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Newsletter Autumn 2018

We now have over 40,000 Grifaid Family Filters and 1,500 Community filters providing clean water in over 50 different countries. Many of these filters have been in use for over 5 years without any problems. We have calculated as a conservative estimate over half a million people are receiving clean water and can have a better quality of life. Thank you to everyone involved –the volunteers and our 3 paid staff in our factory in Washington, the large charities and many small charities who distribute the filters and train the users and our generous donors who raise funds for our appeals.



In January 18 we escaped from the cold weather and went to Cambodia. Here we were privileged to help the Charity Support Cambodia in the distributing of filters funded by both Support Cambodia and our Grifaid Appeal. We also visited users of the filters distributed in the last 2 years and it was uplifting to hear the many positive comments.

To summarise some of the distributions carried out by our partners:

Sierra Leone – in March, 3 Family filters were quickly sent to a volunteer of Christian Engineers in Development going out later that week to help in Freetown, where a cholera epidemic had just started (cholera is transmitted by drinking dirty water polluted with faeces). One for the Pastor and his extended family and friends and one to use at the church where the congregation can be 150.

Ghana -Emma of the Helen Hodgkin Trust continues to do amazing work in Ghana. They build wells where appropriate and also use filters for small isolated communities. This year they funded 10 Community filters and 30 Family filters which have now been distributed, for details see their facebook page.

Myanmar – Our first filters arrived in Myanmar this Spring thanks to The Ahtutu trust, who took 3 family filters for an initial trial.

“The group at our meeting in Pathein, Myanmar which looked at the feasibility of using the filters, especially in times of flooding, was simply delighted at how easy the family filter was to set up, use and maintain. It is nothing short of ingenious! The YouTube videos were excellent guides but actually using the filter was almost intuitive.”

Schools - We always enjoy working with schools and this summer have sent out filters with young people from Leicester Grammar School volunteering in Tanzania and with pupils from Hetton Secondary school volunteering in Cambodia. We are looking forward to hearing from them when term starts.



Rwanda - We continue to keep in regular contact with Rob and Jan Hoy of the Littlestone Charitable Trust. They recently visited their projects and sent this report on his return.

In 2015, 220 family filters were distributed in Nkombo Island, and Rob and Jan visited the island this June and sent a detailed report, the key findings are summarised below.

“The users have to drink the dirty lake water or buy water from tanks of chlorinated water supplied by government or boil water. They were very happy with the filters as not only did they save money but drank more water which also helped to improve their health.”

Through his contacts with the Church in Rwanda we are working together to send over 200 family filters to the South Sudan refugees in Uganda at the end of August. We need to be confident that the filters will be accepted and used and are waiting for a report from the 6 filters already on trial there.



Aquabox and Water Survival Box - Our strong links with these Rotary charities continue and they both include our filters in the boxes of humanitarian aid they send to disaster areas. A total of over 1000 family filters and over 20 Community filters in the last 6 months. A fantastic effort and details can be seen on their web-sites.

Larger International Charities - over 3,000 Grifaid Family filters and 400 Community filters have been dispatched in the last 6 months. We recently received a detailed and positive follow up report about 2000 Family filters sent out to the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. The report was positive including suggestions for a few improvements, which confirmed the changes John has introduced in the new model which we hope will be sent out for trials at the end of the year.

Exhibitions - We were proud to have a filter on display in The Great North Exhibition and also outside the Rotary Tent at the Tall Ships in Sunderland. In September we will be part of the Rotary Display at the Stokesley Show, Yorkshire.

Appeals - Thank you to everyone who has donated to our Appeals. The initial results for the refugees from South Sudan in Uganda and over 100 Family Filters will soon be on their way co-ordinated by Rob Hoy and The Littlestone Charitable Trust.

Our other appeal is to help expand the work of Colin Watson and the Mawala Trust. This volunteer led charity supports a rural area in Uganda and has introduced a health education programme including Grifaid water filters and improved latrines. This has resulted in a dramatic drop in the death of children between 0-5 years and a rise in the standard of living of the villagers.

A special thank you to Our Mary Queen of Peace and St Bedes Church Sunderland, who both have a wishing well in the entrance to the Church for small change. Between them they have collected over £5,000 - small acts of kindness combining together to provide clean water for over 10,000 people, with all the many benefits that follow.

Please continue to send your donations, however small, for our Autumn appeal for filters for the flood victims in Karala, India. A team effort between Rotary Clubs in NE England and Karala.

GDPR - *I am sure you have all become aware of the recent introduction of the new GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) over the last few months. We have worked diligently to ensure your personal details such as names and addresses are kept safe and secure. We have never sold and never will sell your details to other organisations. Full details are in our Privacy Statement on our website.*

You may have noticed Grifaid's new e-mail address, gill@grifaid.org , please use in future.