

A Single Drop for SafeWater Project Areas in the Philippines



*communities united
through water*

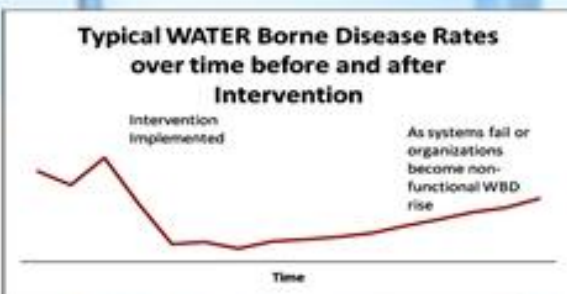
A Single Drop for SafeWater, Inc. is a non-profit organization building the capacity of self-reliant partnerships to implement community-driven clean water and sanitation solutions through sustainable organizational strategies, WASH Education and appropriate technologies

A Single Drop for SafeWater, Inc.
www.singledrop.org
348.434.1101

THE CHALLENGE: Over 12 million Filipinos do not have access to freshwater. Yet, the Philippines has an average rainfall of 4000-5000mm (100-200") per year. Only 3% of the urban population has access to sewerage systems. The rural population and 3% of the urban who does not have access to sewerage either uses household based waste treatment or open field or open water defecation. Currently 97% of investment in WASH goes to water supply with only 3% for sanitation and wastewater treatment.

Water and Sanitation can fail due to:

- Water and Sanitation has not been identified as the root cause of poverty, malnutrition, health, inhibiting community development.
- Advocacy to prioritize water and sanitation needs to be increased so as to create community demand and ownership and hence increasing political will.
- Existing organizational structures fail due to lack of capacity and being under resourced.
- Technical capacity within communities for the design, operation and maintenance of the system is lacking.



Anecdotal evidence shows that any intervention in relation to water and sanitation will substantially reduce the impact of water borne diseases (WBD) for the users of the intervention. However over time the rates start to increase as the intervention begins to fail or breaks down or is used incorrectly.

ASDSW SOLUTIONS: A Single Drop for SafeWater has 3 main goals which all support the revitalization of the communities:

1. IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH - WASH Education as a core strategy to change unhealthy community practices
2. TECHNICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL SELF RELIANCE - Capacitate communities with the tools and organizational skills to address their own water issues using financial, environmental and socially sustainable practices to address their community development
3. FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE - offer appropriate technological solutions and sustainability strategies that are income-generating

ASDSW KEY STRATEGIES: ASDSW has developed a series of programs that assist local community leaders to assess their Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) needs, and design an integrated WASH Action Plan that can address all their water issues holistically and in doable steps. This ensures that the decision making for all water services is controlled by the community. This process is a needs-based approach and requires ASDSW to be responsive and work with the community to develop the most appropriate solution based on the needs and resources of the community

WASH Planning Process – Community ownership from the start identifying needs and solutions. This is a multi-step process that allows the community to control the project from the very beginning.

With this baseline data a **WASH Plan** for the community can be produced that takes the community from its current WASH status to the communities "vision" of what the WASH situation should be in the future. This is made up of multiple steps (i.e. projects or programs) and can be done with their own resources or with some outside investment in capacity building and/or infrastructure.

WASH Orientation for the community explains how water, sanitation and hygiene affect the quality of life. This is combined with efforts to show how water, sanitation and hygiene work. Using this knowledge the community then does a **WASH Inventory (Win)** identifying both the needs and resources available. This asset based approach creates baseline data as well as a realization that the community has resources that it can use.

Resource Mobilization - Individual steps from the plan are then converted into projects that are implemented by organizations that are developed as part of the plan. These are local government task forces or working groups and peoples organizations that are responsible for planning, implementing and managing projects as well as the services that those projects will supply once they are completed.

Appropriate Technologies – Technical solutions that can be implemented by the community, are affordable and accepted by the community.

- Community water systems (Level II and III, Spring development and pumped systems)
- Dug well and tube wells
- Pumps (hand pumps, electric, ram)
- BioSand Filters (household water treatment)
- Water sealed and waterless household or communal toilets
- Rainwater Harvesting
- Water/Sanitation Technologies for Emergencies

People Offering Deliverable Services (PODS) – Organizational Development and Appropriate Technology Transfer for Self-Reliance PODS are community-led water service organizations that have the capacity to plan, implement and manage WASH services in their communities. This award-winning social entrepreneurial model creates self-reliant hubs of water expertise and services wherein communities take ownership of the project from start to finish putting the decision-making and responsibility back into the hands of the people.

Monitoring and Consolidation follows after the project implementation to check how the project is progressing. Refresher courses are also done to ensure that the management is guided. This is also the time ASDSW gets feedback from the beneficiary community as well the funders.

Disaster Resilience and Emergency Response – ASDSW strengthens local organizations to implement disaster resilience and response strategies to mitigate the impacts of natural and manmade disasters.

