

Clean Water Initiative

From 1989 to 2011, the Clean Water Initiative helped provide clean drinking water to needy communities in rural Central America. The Initiative focused on empowering local communities to take the lead in building and operating their own water systems. The Clean Water Initiative worked in partnership with several local organizations in Central America, but especially with the Honduran Association of Board Water Systems and the El Salvador Association of Water Systems. Both programs combined, have supported over 720 poor rural communities in gaining access to clean water technologies.

One component of the Clean Water Initiative was supporting the work of the Circuit Rider Program. This program is based on the work of water technicians that travel from one community to the other to help local people build and correctly operate their own water systems. Each technician works with an assigned district and regularly visits the rural communities in the district to meet with the water boards, inspect water systems, and verify financial sustainability. They also meet with the community at large to ensure local involvement.

Another component of the Clean Water Initiative was supporting the Chlorine Bank Program. Chlorine banks are local stores that provide communities with various products, services and technical assistance needed by rural people to operate their own water systems. Products and services at these banks are provided to rural communities at prices slightly above their cost and profit are then used to purchase additional supplies and to assist the communities with the installation, maintenance and monitoring of water systems.

Pictures below show different components of the Clean Water Initiative throughout the years it provided support in Central America



