

Project Implementers' Workshops for the BioSand Filter

The Ann Campana Judge Foundation

CEAGUAC Final Report – February 2007

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Introduction:

The Biosand filter projects have been successfully implemented in over 30 countries worldwide, and have brought tremendous health benefits to many poor people in developing countries, one must be mindful that it is a new technology and thus is constantly evolving and improving.

We wanted to bring this technology to Bolivia in order to assist these communities to have a good water, building Bio-Sand Filters and proving a good training and Organization to local community members.

Project Description:

The project objective is to implement a Pilot Project in the communities in a Asencion de Guarayos; building capacity in sanitation and hygiene and also to help them in the construction of their own filters in order to improve health results in the communities, providing the tools to local people to take care of their own needs:

- Training the local population to meet their own water and sanitation needs is the only sustainable solution for provision of basic services.
- Construction of 30 filters in place.
- Organized Local community members from Ascensión de Guarayos.





Problems encountered:

CEAGUAC has faced a variety of setbacks that have prevented us from completing our goal of installing 30 filters. Some of these setbacks can be attributed to unfortunate circumstances, for example the interruptions caused by bureaucratic immigration procedures, political instability in Eastern Bolivia, and project locations changing for reasons that were beyond our control. The remainder of the setbacks fall under three major categories: problems with our equipment, changes to the biosand filter technology, and the inexperience of CEAGUAC volunteers and staff, given that they had never implemented a biosand filter project in a developing country. Since the Canadian volunteers arrived in Bolivia in late September, 2006 CEAGUAC, with the help of community volunteers in Ascensión de Guarayos, have poured a total of 34 filter boxes.



Derivations from the Original Plan:

When the project was originally going to take place in Charagua, we were going to work with community members to construct and install filters. Mainly because political issues and also the lack of interest of the people to get involve in this Project, we had to do a search in other areas as the need for clean water in the region is immense. Through connections with the Evangelical church community in Bolivia, Ascensión de Guarayos was chosen as the project site as the positive response from the Community.

Project Accomplishments:

Approximately 30 families and around 200 people in the Community Ascension de Guarayos will receive potable water, hygiene training, and training leadership. In order to accomplish this job; the people's work was the most important factor and in addition to our volunteers work.

As we have learnt from our experiences in Bolivia, the focus of CEAGUAC has expanded to a wider goal of empowering local staff by training them on all aspects of the filters and basic hygiene practices related to water. With this knowledge in hand they would be able to continue working to train members of other communities hygiene and filter use with the help local community stewards who understand the needs of their community better than any other person in CEAGUAC ever could. We believe that this is a positive change for the organization since it will make CEAGUAC a sustainable Bolivian organization which hires locally and helps locally, leading to the empowerment of more communities with time.



CEAGUAC's Canadian volunteers have trained two local people and are currently working alongside them in tackling the barriers to installing that have previously been discussed. Gradually, they will take more responsibility in running the project locally. The new, holistic approach currently being used by CEAGUAC will better ensure that the benefits brought to local communities will continue long after the end of this project.

Results:

- Building capacity in the local population to meet their own water and sanitation needs is the only sustainable solution for provision of basic services.
- Implementation of household technologies in many homes throughout communities in Ascensión, Guarayos Province delivering clean water for drinking, cooking, cleaning and preparation of food
- Establishment of local trainers.
- Improvement of hygiene and sanitation habits in 30 families.

- Improvement of overall quality of life in this region
- Improvement of economic sustainability of communities: less money spent on medicine, doctor visits; more time spent at school and work; and job-creation through microbusiness
- Ability for community to divert focus on other social and environmental issues in the community including pollution, reforestation, or alternative agricultural techniques

Overcoming expected results:

Once all the filters are successfully installed, our work will continue as a second phase of this Project, building and installing more filters in the Region, to reach more families and people as Ceaguac had raised more funds for this purpose. This technology recommended for Bolivia, the BioSand Filter, can be constructed out of materials found in most communities in Bolivia, enabling various programs to activate simultaneously and independently.

The scale of the program is limited only to the willingness of communities to participate and the resources available to implement simultaneous programs in communities across Bolivia.



How ACJF funds were spent:

The amount of \$us 4,925 (Four thousand, nine hundred and twenty five American dollars) received from ACJF were used as shows at the Spread Sheet attached.