Aguascalientes is named for the abundance of thermal water, but the state has just a few small rivers outlining its borders. This is actually a small region of Mexico, with a total population of 1,415,421 (672,453 women) divided among 11 municipalities.

Nearly 30% of Aguascalientes citizens live in poverty, with another 26% living in moderate poverty, and 2% live in extreme poverty. Almost half of municipalities have 50% living in poverty. Income here is very low, with 42% of the total population earning between $3 to $9 USD per day. In the small villages, workers earn approximately $5 USD per day – mostly as day laborers, builders, farmers, or ranchers.

There is a critical water situation for Aguascalientes, with resources limited to only 394 cubic meters per habitant for year. Most of the villages are close to the Aguascalientes borders, making it difficult to provide access to basic water resources into their communities. Water is rationed with a daily allocation for certain villages, while the water well for other communities is closed. As a result, some local residents supply their water needs from untreated wells directly to their homes for drinking and other domestic purposes, while others wait until their day for water returns. Students drink untreated water if they feel it looks clear enough, but contaminants in the water still cause frequent illness. Diarrhea, headaches and other waterborne illnesses compromise learning progress by affecting school attendance and comprehension.
Francisco I. Madero School, Carboneras

Becton Dickinson provides clean drinking water where most children consume unfiltered water - daily

“My little brother was sick a few weeks ago, he had diarrhea for so many days. My father took him to Aguascalientes, and he was in the hospital for like a week. The doctor told my mom that he was sick because of the water and we need to find a way to clean it. My mom is very worried about all this, and she is taking care of my brother as much as she can.”

– Jonathan 6th grade student
Drinking water that supplies the Village of Carboneras originates from a well without any filtration – because otherwise, they have to wait for a municipal supply pipe. The school and community cook with the same water, and the school principal assures that the kids suffer from frequent stomach aches and headaches. Children drink water from the tap in the school, causing many students to suffer from waterborne illnesses. Teachers are very worried because students miss classes and fall behind in classwork.

The water is polluted from the many mines around the area. Most of the people work in the mines, while the remaining parents work as a day laborers, builders, farmers, or migrate to provide for their family that remains in Carboneras. People in Carboneras tend to discontinue their education by the time they turn 15 years old, turning to jobs that contribute to household income. The AquaTower will provide safe water for the village to drink and cook; reducing illnesses from drinking polluted water.
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.

Since 2015, Project 24 is Planet Water Foundation’s World Water Day advocacy and engagement platform the focuses on the world’s critical need to bring an end to water poverty.

“We always drink water from the tap after the physical education class because we feel very thirsty. Sometimes I feel bad after, and my stomach and head hurt me a lot.”
- Jose 6th grade student.
“In the school we usually have problems with our children because they complain a lot about stomach aches and headaches. They miss classes sometimes, and the community in general has a lot of health problems because of the polluted water. A few weeks ago, a newborn died because of diarrhea and all the community was in shock. This water filtration tower will help us a lot at the school and the community as well.”
- Ernestina Real 5th grade teacher