





Overview

Tesoco is located in the Yucatan of southeast Mexico. Ground water contamination in the area is a major concern. This has led to a negative perception of drinking the available water in the region. Users turn to drinking less water and more soda pop giving rise to dehydration and diabetes. To protect the individuals in this city, students from the International School of Beaverton (ISB) raised money to send Puralytics' SolarBags to the community.

Trial

SolarBags donated by ISB were distributed to the Tesoco community during an outreach trip by Rivergates Church. 23 SolarBags were given to families totaling 117 people. The population consisted of 38% adults and 62% children. All participants received training starting in March of 2013. The SolarBags were used daily 2-3 times per day. After several months, the SolarBag users were questioned by a local survey team about their apparent health changes.











Outcomes

The community was excited to receive the SolarBags, and immediately adopted them for drinking water use. People not participating in the initial distribution of SolarBags expressed a desire to use the bags as well.



Adoption

People used the bag daily and ended up drinking 50-100% more water and less soda pop. The SolarBag became the primary source of drinking water for the residents (other methods were not used).

Aesthetics

Users generally enjoyed the taste of the water from the SolarBags.



Health

Participants reported that they suffered few stomach ailments after adopting the SolarBag for their drinking water source. It is expected that long term health will improve overall as well from reducing the quantity of soda pop being consumed. This is especially significant for the children using the bags, which were the majority of the population served by the SolarBags.

Outlook

The SolarBags continue to be used in Tesoco to provide safe drinking water. A second round of SolarBags will be issued to expand the number of users in the near future.



Partners

Thank you to all of the participants in this Field Study. Puralytics produced the SolarBags which were donated through the generosity of ISB. Riversgate Church brought the SolarBags to the people of Tesoco.