Water for Cambodia

Newsletter

Clean water, a human right not a luxury

Survey of the first filters in use:

Water for Cambodia staff surveyed a large sample of the oldest filters that were installed. The goal was to determine if they were still being used and how much they have changed family's behavior.

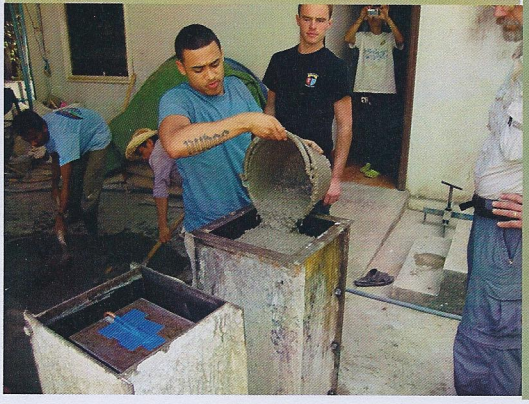
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WFC collaborates for greatest impact:

Water for Cambodia in partnership with Malteser International worked closely to seek donor funding for support of a comprehensive solution to water, sanitation and health challenges typical in a rural Cambodian village within Siem Reap Province.

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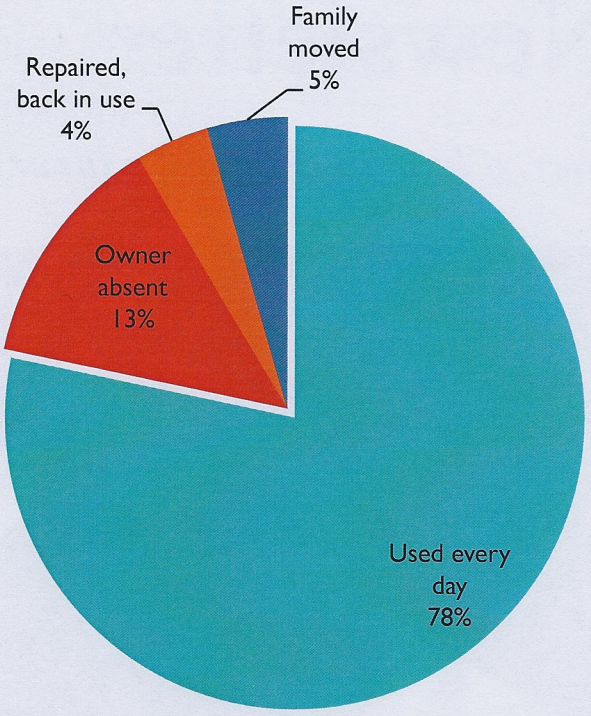
Bridgewater student volunteers help build and install filters





A very satisfied User:

Since ROEUM Lao's family has been using his Bio-Sand Filter to supply water to his family, their health has noticeably improved. Lao shares both his filter and water source with other relatives living nearby. His success inspired him to mobilized 30 more of his village neighbors to get filters for their families.



Families that migrate to the lake to fish or to Thailand for employment account for the 13% of filters noted as "owner absent"

Survey of the oldest filters

Why did Water for Cambodia do this?

Our team is very excited to report that 82% of the filters installed in 2007 are still in regular use.

Water for Cambodia understands, providing clean safe drinking water is only the first step for improved health and socioeconomic well-being. Lasting benefits can only be realized if habits are changed and improvement is sustained.

For decentralized systems such as Bio-Sand Filters, the user is responsible for operation and maintenance, which is why ownership is a key factor in water system sustainability.

In order to continually improve our programs, Water for Cambodia needed to examine how many Bio-Sand Filters are still being used and if they are not being used, why not. It is also important to understand how behavior has changed.

