



## Starbucks and Planet Water Foundation bring clean water to El Refugio community in Aguascalientes

- Starbucks and Planet Water Foundation installed an AquaTower filtration system to provide up to 1,000 liters of clean water per hour to the El Refugio community in Aguascalientes.
- Starbucks Mexico partners (employees) supported the installation of AquaTower hand washing stations and provided water health and hygiene educational workshops for the community.

**Mexico City, June 2, 2021.** To provide access to clean, safe drinking water and handwashing stations to people in Mexico, Starbucks, The Starbucks Foundation and Planet Water Foundation have partnered to deploy an AquaTower water filtration system in the El Refugio community, in the state of Aguascalientes.

With a population of 500 people, El Refugio located around one hour from the capital city of Aguascalientes, and residents previously drank and cooked with water that came from a contaminated well. Water is a basic necessity for life, however, according to the United Nations, 2.2 billion people, or 3 in 10 people worldwide, lack safely managed drinking water, and 3 billion people lack basic handwashing facilities.

The AquaTower water filtration system was installed at the beginning of this year, with the main goal of ensuring students at the Plutarco Elias Calles school are able to go to school, as four students are absent everyday due to stomach problems caused by drinking polluted water. The larger community has also benefited from the filtration system, which has been providing up to 1,000 liters of clean water per hour, supplying water to nearly 1,800 people.

*"We are very grateful for this donation from Starbucks because contaminated water has been an issue we've faced for many years. Our students' parents are very excited to know that their children now have access to clean, safe drinking water because of the AquaTower in our school. Plus, the entire village is also able to access the system for drinking and handwashing with soap,"* said Yolanda Calzada, principal of the Plutarco Elías Calles school.

Supporting communities is a significant part of how Starbucks makes a greater impact and change at scale. As part of the Starbucks Mexico Volunteering Program, 10 Starbucks Mexico partners (employees) from the Altaría store located in Aguascalientes city participated in the project by installing hand washing stations, holding sessions with students of the Plutarco Elias Calles school about water health and providing hygiene educational materials to members of the community.

*"The activity was very inspiring for me; I realized how small actions can change the lives of so many people who really need it, and how, thanks to these experiences, we value more what we have in our*

*lives. I feel lucky to share and support others in whatever way I can”, said José Alfredo Gallardo, store manager of Starbucks Asunción located in Aguascalientes.*

*“We are proud of the impact we have been able to make both in Mexico, and the rest of the world thanks to the support of Starbucks and The Starbucks Foundation. We look forward to continuing this partnership with the additional projects we have planned over the course of 2021 to bring clean drinking water, handwashing facilities and hygiene education to communities in need” said Mark Steele, Founder and CEO of Planet Water Foundation.*

The Starbucks Foundation and Planet Water Foundation have partnered since 2011 to provide clean water access and hygiene education programs to communities around the world. Today, clean water projects have been implemented with support of local Starbucks partners (employees), reaching a combined total of 50,000 people in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

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