

# Discovering the Difference a Water Filter Makes

“Working with Aqua Clara, I got my hands dirty plenty of times in the lab, but there’s something about experiencing the filters first-hand in the communities that makes a difference. Sometimes we have to take a 2 hour hike just to find one filter. It’s powerful to realize something you’ve worked on in the lab actually works in a home.”

Earlier this year, **Aqua Clara International** chose to send staff member, Jay Vanden Brink, to work with AMOS in rural communities to assist with AMOS’ Water Filter Supervision Program. AMOS was chosen to host Jay because of the more than 600 **biosand water filters** currently installed in 9 rural communities and the passion of AMOS staff to educate, empower and develop each community with a thorough understanding of the **water and sanitation** issues and how to care for the filters they have received. Jay has been involved in the microbiology laboratory analysis that AMOS conducts on filtered and source water, to examine the percentage of E-Coli and other fecal bacteria within water samples, an extensive process unique to other Aqua Clara partners.



Through these laboratory analysis tests, AMOS is able to share with health committees the causes of certain illnesses such as diarrhea. Urania Martinez from El Obraje, a remote community in Chinandega, attests that her family always thought their well water was clean, but her children would often have diarrhea. After AMOS tested the water and presented the results to the community, Urania learned how important it would be to utilize a household filter. Through the Water Filter Supervision Program each family is visited to ensure their filter is functioning properly, used correctly, and to fix any minor repairs. While these home visits are taking place, local leaders are being trained through the experience to supervise the filters themselves.



Other partner churches, university delegations, and **GlobeMed** volunteers can all attest that there’s something compelling and humbling about traveling from house to house ensuring that families have the technologies and education needed to provide their family with clean water. Jay states that, “It’s been an eye-opener to see the needs of people first-hand. When

you see that their drinking water comes from sources that are contaminated by cow pies and horse dung, you know that these filters are making a difference.”

With the help of so many staff members, volunteers, interns, partners, and non-profit organizations the rural areas of Nicaragua are gaining access to clean water. A special thank-you to everyone who has supported!



[Clean Water, Water Filters](#)

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