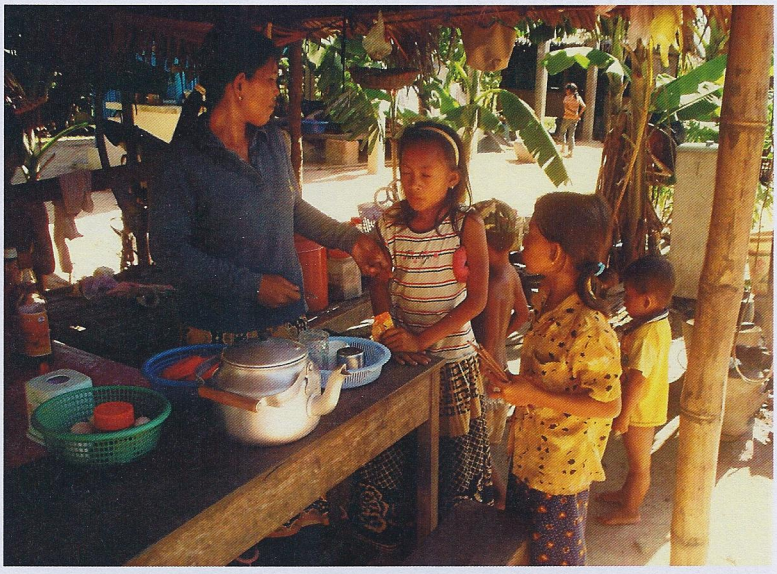
How have Bio-Sand Filters changed family habits?

All families visited rely on filtered water for drinking and many children carry filtered water to school every day. A majority of households also use it for food preparation. For those not using filtered water for food preparation it is important to note that the most common foods consumed in villages require boiling water in the process.

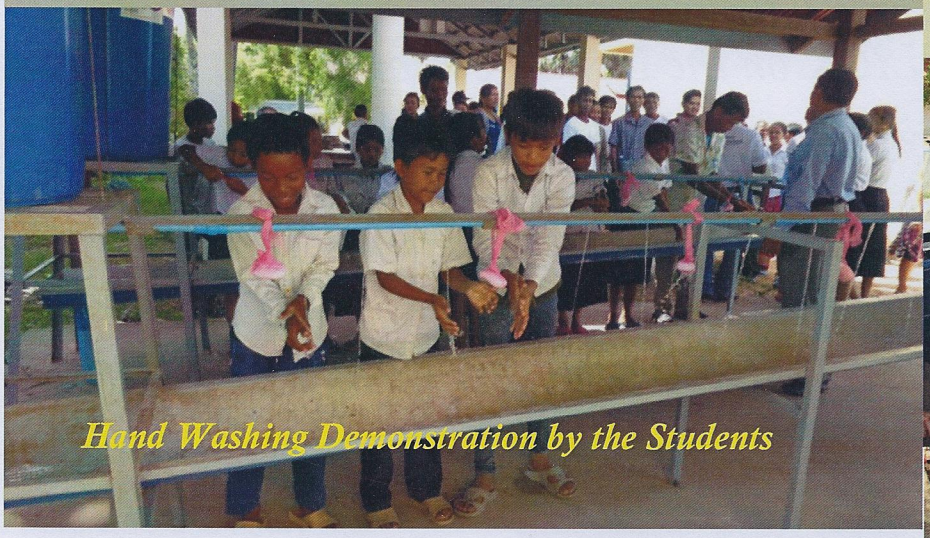
Many families find it desirable to use filtered water for bathing also, especially for babies and young children. After experiencing the joy of bathing in clean water families do not want to go back to bathing in dirty water.

These practices along with a marked increase in hand washing before preparing food and after defecation demonstrate important behavior changes resulting in the availability of a clean water source, education and a growing understanding of improved hygiene habits.

In every commune visited during the survey, many additional families expressed a desire to have a Bio-Sand Filter after observing its impact on their neighbors.



