

PROVIDING CLEAN WATER NICARAGUA

Nicaragua is the 2nd poorest country in Latin America

Many rivers, streams, and lakes in rural Nicaragua are polluted with pesticides, residential sewerage, and industrial waste

Only 48% of rural Nicaraguans have access to clean drinking water

Only 22.7% of the country's "extremely poor" households have access to clean drinking water



BACKGROUND

A major cause of infant mortality in Nicaragua and other developing countries can be attributed to a contaminated water supply. The threat of waterborne illness is high in rural areas of Nicaragua, where two-thirds of the population goes without clean drinking water.

In early 2002, Nicaraguan nationals requested Compatible Technology International's help with correcting the badly contaminated water systems in the rural areas of the country. In response, CTI formed a team of volunteers with experience in Nicaragua and with water engineering to design a simple system for disinfecting water in rural areas of Nicaragua. Thus, the CTI-8 Chlorinator was created.

IMPACT

CTI-8 Chlorinators are currently installed and operating in 37 communities, providing potable water to approximately 17,850 rural inhabitants in the very rugged and mountainous terrain in the Nicaraguan states of Matagalpa and Jinotega. CTI has engaged community water groups who pool their resources to pay for chlorine tablets. Involving community groups helps foster local ownership of the equipment, an important part of ensuring the project's sustainability. To help CTI continue this project, providing equipment, training, and clean water for more communities, visit: www.compatibletechnology.org or email cti@compatibletechnology.org.

"We have the ability to provide clean water for every man, woman and child on the earth. What has been lacking is the collective will to accomplish this.

What are we waiting for?

This is the commitment we need to make to the world, now."

- Jean-Michel Cousteau

SOLUTIONS

The CTI-8 Chlorinator is an inexpensive, low-maintenance water disinfectant system designed for rural areas with a gravity supply of water. It utilizes chlorine tablets, which cost just pennies per day, deliver a controlled dosage of chlorine sufficient to inactivate most pathogens found in rural water systems.

Since 2002, CTI has been placing CTI-8 units in the Matagalpa region of Central Nicaragua. The chlorinator can be built with local materials and installed in a few hours for about \$100. The CTI-8 can be maintained by locals who have been trained to test the water's chlorination level and replace the chlorine tablets.

For nearly 30 years, nonprofit **Compatible Technology International (CTI)** has been helping people in developing countries pull themselves out of extreme poverty and hunger. By designing and distributing life-saving food and water devices, CTI provides the world's poorest populations with the tools they need to feed and support themselves.