AQUA CLARA INTERNATIONAL

CLEAN WATER & HEALTH THROUGH LOCALLY-DRIVEN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

www.aquaclara.org

Water, Health & Livelihood Programmes

ACI Technology
+ ACI Training
+ Local Knowledge
+ Local Tools
+ Local Materials
+ Local Motivation

SUSTAINABLE PROGRAMME OPERATION & GROWTH

Regional Management Staff

- *Communication & Collaboration with Community Stakeholders*
- *ACI Partner Site Selection & Communication*
- *CDO Training - Initial & Continual*
- *CDO Resupply Management*
- *Programme Tracking*
- *Record Keeping*
- *CHP Training & Organizing*
- *Monthly CHP Meetings*
- *Monthly CDO Meetings*
- *Programme Testing & Quality Control*
- *Partnership Development*

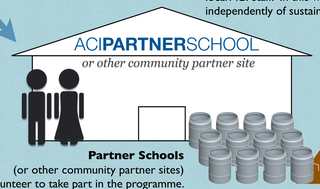
ACI works with dozens of community partners as demonstration & production sites in each region of ACI work.

ACI works through community partners. Each partner acts as a station from which a CDO demonstrates and promotes various beneficial technologies. These partners are most often rural schools, which are well positioned to both benefit from ACI technologies while demonstrating the same products to their surrounding communities.

School Representatives are assigned and receive training in ACI technologies so that their function and benefit can clearly be explained to students as well as other staff. These representatives also serve as the key liaison point between ACI staff and the schools' programme.

Community Development Officers (CDOs) are long-term, respected community residents selected by their local school, local community, and local administration. They are trained by ACI, and empowered to run a small, independent business promoting, selling, assembling, installing and servicing ACI products. While they will not get rich in this work, it will provide additional cash income for as long as they responsibly fulfill their duties.

Supplies are provided to each community's CDO as an interest-free loan. All materials necessary for assembling and selling a product are delivered by ACI, and as CDOs install products, they pay back the corresponding material costs into the ACI resupply account, keeping a small profit for themselves. When supplies run low, there are sufficient funds in the ACI resupply account to enable the purchase of needed items by local ACI staff. In this way, the progamme is designed to run independently of sustained outside funding.

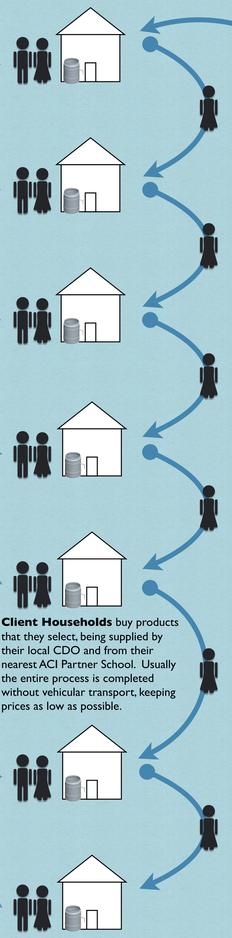


Partner Schools (or other community partner sites) volunteer to take part in the programme. They are selected as ACI funds for expansion become available, being selected based upon a variety of criteria.

Beneficial products are demonstrated locally & sold to community residents.

CDOs, working from each partner school, promote, sell, and manufacture products that benefit surrounding households. For each sale, the CDOs make a small profit for their time spent manufacturing and selling such products. ACI, as a non-profit, makes nothing from its community service work.

As the process continues, partner schools continue to benefit from demonstration & reward products built at their location, while CDOs continue to receive training and supply support in promoting an increasing array of products.



Client Households buy products that they select, being supplied by their local CDO and from their nearest ACI Partner School. Usually the entire process is completed without vehicular transport, keeping prices as low as possible.

Community Health Promoters (CHPs) are trained and organized by ACI. They visit each and every household that purchases an ACI product, providing relevant training in hygiene, safe water storage and use, etc. They also aid in ensuring quality standards in product production, use and maintenance.

Additionally, they are available for participating in community events, or in working with partner schools and other ACI staff to promote WASH (water, sanitation & hygiene) - friendly schools.

Each CHP has a defined geographical area of service in which they will be active in promoting general health and well being, while also explaining related technologies.

ACI'S METHOD

ACI is a non-profit NGO focused on empowering communities to meet their own needs by employing a partnership-based, entrepreneurial model.

Technologies, beginning with simple, inexpensive, effective water filters and safe water storage containers, are demonstrated at participating schools (or other community partner sites) that agree to host the programme. They agree to host in order to benefit their surrounding community, while also educating their students and allowing them to benefit from demonstrated technologies.

