

International Rural Water Sends Chlorinators and Chlorine to Aid Dominican Republic

November 2007: Shortly following the tropical storms that creating considerable flooding and damage in the Dominican Republic, International Rural Water Association (IRWA) made a shipment of Norweco tablet chlorinators and 300 pounds of chlorine tablets to our partner working in rural Dominican Republic. The Red Dominicana de Acueductos Rurales (REDAR) has been working with IRWA since 2006 to train and assist water utilities in the rural areas of Dominican Republic. The program has focused on the installation of chlorinators as the water quality is generally good but the residents do not have protection form waterborne illness due to a lack of disinfection. The Norweco tablet chlorinator imparts a significant improvement to the safety of the drinking water and it's simplicity in design and operation make it a perfect match for developing countries.

US AID in Santo Domingo assisted IRWA by arranging for customs clearance in the Dominican Republic, taking possession of the shipment and storing for REDAR. REDAR's circuit riders, working in the Jarabacoa area of the Dominican Republic, will begin training water system operators and installing the chlorinators in community water systems. The circuit rider works with the communities to get their acceptance of the disinfection, develops a sustainable fee structure so that the community can continue to buy chlorine after the initial donated supplies are exhausted, teaches the water operators how to maintain and test for a chlorine residual, and provides follow up technical assistance. The chlorination equipment and chlorine were very welcome and urgently needed following the flooding which contaminated many water supplies.