  **a gift of Life** A picture containing text

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Many thanks to donors for the funds already accumulated, which are received from GlobalGiving monthly and transferred to Aquabox in full within two working days.

This includes non-targeted donations which are thankfully allocated to this project by GlobalGiving. The crisis in Yemen continues and your donations have been and continue to be much needed. Apart from one part time administrator Aquabox is staffed entirely by volunteers.

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1. **SIXTH Aquabox shipment en route to Yemen.**

On a daily basis many of the people of Yemen face terrible uncertainty about their health and security. Sadly, this situation does not reach the headlines often, but it still represents one of the worst humanitarian aid crises the world has ever seen.

Over the past 2 to 3 years Aquabox is proud to have been able to work with its partner, JOY (Jubilee Outreach Yorkshire), to fill six container shipments of aid. Each shipment we have sent has provided much needed water filters and general aid items.

Aquabox sent its sixth shipment to Yemen, leaving the depot on 8 September. In partnership with JOY another 40-foot container has been filled with aid.

The Aquabox part of the shipment was a further 200 gold boxes, each of which contains a family water filter and various humanitarian aid items. Aquabox are proud to continue to send support to such a challenging destination and are most grateful to the agencies on the ground who ensure the proper distribution of the aid.

Cost to Aquabox of sixth shipment to Yemen (excluding delivery):

200 gold boxes @ £150 per box = £ 30,000, with each box including a family filter.

200 Family Filters will provide 1 million litres of clean drinking water over the working life of the filters. For further information refer to the section 7 on diseases protected by the water filter. filter. The filters in this shipment will support over 1000 people.

**2. Total shipments to Yemen to date.**

**2021 to date – 400 Gold Boxes**

2020 - 500 Gold Boxes

2020 - 5 Community Filters

2020 - 120 Family Filters

2019 - 270 Gold Boxes

2018 - 60 Gold Boxes (trial shipment)

Each of the 1230 Gold Boxes contains a Family Filter

The total of 1350 Family Filters and 5 Community Filters delivered to Yemen can produce over 600 million litres of clean drinking water over the working lives of the filters.

See the full pfd report #9 for photos.

**3. Planning the SEVENTH shipment of aid to Yemen.**

Whenever a disaster strikes, whether it is natural or man-made, there is always an urgent need to provide safe drinking water to those affected. Water supplies are typically severely affected in the aftermath of a disaster. Water pipes may be destroyed, or the water supply will be contaminated with water from sewage and drains.

In these circumstances people have no choice but to collect water from available local sources, such as streams, rivers and wells. Such water is often contaminated and unsafe to drink. Water-borne diseases such as cholera will spread rapidly and will affect particularly the more vulnerable young and older members of a community.

Innovative AquaFilter technology produces safe and clean drinking water instantly and reliably without the need for chemicals. The AquaFilter Family and Community units are based on sub-micron filters which are impenetrable to bacteria and most viruses

Aquabox will continue to offer help wherever they can with a seventh shipment to Yemen. Particularly so for this year, funds are desperately needed to support this next shipment of aid.

Every Gold box costs £150 before it even leaves the depot

Every community filter costs £250.

**Other Aquabox news.**

**4. Presentation of the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service** A picture containing text

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Aquabox was formally presented with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2016 by the Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire, William Tucker.

Also in attendance were Mrs Elizabeth Fothergill the High Sheriff of Derbyshire, Patrick McLoughlin MP for Derbyshire Dales, Eve Conway President of RIBI, Colin Gell Rotary 1220 District Governor, Dr Roger Summers Past District Governor, David Haspel President of Wirksworth Rotary Club, the Chairs of Derbyshire County Council and Derbyshire Dales District Council, the Mayors of Wirksworth and Matlock and a host of the loyal volunteers who give up their time and work so hard each week.

Presenting the Queen’s Award the Lord Lieutenant said **“You join today a fairly small and very select and special group of people and organisations within this county who have been recognised for this fantastic award and I offer each and every one of you my richest congratulations.”** He praised the highly efficient and professional manner in which over 100,000 boxes have been sent to more than 50 countries in the last 25 years, covering almost every natural disaster and helping hundreds of thousands of people.

A picture containing person, group, indoor, posing

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**5. Shipment to Haiti**

Aquabox is working to get urgent aid to Haiti, following the devastating earthquake which hit the country recently. The 7.2 magnitude quake is known to have killed over 2,000 people and left 600,000 in need of emergency assistance. According to UNICEF, an estimated 500,000 children have little or no access to shelter, safe water and food.

Aquabox is currently working with its partners in the Caribbean to establish which of them are best placed to provide safe and urgent distribution of aid. Problems with customs duty have been resolved, and a combination of Family Filters and Community Filters has been dispatched. They left the depot arrived at the Port of Prince early October. With the help of local Rotary Clubs, the boxes are being distributed in the north of the island, and currently being organised is secure transport to the south of the island.

This shipment will provide clean water to over 6,000 people. The urgency has required expensive air freight costing over £2000.

A second shipment to Haiti is currently being planned.

