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No more dirty water

10/26/2009



Fiji Water employees were out in numbers on Friday and Saturday, volunteering to help bring clean water filters to communities around Ba.

Following last January's floods, the low-lying villages of Sasa and Natunuku in Ba, were without regular access to clean water.

Irregular carted drinking water left many families thirsty and reliant upon contaminated water sources resulted in illness.

Now, thanks to the United States-based organisation, Give Clean Water Inc, in partnership with the FIJI Water Foundation, these communities and many others around Fiji, will never face this sort of emergency again.

Since 2008, Give Clean Water has installed over 1000 household water filters in communities around Nadi and Ba.

In 10 years, the team aims to install a filter in every home in Fiji. The filter, made by Sawyer Products, is known as the Point One Filter.

It removes 99.999 per cent of all bacteria, protozoa, and cysts like E.Coli, Cholera and Typhoid, preventing many water-borne diseases which are common during times of flood and water shortage.

The filters come with one million gallon guarantee -essentially guaranteed for the recipient's lifetime.

Since July 2009, the FIJI Water Foundation has donated more than \$60,000 toward the installation of 300 water filters in as many homes in the Ba area.

On Friday and Saturday, 65 of FIJI Water's employees and local community members volunteered in Natunuku and Sasa villages, installing filters and educating the communities on sanitation and maintenance.

Fiji Water Production Team Leader, Taravaina Ranadi, said with Give Clean Water, they were able to give the people a real blessing.

"The FIJI Water Foundation is committed to making clean water available to everyone in Fiji, and our partnership with Give Clean Water is a natural addition to the water projects and work we are already engaged in," Fiji Water Foundation Manager, Molly Powers said.

"I'm really proud of our team and their work today. We're also proud to support Give Clean Water's simple but crucial approach to changing lives, one filter at a time."

Give Clean Water has three local Fiji staff who follow up with all recipients of water filters, ensure they are working properly, and survey and identify new communities in need for upcoming installation trips with both local and overseas volunteers.

They work closely with provincial leaders to identify the neediest communities for filter installation.

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