Strategies for Implementing Biosand Water Filter Projects Case Studies from the Philippines

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In 2006 the World Health Organization estimated there were 884 million people in the world without access to safe drinking water. The majority of these water quality issues are related to microbial pathogens. The Biosand Water Filter (BSF) is a relatively recent technology being implemented to help solve this crisis. BSFs are simple household water filters constructed from locally available materials of sand, gravel, and cement. They have been proven effective at removing 90-99% of waterborne pathogens. Although this technology is effective and simple, there are many challenges associated with implementing it in the field through sustainable projects.

This paper utilizes the experiences of six BSF project implementers within the Philippines to better understand the best strategies of project implementation. Project successes and failures are assessed with regards to Initial Assessment, Project Planning, Education, Transportation, Innovations, and Monitor and Evaluation. The purpose of this paper is to give future implementers methods they can apply to create sustainable and successful BSF projects.