

# **WATA: an electro-chlorinator revolutionizing access to safe water**

**Progress in technology has enabled engineers to develop products that solve the problem of water-borne diseases. The critical next step is to enable businesses and communities to put these products to work in some of the world's places where drinking water is still not available.**

WATA, a simple and low-cost technology developed by Antenna Technologies, is a solution for the local production of sodium hypochlorite which, when added to water, is considered by the World Health Organisation (WHO), as the most effective solution for water treatment. It is so effective in fact that only 1 litre of sodium hypochlorite, made at home with salt and water in just one hour, can treat 4,000 litres of water.

Shelda is 7 and lives in Petit Goâve, Haiti, with her family. Following a cholera outbreak in 2010, there has been considerable efforts put into re-educating the community about hygiene and water. Like 95% of the island's population, Shelda now knows that the water she fetches from the village well may be contaminated and that she has to treat it. However water cleaning solutions were not always available, often unreliable in terms of quality or unfortunately too expensive for her family to purchase on a regular basis.

In fact schools are the ideal entry point for raising awareness and encouraging good water hygiene practices but requires complementary efforts to reach the whole household. The challenge faced by organisations like Antenna is to enable supply chains and marketing strategies that mean that cleaning water becomes both habitual and socially commonplace.

By engaging with both local NGO's and entrepreneurs Antenna has been working hard to ensure that WATA is easy to obtain, and that selling it makes commercial sense for those wanting to distribute it.

Prachet, 12, from Kathmandu in Nepal is benefitting from this approach every day. Until ECCA, an NGO dedicated to improving school facilities and admission rates, launched a program in his school he didn't know that the stomach ache he had from time to time was due to drinking unsafe water. At the same time he also learned about the WATA solution and, as part of his local Nature club, is now responsible for producing chlorine everyday with the electro-chlorinator device.



Children producing and distributing WATASOL in a school of Kathmandu, Nepal

Antenna and its network of partners are ensuring that they are at the heart of driving solutions for safe water that benefit both communities and shopkeepers. “If you make a product for the poor, neither the poor nor the rich will buy. What you need is to make a product for the rich that also the poor want to buy and can afford” says Nassir Khawaja, a shop owner in Rawalpindi. “WATA is a great product that makes it easy for my customers to get access to safe water”.

Whether at school, in a health centre, a kiosk, a pharmacy, or delivered at home, chlorine is a solution for better access to safe water whilst also enabling a commercially viable social enterprise.

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