

WATER FILTERS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

INTRODUCTION

There are still remote places in our country where people do not have access to potable water. In these places, it is necessary to obtain water from rivers, streams, wells and even rainwater, unhealthy sources that cause a high incidence of cases of gastrointestinal diseases caused by parasites, viruses and bacteria.

For two years, the Rotary Club of David, trying to optimize the use of resources in high-impact projects with long-term benefits, began a project to provide portable water filters to these rural communities.

THE FILTERS

The Sawyer¹ brand *International Bucket System*² is a hollow fiber membrane filter capable of removing bacteria, protozoa, cysts and microplastics from water. It has a long service life (up to 10 years with proper maintenance), is easy to transport, use and clean. In addition, its cost is very accessible.



¹ <https://www.sawyer.com/international>

² <https://www.sawyer.com/products/international-bucket-system>

BENEFITS IN THE COMMUNITIES

- Lower incidence of gastrointestinal diseases (reduction of more than 90% of cases)
- Decrease in school absences and improvement in academic performance in the school-age population.
- Increased productivity of adults, as they enjoy better health and do not need to stop working to care for sick relatives.

COST (PER FAMILY)

Qty	Description	Unit cost	Total cost ³
1	Filter (Sawyer Intl. Bucket System)	USD 17.38	USD 17.38
2	Plastic 20 liter pail with lid	5.06	10.12
1	Shipping to David and labeling	2.00	2.00
			USD 29.50

PROCESS

1. Identification of communities in need.
2. Approach and identification of community leaders.
3. Survey of families by community leaders with information for contact and future follow-up.
4. Training of community leaders.
5. Establishment of delivery date.
6. Outreach campaign in the community (radio, social networks, word of mouth).
7. Institutional coordination (local authorities, public order, health institutions).
8. Delivery and training.
9. Follow up.

COMUNITIES BENEFITED TO DATE

Community	Families
Corotú Civil, District of Barú, Chiriquí	150
Punta Robalo, Province of Bocas del Toro	75
Mosquito, District of Renacimiento, Chiriquí	65
Landfill of David, District of David, Chiriquí	30
Gnäbe-Buglé ⁴ Reservation	100
	420

³ These costs do not include storage, transportation and logistics expenses for distribution in benefited communities.

⁴ Various communities through the Nuestra Señora del Camino Foundation.

CONTACT

Ricardo Tribaldos

+507 6515-6690

rtribaldos@clubrotariodedavid.org



Photo gallery



<https://bit.ly/rotarydavid-filtros>