



## Clean Water for Haiti

Clean Water for Haiti started in 2001, and exists to provide Haitian families with access to clean, safe drinking water at the household level by building and installing biosand water filters. We're a registered 501(c)3 organization in the US, a registered charity in Canada, and a registered foundation in Haiti. Our base of operations in Haiti is located about 10 minutes south of St. Marc in the Artibonite region in a small farming community called Camp Marie.

The biosand filter is a great option for developing nations because it's a simple, yet effective technology that can be produced in country with local materials and local labor. It's easy to use, doesn't have any moving parts, and is easy to maintain. Most families are able to do the simple, routine maintenance on their own, but our program also gives them access to trained technicians and repeat support visits. When installed by a trained technician and maintained well by the owners, a biosand filter is incredibly effective at removing water-borne pathogens. Our filters have been field tested several times by various university groups for research projects, as well as in partnership with organizations like the CDC, and every time they have shown the highest levels of removal rates expected for biosand water filters. We don't know what the lifespan of a biosand filter is because those that get used consistently and are well maintained keep getting used. At our base of operations, we used filters for our own daily use for over ten years without issue.

As part of our program we maintain a database with every filter we install. This data base has all the household information, installation information, as well as follow up visit information gathered through our follow up program. We can use this data to improve our production and installation processes, but it also allows us to see how many of our filters are still being used at different points post installation. While the past year has given us a lot of challenges because of the insecurity in Haiti, before it became more difficult to safely travel through the country our technicians were able to do routine visits, and those visits showed us that over 90% of our filters were in use after the first year, and over 80% after five years. These numbers have held consistent for about a decade.

Our cost per filter has held steady at about \$100 US per unit. This cost includes all the manufacturing and installation supplies, delivery, the installation itself, labor and four follow up visits, along with all other operational expenses across 3 countries (Haiti, the US & Canada). Knowing that our filters are used over the long-term and are very effective, along with the fact that they provide full-time employment and support the local economy, makes them a great investment for those that want to support the people of Haiti and assist with development projects that truly make an impact.

The past several years have seen an incredible increase in insecurity in Haiti, which has led to a lot of challenges for us as an organization. Initially those challenges looked like not being able to purchase fuel for months at a time, or knowing that some areas of the country that we worked in were unsafe to travel to. We worked to keep staff safe as they went about their daily work, and

because of our large off-grid solar system and well on our property, we were able to continue working when many other organizations had to scale back or close their doors.

As 2022 went along, those security risks vastly increased to the point that they left the area of the country where Clean Water for Haiti has its base of operations unsafe enough that our foreign staff couldn't move freely in the area. Up until that time, the Rollings had lived in Haiti full-time and had plans to direct the day-to-day operations until retirement. In late 2022 they had to make the difficult decision to move their family out of Haiti. Initially we thought we would have to shut down operations all together, but as we discussed plans with fellow Haitian board member, Johnson Alexandre, who we had worked with since 2009, we asked if there was any way that he would be willing to take over as in-country director so Clean Water for Haiti could continue its work. As a retired police officer he was ideally suited to manage the security challenges, and his familiarity with the organization meant he knew how important the work we were doing was. He agreed instantly and we began the process of training him to step into the leadership role. While the challenges have continued to increase all through 2023, Alexandre has done a phenomenal job of running operations. He has reduced costs in many ways, made necessary changes with staff, and most of all, has led our team to install over 2500 filters - many more than we anticipated they would be able to do through the first year of transition.

While the challenges in Haiti continue, we are feeling optimistic that Clean Water for Haiti has the ability to continue to meet the need for clean water that Haitian families have, especially under the current circumstances where resources are even more limited. We've spent two decades building a strong foundation. We have an effective program that Haitians have come to respect and rely on, and we aim to continue our commitment to working with transparency and accountability. We love to have a good working relationship with our supporters because we want them to know that their donations are being as effective as they possibly can be.

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