Collaboration: Great Success



Hand Washing Demonstration by the Students

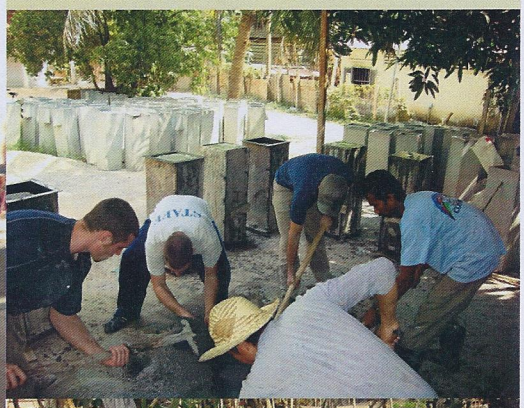
Smach village in Kralanh District is home to 698 individuals in 147 families. The prevailing health and sanitation condition before intervention was critical as only 20 latrines existed in the whole village. The rest of the population was forced to defecate in the open and most did not practice hand washing and other basic hygiene disciplines. Further, there were no filtration systems available for use in the village; most people drank their water directly from the contaminated water sources. A small number of families practiced boiling as a form of disinfection.

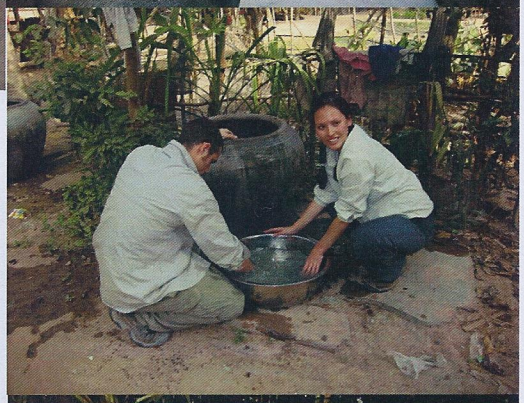
The Czech Republic Embassy and a private donor funded building underground latrine structures. The villagers took responsibility for constructing enclosures to house the toilet facility, hand washing basins and showering capability. Smach Village now boasts 130 latrines!

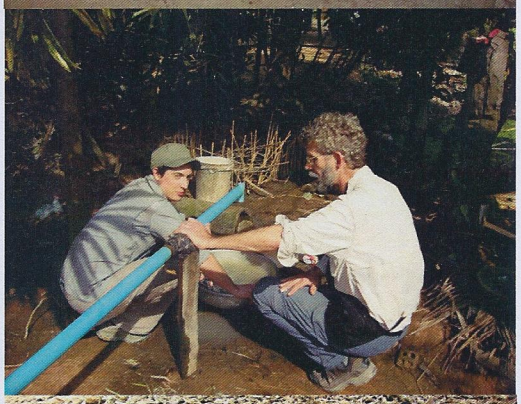
122 Bio-Sand Filters were installed to address the clean water demand for Smach Village, providing 83% of the families with safe drinking water. Each of these now receives at least 60 litres of clean water every day. To reach the final goal of 100% availability of safe drinking water, we will continue working to provide a Bio-Sand Filter to all 147 families. Our challenge in achieving this will be to reach the families who are currently in Thailand seeking work opportunities.

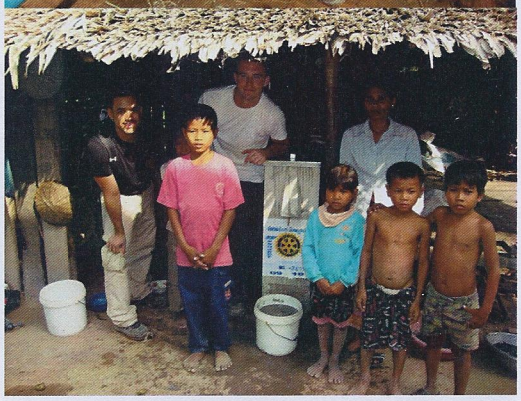
In October WFC and Malteser celebrated this successful health achievement with the Czech Ambassador and the Provincial and District Governors.

BSU students pitch in!









*Please visit our website:*www.waterforcambodia.org

With your aid Water for Cambodia can bring clean, safe drinking water to 2000 families in 2015. You can make a difference in their lives for many, many years with just one filter. Please go to our website and CLICK on the Donate button today.

www.waterforcambodia.org

Thank you from the 14,000 families you have helped so far.

Water for Cambodia

P.O. Box 1121

Bristol, RI 02809

Thanks to you and all our wonderful staff and volunteers in Cambodia, nearly 100,000 people are drinking clean safe water today

Please note our

New mailing address

Water for Cambodia

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Bristol, RI 02809