



Choosing a Household Water Treatment Product that Works:

Product Performance and Quality in Emergencies

UNC Water and Health Conference:
Tuesday 17 October 2017
Azalea Room, 08:30 – 12:00



How can we make sure that people in emergency settings have safe drinking water? Household water treatment (HWT) and safe storage solutions are often among the best options. To achieve the desired health impact, HWT solutions must not only be technically effective but also be used correctly, consistently and continually. However, when it comes to choosing HWT products, procurers and end-users often have limited evidence on how products perform and whether products are of good quality.

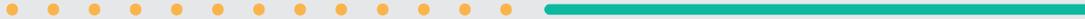
This workshop will focus on two factors, microbiological performance and product quality, and efforts to evaluate HWT products to support the implementation of effective, appropriate solutions.



University of Applied Sciences and Arts
Northwestern Switzerland



World Health
Organization



EVALUATION

For NGOs and governments to choose the right solutions, HWT product performance needs to be rigorously and independently tested in different settings. That evidence then needs to be passed on to those selecting and buying the products, as well as manufacturers aiming to innovate and improve their products. In this session, we will explore the role of and need for evidence on HWT performance in the following ways:

- The World Health Organization will discuss their role in evaluating HWT product performance, and will outline preliminary findings from Round II of their International Scheme to Evaluate HWT Technologies;
- Elrha's Humanitarian Innovation Fund will present findings on evidence gaps and the impact of these gaps on humanitarian response work;
- The Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology will present findings from a range of expert interviews to explore how filter performance criteria and the evidence needed vary from development to emergency settings; and
- University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland and the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology will discuss how testing can be taken from the lab to the field, and the challenges of carrying out HWT research in acute emergencies.



QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Variability in performance between production units and quality management of locally manufactured products were two key discussion points in the results of Round 1 of the WHO Scheme that continue to be challenges today. Quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) processes are necessary from production to implementation so that:

1. Manufacturers are able to ensure that they are consistently producing high quality products;
2. Governments are able to establish and enforce regulations to prevent poor-quality products from reaching end users; and
3. Implementers and end users are able to know if a product is performing as intended.

QA/QC will be a recurring theme throughout the session. In addition, the QA/QC Café will be dedicated to this topic and will give participants an opportunity to talk with manufacturers about:

- The processes they have in place for QA/QC;
 - Persistent QA/QC challenges they face;
 - How implementers can incorporate QA/QC into their activities; and
 - If/how a user can tell if a unit is no longer working or reached the end of its lifespan.
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