



Water filters for people affected by typhoon Haiyan

- Project budget:** €150,000 (\$200,000 USD)
- Number of people reached:** 50,000 (3 Euro-\$4 USD / person)
- Parties involved:** Connect International, Safe Water International, Rotary Netherlands, Rotary US
- Goal:** Immediate and Sustainable safe drinking water for families in the Philippines struck by Typhoon Haiyan.



Treatment of water at the household level is one of the most effective options to safe drinking water. The Tulip Siphon and Tabletop household filters as developed in the Netherlands and now produced by Basic Water Needs India are one of the most affordable filters available and are now in use by over 1 million people in some 20 countries. They are tested by certified water laboratories and distributed by UNICEF, Red Cross and other disaster response organizations.

Based on the request from Rotary in the Philippines, the US-based organization, Safe Water International (SWI) and the Netherlands based organization-Connect International (CI) began shipping safe water filters to hurricane victims of the typhoon in The Philippines. Initial funds were raised in the U.S. and the Netherlands and 1000 Household water filters are on route to Cebu City Philippines for distribution to typhoon victims. The objective is to expand this pipeline to a total of 10,000 water filters including 10,000 replacement filter elements. Also, a local supply of filters will be started, so that families can continue purchasing replacement filters in the future.

The organization CI will guide this project via specialists like Henk Holtslag and Tom de Veer, supported by Larry Siegel of SWI and a Rotarian in the USA. In the Philippines the project will be guided by Rotarian Elmer Francisco who is coordinating response with a team of Rotarians. The effort includes training in use and maintenance of the filters. Also there will be help to create a filter supply chain, so families can buy new water filters and spare parts in the future. This will be achieved by training of local entrepreneurs who will assemble and sell Tabletop water filters and function as a knowledge center for water purification.

Through the establishment of these entrepreneurs there will be **'profit based sustainability'**: a sustainable supply chain leading to long-term availability of water purification products.

In conclusion, the project will lead to:

- Immediate response to the drinking water needs of 10,000 people
- Sustainable availability of water treatment products for many more people
- Creation of local entrepreneurship and stimulation of the local economy

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