



Rotary's Clean Water for Guatemalan Schools Project: Past and Future

Project Partners: Pantano Rotary, Tucson AZ, Vista Hermosa Rotary, Guatemala City, Santurce Rotary Club, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico and Eco Filtros, SA

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Big Picture: There are approximately 49,449 schools or 296,694 classrooms in Guatemala a majority lack access to clean drinking water. Now, if they do not have access to clean water, they are required to: (1) purchasing purified water at significant cost or purify water through boiling. Water filters for each classroom will be extremely beneficial to student/staff health. A single filter provides clean water for classes of 25 to 30+ students.

Small picture and our project

In partnership with Vista Hermosa RC (Guatemala City), Santurce RC (Guaynabo, Puerto Rico and Eco Filtros SA, we have identified several hundred schools in Escuintla Depart the significant need for clean drinking water as well as the need for improved awareness and understanding of applied hygiene and sanitation practices. In the past (July, 2021-2022), this partnership provided 161eco filters to schools in Chiquimullila and Taxisco, Santa Rosa Department, Guatemala. This project was completed in July/August 2022.

The future

Now, we would like to reestablish this Guatemalan Eco Filter Project in 2025-26. Through the support of the Oro Valley RC and partnership with Vista Hermosa RC, Santurce RC, additional District 5500 Rotary clubs, and district grant, we can provide clean water to schools/classrooms in the community of Escuintla, Escuintla Department, and then move forward to schools/classrooms in Santa San Lucia. Cotzumalguapa, Department of Escuintla.

At this point, we plan to generate \$5000 for the initial renewed of the Guatemalan Eco Filter project. We envision three major sources of funding: (1) \$1500 currently in the D5500 Charitable Fund earmarked for the project, (2) to apply for a District 5500 district grant (2025-26) for \$2000-\$3000, \$1000 from international partners (Vista

Hermosa RC and Santurce RC, and \$1000-\$2000 funding support from D5500 Rotary clubs. Conservatively, we are initially projecting \$5000 for the project. This amount would enable us to purchase and distribute 166 eco filters in 166 classrooms and provide eco filter/clean water and hygiene training for approximately 4100 students (25x166) and 166 teachers.

The Ecofiltro unit consists of a 20-liter, refillable, hard plastic water container with a water filter. **Each unit costs \$30.** The filter needs to be replaced every two years and the replacement filter costs approximately \$20.

Sustainability

To receive an eco-filter filter, each school and classroom must agree to participate in water filter system use and maintenance training about hygiene and sanitation practices. There are three critical components implementing the project. First, provide students and school staff with clean drinking water. Second, provide training by the Eco Filtro, SA team in the use and maintenance of the water filters as well as training in effective hygiene and sanitation practices. And, third establish an effective strategy for purchasing new filters after two years use. To reinforce sustainability, each classroom, assisted by its teacher and the school director must agree to raise funds for the replacement filter (\$20) over the next 24 months. That equates to 6.5 quetzals (\$.83) monthly into their water filter replacement account which is quite achievable.

JOIN this exciting Rotary led, project to provide and sustain clean water to the children in Guatemala's schools.



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