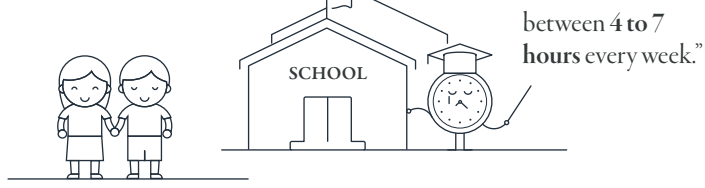


La Merced



La Merced is one of three close by communities with very similar names.

There are **200 people** living there.



There are **42 children** in **La Merced**, and they have **two schools**, but they are losing almost a full school day, every week!

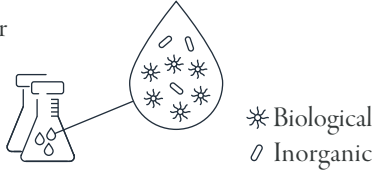
Why is that?



The children have no access to safe water, toilets and soap for hand washing at school, or at their homes. Actually, all families in **La Merced** have to walk a few minutes to a **water canal** to get any water.

But why do they miss school?

“VAVV has found **9 contaminants** in our MCL water tests, that pose health risks.”



It is because of the contaminated water, and not having ways to keep them healthy. The water tests show too many pollutants that are not allowed in drinking water and cause the children to be very sick and lose many school days.

Contaminated water are water with pollutants.

Biological means from living matter: bacteria, viruses, and parasites.

Pollutants are any substances, as chemicals or waste products, which are dangerous to our environment.

Inorganic means chemical contaminants which can be naturally-occurring (salts, metals), or from wastewater discharges (oil, gas, mining, farming).

MCL means **Maximum Contaminant Level** of pollutants that is allowed in our drinking water.

What does VAVV do?



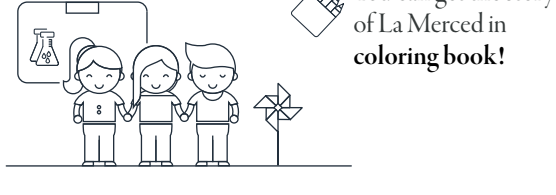
The VAVV team plans to help all children and families in **La Merced** by building a **water treatment facility**, connected to their **water canal**.

It would remove all pollutants and allow safe an easy access to healthy water in all **La Merced**!

They also plan to teach daily hygiene habits, specially how to wash hands regularly, to prevent the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

Water Treatment Facility cleans, disinfects and test water before you use it in your home and other places.

What can you do?



It is so simple! Join VAVV team by telling the story of the **La Merced** children in your class, and perhaps suggest your teacher to create a fundraising campaign to help them!

We can all be healthy and happy:
"True Water True Life."

Don't forget to send us your colored pages of **La Merced**!

We would love to see all your class paintings!