. Currently it has 13 sectors that originated as “invasions” (squatters) following Hurricane Hugo in 1989. Two of these sectors (Villa Hugo and Valle Hills) don’t have any potable water. These families and sectors were established with little or no planning, regulations, or permits. Although the water source is from the Aquaduct and Sewage Authority (AAA) it has continual interruptions and there is no confidence in its water quality. This causes health problems such as diarrhea, stomach illnesses, and even leptospirosis. People are always needing to boil water or depend on acquiring bottled water. The grand majority, if not all, of the student population lives under the poverty level and purchasing bottled water is an unnecessary economic burden, in spite of already paying for the AAA water service. The installation of the water tower and filter will minimize the problem with the water and the process of teaching and learning will be implemented fully as a service for the community.”**

**- Elda Mireya Gautier Rios, Community Leader & Teacher**



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



*“When the hurricane hit, the water went out and when it returned it was dirty! How bad that it’s not possible to drink water from the fountain in school.”*

- *Alexandra, 15 years old, 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*



*“I used to cut cane when these were still sugar cane fields. I’ve been school director for 29 years now. This Aqua Tower will be part of the legacy of my community. This is my home.”*

- *Headmaster. Mr. Ruben Mojica*

