

According to WHO, at least 1.8 billion people are using water from a contaminated source and today the lack of access to safe drinking water is one of the largest human health problems globally. "It should not have to be this way", says Annika Johansson, CEO at Greenwater AB.

Access to safe water is a human right - everyone has, according to the UN - the "right to adequate, continuous, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal needs and household use."

The desire to find a sustainable solution to the problem, is what drive Annika and Greger Nilsson, the entrepreneurial couple who has been developping Greenwater Kit during the last 3 years. Two years ago they started cooperating with Safeman, a production company that, among other things manufactures mobile houses for refugees.



During the month of April 2016, Greenwater AB and Safeman, were in Rwanda to demonstrate the system in real life and to establish business contacts. The Rwandan Ministers for Refugees, Infrastructure and Water / Sanitation and Health, saw the system in action and had the opportunity to sample the treated water. It was agreed to start the cooperation by delivering 25 Greenwater Kits to the Rwandan authorities to be deployed at various locations in the country, as a first step in the introduction of the Greenwater solutions on the African continent.

The Swedish sustainable off-grid system produces clean and safe drinking water, 600 litres/hour, which covers the daily water consumption of approximately 80 persons. The system eliminates bacteria (even chlorine resistant), viruses, amoebas and parasites. The system has been designed to be installed in areas with poorly functioning or non-existent infrastructure for electricity and water supply.

The system purifies water with filters and UV technique without the use of chlorine or other harmful chemicals. As the system is powered by battery, which are charged by solar panels, it is completely independent of the electrical powergrid, which means it can be used "off-grid". The system is installed and is rapidly producing safe drinking water, which is important, for example at the establishment of a refugee camp. Furthermore, the system is built as a mobile kit to simplify transportation to remote areas and can easily be transported to another location, if needed.

Greger Nilsson, innovator and Head of R&D at Greenwater AB, says that "our solutions have been developed to be used in different contexts; in emergencies, such as natural disasters where the existing infrastructure has been destroyed and the population is without access to clean drinking water, or in communities without system water and sanitation". The company has also seen a great interest in the Greenwater solutions, from companies and organizations that are looking for sustainable and innovative solutions for water treatment of either incoming or outgoing water.

This can be due to the recently adopted UN Sustainable Development Goals, 17 objectives aiming to increase the understanding and the work towards sustainable development. Among these objectives, target no. 6 speaks directly to the access to safe drinking water and sanitation as a top priority (UN Water 2015). "And we are working towards achieving these goals!" expresses Annika Johansson, CEO of Greenwater, enthusiastically.

The Swedish invention is introduced in Rwanda during fall of 2016 in order to give the population access to clean and safe drinking water in connection with their settlement and empower mainly women and children to further develop themselves and their communities.