Water for Cambodia

Newsletter

Clean water, a human right not a luxury

WFC Newsletter Issue 24 November 2024

The July newsletter revealed the first collaboration by ***Water for Cambodia*** to install community sized filter systems. Rather than the introduction of a revolutionary new technology these systems are the "big brothers" of the bio-sand filter of which ***WFC*** has built and installed more than 35,000.

Since July ***Water for Cambodia*** partnered with **We World** an Italian organization focused on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, a Greece based agency **The Reaching Out Project** dedicated to improving educational outcomes in Cambodia and **One Degree Forward Canada**. This organization is also dedicated to addressing the lack of safe clean water across rural Cambodia. **One Degree Forward Canada** is funding the GIZ design approach whereas the other donors are introducing the intermediate Slow Sand Filter (iSSF).

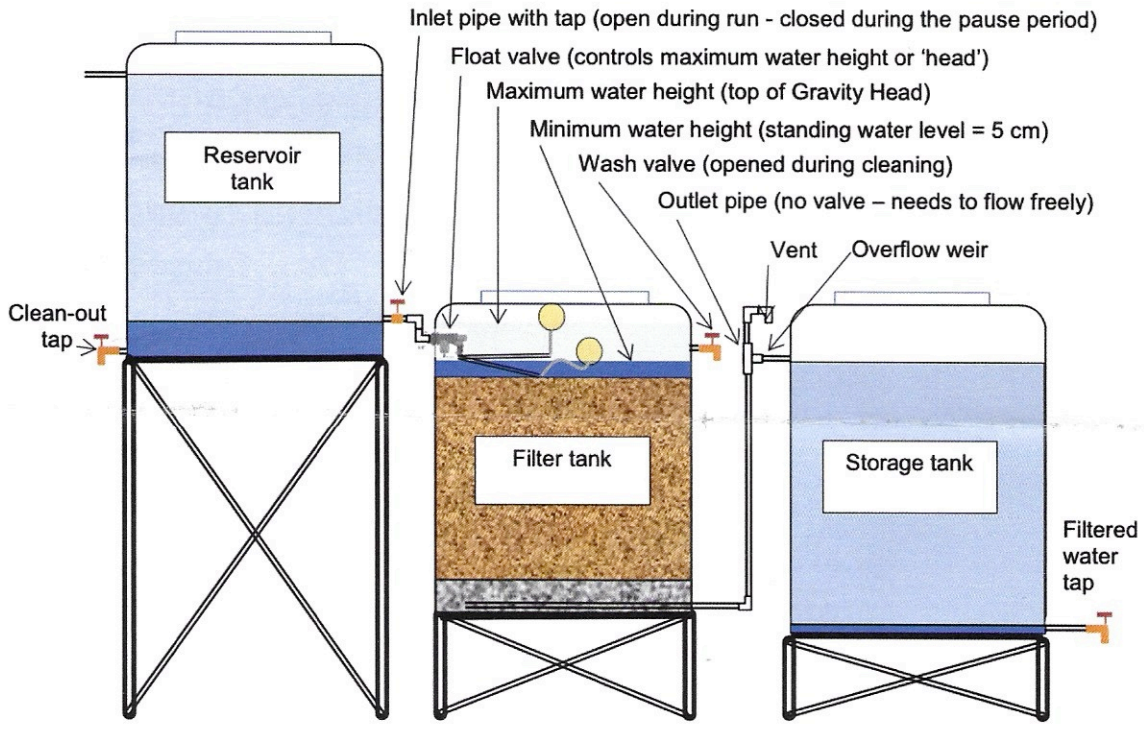
Though both technologies operate on the same fundamental slow sand filtering principles, they address a different scale of need. The Apsara Authority archaeological sites and many district schools are beyond the volume capacity generated by individual bio-sand filters whereas these installations are capable of reliably delivering many times their volume of clean safe water daily.

Each of these organizations are focused on supporting educational and community health and opportunity by ensuring schools, temple complexes and religious communities have access to adequate clean

safe water. ***WFC*** has provide hundreds of bio-sand filters at local schools since its first days in 2006. However, this endeavor is an important opportunity to efficiently scale up clean water availability especially at schools serving much larger student bodies. The immediate orders have resulted in 3 iSSF units at schools in Varin District and 1 iSSF unit in a school near the Tonle Sap Lake. Continued orders are anticipated.

The iSSF design is truly an "industrial" sized slow sand filter developed in partnership with the Center for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST). CAWST is the developer of the ***WFC*** bio-sand filter that **YOU** have supported since 2006. This big brother unit can effectively deliver up to 1500 liters of filtered water per day.

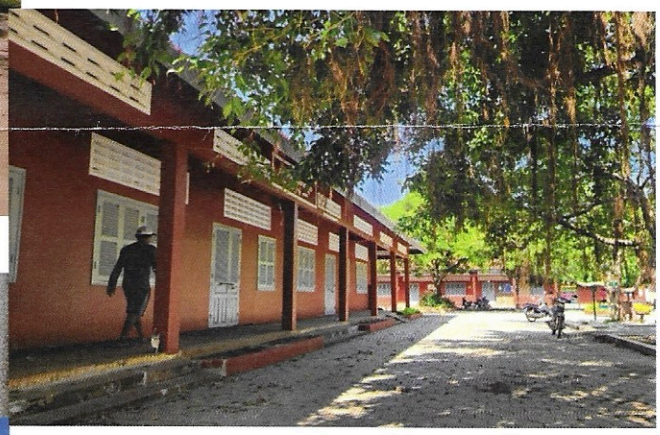
The principal component of the iSSF system is the filter tank. This component follows the same water treatment principles as the bio-sand filter that has been used in thousands of villages in Cambodia and across the developing world. As with the household bio-sand filter this design operates intermittently as water is made available to be filtered. The significant difference is scale.



Components of an iSSF as installed in Cambodia

An intermediate Slow Sand Filter system in action

This iSSF filter processing assembly is installed at a large commune school to service the clean water needs of the students by ***WFC*** staff and is tested by the Lab for safety.



Over the life of this unit, thousands of children will enjoy clean safe drinking water and plenty of water to wash their hands. This leads to improved health and better hygiene while contributing to their ability to learn and prosper.

Today's staff profile of PAN Sros and an encouraging update on Minea's challenging road to recovery

PAN Sros, a life-long resident of Siem Reap Province is a dedicated family man and a committed member of ***Water for Cambodia***. Married with three daughters, his wife is a short-term contract teacher at a local primary school.

Sros has been a valued member of ***Water for Cambodia*** since 2011. He began his tenure as a security guard while completing his high school education. After graduating in 2012, he transitioned to the role of bio-sand filter installer, where he demonstrated both skill and dedication to clean water initiatives. His hard work led to a promotion in 2017 to Field Quality Control Specialist, ensuring the proper installation, safety and effectiveness of water systems. By 2021, Sros earned another advancement to his current position of Community Mobilizer, the ***WFC*** face in the village, a role in which he continues to excel today.

Minea continues his slow steady recovery. His daily routine includes physical exercises for 30 minutes to 1 hour every day on his legs. After the accident and surgery, he didn't get enough physical/therapeutic exercise, thus the muscles lost much strength and flexibility. After his strength has returned, then he will be fitted with his prosthetic. The entire team looks forward to his return.

Visit us at: www.waterforcambodia.org or contribute directly at

Water for Cambodia P.O. Box 5428 Wakefield, RI 02880