**6. Other Aquabox shipments post-lockdown**

Volunteers have been busy at the depot following easing of lockdown. In just 2 months since then they have resumed operations. In addition to Yemen and Haiti, Aquabox has shipped out the following aid packages:

**Senegal** – 36 family filters and 5 community filters have been shipped to partner Rotary Club in Stade, north Germany. Stade have a long-standing relationship with the Senegal Children’s Home charity and will manage the onward shipment of the filters on our behalf. To overcome security problems a party of their Rotarians will visit Senegal in a couple of weeks, and they will transport the filters as luggage. Total number of people this can help – 2000+

**Nepal** – 196 gold boxes and 8 family filters left the depot in mid-July, destined for the British Gurkha Regiment who ship the aid out to the Aquabox depot in Kathmandu. This shipment has arrived at its destination. Aquabox hold a contingency stock there to allow rapid response to the frequent earthquakes and landslips that beset this part of the world. Total number of people this can help – 3000+

**Gaza** – 200 gold boxes left our depot on 24th August destined to our partners Hand in Hand for Aid and Development who are based in Birmingham. They will manage the onward transport to refugees in Gaza. Total number of people this can help – 1000+

In summary, Aquabox aid for the past 2 months or so, including Haiti, has the capacity to help around 13 000 people coping with very challenging circumstances. The total cost of this aid (excluding freight) is approximately £100 000. That’s around £8 for each life supported.

**7. The Aquabox Filter and Disease Protection**

The Aquabox filters protect against the following diseases.

**Cholera**

Cholera often breaks out in situations where there is overcrowding and inadequate access to clean water and proper toilets. It causes serious diarrhoea and vomiting, which can lead to death by intense dehydration, sometimes within a few hours. Cholera is a serious risk in the aftermath of emergencies like earthquakes, and in rainy seasons when houses and latrines flood, and contaminated water collects in stagnant pools. The Aquafilter protects against cholera.

**Typhoid**

Typhoid is caused by a type of salmonella bacteria. Symptoms usually begin between six and 30 days after exposure: a gradual onset of fever, abdominal pain, constipation, headaches, and mild vomiting. Typhoid is spread by eating or drinking food or water contaminated with the faeces of an infected person, so risk factors include poor sanitation and poor hygiene. The disease is most common in India, and children are most frequently affected. In 2015, typhoid caused about 150,000 deaths worldwide. The Aquafilter protects against typhoid.

**Amoebiasis**

Also known amoebic dysentery, this is an infection caused by amoebae of the Entamoeba group, which can survive for up to a month in soil or for up to 45 minutes under fingernails. Symptoms may include abdominal pain, diarrhoea or bloody diarrhoea, which can lead to inflammation and ulceration of the colon, peritonitis and anaemia. Most cases occur in the developing world, with about 40 million new cases each year, and an estimated 100,000-plus deaths a year. The Aquafilter protects against amoebiasis.

**Polio**

Polio is caused by the polio virus, and causes muscle weakness, paralysis, and death in the case of up to 5% of children and 30% of adults. Polio virus is usually spread through food or water containing human faeces. Although the widespread use of vaccines means the disease is far less prevalent than before, there are still countries where it is endemic. The Aquafilter protects against polio.

**Dracunculiasis or Guinea-worm**

This disease is a parasitic infection caused by drinking water that contains water fleas infected with guinea worm larvae. Initially there are no symptoms, but about a year after infection, the female worm forms a painful blister in the skin, usually on a lower limb. Other symptoms may include vomiting and dizziness. The worm emerges from the skin over the course of a few weeks, leaving an ulcer which is vulnerable to infection. Guineaworm disease is coming under control, but there is no medication or vaccine against it. The Aquafilter protects against Guinea-worm disease.

**Giardiasis**

This is a parasitic disease caused by Giardia duodenalis, and causes diarrhoea, abdominal pain and weight loss. It spreads when Giardia duodenalis cysts within faeces contaminate food or drinking water. It is one of the most common parasitic human diseases globally: in 2013, there were approximately 280 million people worldwide with symptomatic cases of giardiasis.

**8. Photo Gallery: Earlier Aquabox projects**

A picture containing text, indoor, floor, tiled

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Aquaboxes awaiting transport to Yemen



Aquaboxes being sent to Bangladesh

A group of people looking at a cell phone

Description automatically generated with low confidence

Fingerprinting Rohingya refugees to ensure correct distribution of Aquaboxes

A group of people walking down a street

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Aquaboxes being distributed in Bangladesh to Rohingya refugees

A group of women sitting in chairs

Description automatically generated with low confidence

Teachers in Anganwadis (schools for underprivileged children) in Kerala receiving tuition in use of Family Filters

A picture containing person

Description automatically generated

Family filter being used alongside well in The Gambia

A picture containing person, group, crowd

Description automatically generated

Community filter in use in Haiti A group of people standing outside

Description automatically generated with medium confidence Aquabox target 2019 -- A Yemenese family



*Gold Boxes being distributed near Bhadgaun, Nepal*