

The Vision



A newsletter of *A Vision for Clean Water*

Providing clean water and sanitation to those who need them through education and collaboration
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Workshop Reverberates Around the World



Kenya, Sudan, Ethiopia, Chad, Cuba, Guatemala, Cambodia, Haiti, Nicaragua, Ecuador – people working in all these countries attended the A Vision for Clean Water sponsored *Biosand Water Filters and More Workshop* in April.

Two of the great advantages of AVFCW's workshops are the diversity of participants and the fact workshops are held in a retreat setting where you can enjoy meals and spend the evenings with the other participants. Yes, you learn the course material from the teachers, but perhaps more important, is what you learn from your fellow students. Speaking with Shaza Elkawad, an engineer from Sudan, or with Kirubel Tesfaye from the Ethiopian Public Health Institute, gives you such a different, more hopeful and deeper understanding of their countries and the water challenges that they face. Participants Tom Hunt who has established four biosand making operations in Cuba and Gary Saboda who volunteers in Ecuador provided real hands-on experience during the biosand construction lessons. They were a great help.

CAWST (Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology) didn't just provide two excellent teachers, Melinda Foran and Romain Villiers, but also sent a third employee, Kelly James, to take the course. Kelly and Romain were also preparing to teach biosand filter construction in Chad – an African country beset by poverty and warfare. In late May, Kelly and Romain sent photos from the course they taught in Chad to a WhatsApp Group that includes all our workshop participants, resulting in ongoing conversations about molds used in



Emily Obuya works with a smile

Comments From The Recent Workshop

Participants in the April Workshop were asked to complete a questionnaire at the close of the event. Some of their comments are as follows:

The discussion groups illuminated the need for clean water worldwide and the invisible barriers to its introduction.

I will be going to the field in August to develop a project around different water treatment technologies. This workshop material will really help me.

Making connections and hearing about individual experiences were the most beneficial to me. Also, being involved in construction of a filter.

Excellent workshop. Very good materials and pacing of activities.

Four days was just enough to convey the information and build the Biosand filter.

the filter construction. So, effectively, the participants of the workshop continue to interact and learn from the experiences of the others.

Did the participants benefit from the course material? Well according to the course evaluations, 100% of those taking the workshop felt that the workshop “completely” met their expectations. Other answers to the evaluation questions also indicated profound satisfaction with the teachers and course material. And we know that the workshop will spin off more education and project work. Shaza Elkawad will be teaching the course material to fellow engineers on her return to Sudan. Emilly Obuya, a chemistry professor born in Kenya but living in the United States, is running a Water Quality Testing Project in Kenya this summer with some of her students.

Next year? Perhaps we'll present a sanitation workshop – but we will let you know sooner rather than later.

by Peter Tanner
AVFCW Board Member



Teddi from D.C., Shaza from Sudan, Tim from Valpraiso U. and Graham from Scotland tighten clamp on newly molded Biosand filter.

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Kirubel Tesfaye from Ethiopia sifts sand with volunteer Apryl.