



GEMI[®]

Collecting the Drops:

**A Water
Sustainability
Planner**

Case Example

Pfizer Inc: Building a Partnership for Pure Water in Puerto Rico

Community outreach by Pfizer through the Partnership for Pure Water (PPW) has brought significant benefits to over 200 communities in rural communities in Puerto Rico that operate their own drinking water systems.

There are a number of rural communities in Puerto Rico that are served by small community owned and operated water systems. In the 1990's, the water produced by some of these systems often did not comply with U.S. drinking water standards. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's regional director informed the general manager of Pfizer's Barceloneta, Puerto Rico facility about the serious risk of waterborne disease in community owned and operated water systems. Recognizing that the pharmaceutical industry had the financial and technical resources to help these communities address this public health concern, Pfizer, working with the Pharmaceutical Industry Association of Puerto Rico, the Puerto Rico Department of Health, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, formed the Partnership for Pure Water (PPW). Since the inception of the PWW in 1992, 16 pharmaceutical companies and approximately 80 volunteers have participated in this initiative to provide 93,000 people with safe drinking water.

As indicated, the small water systems that PPW targets are mostly owned and operated by the communities they serve. These communities often lack the technical expertise and resources to operate and maintain their systems to comply with drinking water regulations. Many also lack reliable treatment systems, such as filtration or disinfection equipment. The PPW provides these communities with technical and financial assistance, and education on public health matters specific to their systems.

PPW assistance also includes providing and supporting the installation of disinfection and other equipment to treat the water. PPW volunteers also train the local communities to operate and maintain the equipment. A typical volunteering effort includes three site visits per year with five to six people.

The volunteers visit the communities to verify that the water systems are operating as expected, and also to collect and submit water samples for analysis by contract laboratories. To date, the PWW has provided 150 water treatment systems, rehabilitated approximately 100 water systems, and given over 180 educational lectures.



Pfizer PPW volunteers donate approximately 300 person-hours per year to work with local communities. Pfizer's facilities in Vega Baja and Barceloneta have been particularly active with the communities located within the towns of Caguas, San Lorenzo, Utuado, San German, Adjuntas Yauco, and Aibonito. The population in these small communities range from 40 to 600 people. For example, Pfizer's Vega Baja Utilities Team installed a potable water chlorination system and improved the water storage tank for the

Pfizer Inc: Building a Partnership for Pure Water in Puerto Rico (Cont.)

Manuel Díaz Community in the municipality of San Lorenzo. The potable water system now serves approximately 440 people. In 2004, representatives from Pfizer's Barceloneta facility worked on a project to provide and install disinfection equipment to two different distribution systems serving 536 people in the Pezuela Ward of Lares town. This team also repaired and improved the electrical and control system for an extraction well.

Going forward, the PPW will be increasing its scope and expanding its purview to include 28 small water supply systems serving rural schools. PPW also supports the University of Puerto Rico's demonstration projects, e.g., a novel filtration system and the University's research to understand and motivate communities to assure a consistent and safe water supply.