Addressing Water Insecurity in Colombia

From Community Evidence to Action

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1

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Just five minutes from Cartagena, Colombia, Tierra Bomba is a low-income island community lacking reliable running water infrastructure. Residents depend on seasonal rainfall and water transported from the mainland, with access further constrained by weather conditions, transportation barriers, and water quality concerns.



4

EVIDENCE-INFORMED INTERVENTIONS

Water Safety Education
Community workshops on water testing and safe water practices.

Household Testing and Purification
Piloted at-home water testing kits and explored durable, long-term household filtration solutions.

Stakeholder Partnerships
Shared findings with government officials and local and international partners to support future advocacy and sustainable interventions.

2

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH

Trained community members surveyed approximately 40 of 150 households using a seven-question mixed-methods survey exploring water access, affordability, and barriers to reliable water supply.

COMMUNITY EVIDENCE TO ACTION

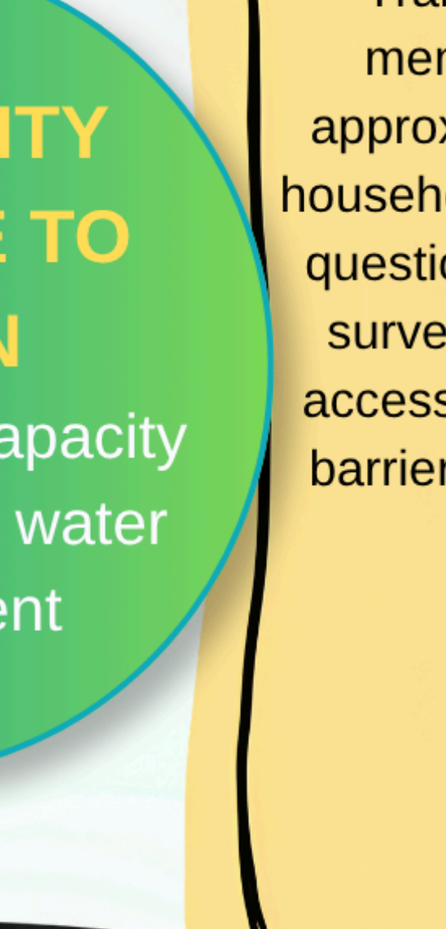
Building local capacity for sustainable water management

3

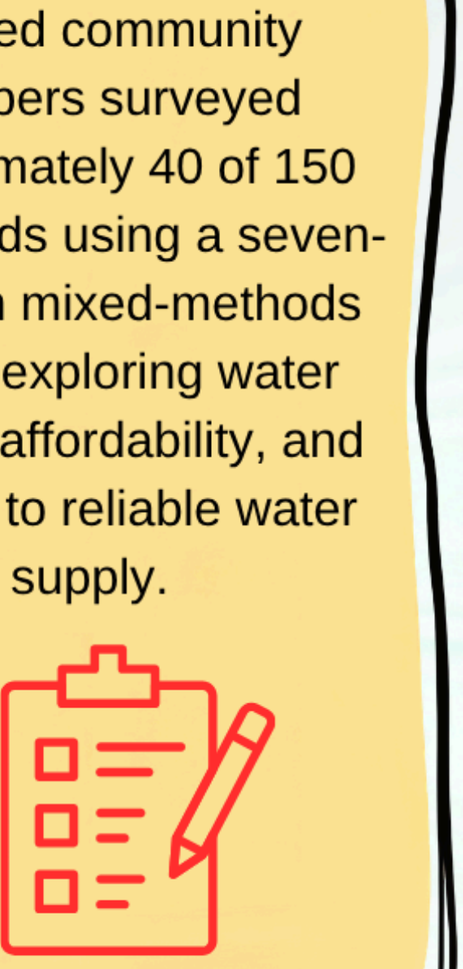
SURVEY RESULTS



Only sometimes had reliable water access



Used no water purification method before consumption



Fell ill after consuming water

The cost of unreliable access

Respondents with inconsistent access to water spent around 16,000+ COP/day (5 USD/day)

Respondents with consistent access to water spent around 7,000 COP/day (2.20 USD/day)

Households with inconsistent access to water spent 2.3 times as much on water every day



In partnership with Amigos del Mar