The process is not a quick one, but is designed to lead to the slowly increasing benefit of both host institutions as well as the surrounding community. The end goal is a programme that is completely locally-driven and sustainable, with schools, their surrounding communities, and ACI all partnering to sensitize the area in the use and adoption of increasing types of beneficial technologies.

Much of the hands-on work is performed by Community Development Officers (CDOs), independent men and women selected by their communities and schools for the work, who after training are given the opportunity of making a small profit from each item sold, and the responsibility of properly promoting and manufacturing each item.

ACI PRODUCTS & TECHNOLOGIES

ACI enters each community with its primary programme - water quality and storage products with related health and hygiene promotion. Certain successful partners are then selected to slowly move into level 2 products (some examples at right), larger, more expensive items meant to address other community needs. As with level 1 products (water quality and water storage), these level 2 products are first built and used at ACI partner schools with established and successful CDOs, and are thereafter demonstrated and promoted for the benefit of the surrounding community.

All ACI products are designed to be promoted, sold, assembled and serviced locally, by local entrepreneurs, so that all skill, knowledge and profit remains in the targeted community.

Water Quality & Storage

ACI's **primary products** are designed to generate and store safe drinking water - water free from bacteria and parasites. ACI is currently training CDOs in the manufacture and sale of improved biosand filters (BSFs) as well as safe water storage and distribution containers. These filters are both inexpensive and effective, and are the first entry point for ACI into any new community.

Soon, ACI will be offering additional water treatment and storage options, both designed at household and community size. They will be promoted through ACI's current model and network - first demonstrating at schools or other community sites, and then promoting for sale via trained CDOs to interested community members.

Health & Hygiene

ACI trains and sponsors a network of **Community Health Promoters** (CHPs), each with a defined geographical area of service. These CHPs work in their communities to promote proper hygiene, sanitation, nutrition, etc., all while undertaking visits to each ACI partner school and client household.

Additionally, ACI is committed to **promoting WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) - friendly status at each of its partnering schools**, so that they can serve as community models. Thus, partnering schools will recieve not only CHP participation in events and educational opportunities, but will also receive steadily increasing levels of rewards (related to overall programme success) of such items as hand-washing stations, additional water filters, etc.

Rain Water Harvesting *- level 2 products*

In schools and communities where water supply is also an issue, ACI will gradually move into the promotion of various sizes of rain water catchment systems.

Just as with its water quality products, ACI will manage supplier relationships to drive material costs down as far as possible. Once different sized RWH units are installed at a school, a CDO will have a price established for each (which will be considerably less than the local market cost); they will then sell to local community households, installing RWH units as purchased. The smaller systems will be geared towards low-income households, and will be connectible, so a household may purchase additional units over time, adding to their rain water storage capacity in a modular fashion as their budget allows.

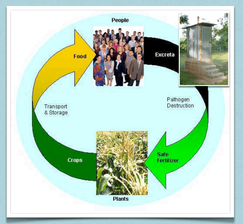
Eco-San Latrines *- level 2 products*

Ecological sanitation is a safe method of recovering nutrients from human excreta, then recycling them back into productive systems. A human being produces exactly the amount of nutrients that is needed for growing his or her food (measured in crops) – 7.5 kg of nitrate, phosphorus and potassium for 250 kg of crops.

If separated, urine can easily serve as a very effective fertiliser. After faeces have been desiccated (dried-out), they are free from pathogens, diseases and odour. They can then serve as a soil conditioner for agriculture, returning a significant part of the nutrients and trace elements to the soil.

This closes local cycle, helping to improve food security and to conserve soil fertility. At the same time, human health is improved due to the removal of disease sources from the domestic environment.

These **urine-diversion eco-san latrine systems** will be installed at select, applicable schools in combination with **example garden plot**s, so that the benefits of such technologies are plain to see. After the demonstration is up an running (co-managed by the CDO and partner school), the community will be able to purchase the same technology through the local CDO.



Agriculture *- level 2 products*

ACI recognizes that both households and schools are very keen to find ways to increase income from small amounts of land. With that in mind, ACI is working to cooperate with other NGOs as well as government extension officers in promoting certain agricultural products, including locally-built **greenhouses**, **drip irrigation** systems, inexpensive **hoop-house nurseries**, and simple, effective **high-yield gardening techniques**.

The above technologies (some paired with the aforementioned eco-san latrines) will be demonstrated at schools (co-managed between CDOs and the schools). This will provide food and/or income to the schools while also adding a significant demonstration site with which new technologies and/or methods can be promoted throughout the surrounding area.