

Two Months In The Life Of Aquabox

Cast your minds back to late August this year.

Can you recall the headlines which hit our national press?

They recounted disturbing stories of hundreds of thousands of citizens in Kerala, southern India, literally being washed out of their homes as a result of devastating floods.



As this was happening, thousands of miles away, this time in south west Cameroon in Africa, large numbers of people were being displaced, their villages burned down and violence perpetrated against them by the military under the control of the government. These villagers had no option other than to live in the bush as their physical communities no longer existed. Did you even know this was taking place?

Then the press headlines once more took centre stage.

At the end of September, Typhoon Omphong (Mangkhut) hit the northern region of the Philippines, triggering flash floods, storm surges and wholesale landslides. Over a quarter of a million people were displaced; over 100 lost their lives. Health centres were unable to function and so the situation progressively worsened.



And finally in our two month Aquabox odyssey came the news that a massive earthquake and tsunami hit Indonesia, centred around the city of Palu on the island of Sulawesi.

Almost 900 people lost their lives, many buried in massed graves to prevent the spread of disease. Other stories emerged detailing suffering too harrowing to report here.

Here are some common factors in all these tragedies.

The lives of individuals and whole communities can be destroyed in a frighteningly short time. The health of people is immediately at risk and access to safe drinking water is of paramount importance. In each of the above human catastrophes, Aquabox was instrumental in providing meaningful, immediate and sustainable support. We supplied water purification filters and other items of humanitarian aid, all of which was distributed **securely** and **appropriately** by our long-standing partners on the ground.

The water filters despatched from our Wirksworth depot in the past two months alone have the capacity to provide drinking water to over 35,000 needy people in some of the world's most devastated areas. Since the filters can function for several years, this output may continue way beyond the immediate need. Without clean drinking water, people suffer from the most debilitating diseases and this significantly impacts on their ability to rebuild and regenerate their communities and local economies.

At Aquabox we are extremely proud of what we achieve. We are a truly volunteer led charity and our 70+ volunteers are our engine-room and quite simply without them we could not do what we do. We rely **totally** on donations to allow our work to continue. You can donate online via our website at www.aquabox.org, or send a cheque to Aquabox, PO Box 5398, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 4ZP. In particular, we would welcome corporate sponsorship, so please contact us if this is of interest. If you would like to find out more about our work, come along to see us at our depot - you can book a visit through our website. ***Please help us if you can.***