

# NGO. Assistance on-site.

KATADYN GROUP  
SWITZERLAND

## Case Study: Drip Filter Mexico

Katadyn Drip Filter in use against shortage of drinking water, poverty, blindness and diarrhoea

### Customer

Sedesol - Secretaría de Desarrollo Social (Mexico)  
Bio Derivados SA. de CV. (Mexico-City)

### Location

During 2014, 19 out of total 31 states of Mexico have received deliveries of Katadyn drip filters. The families benefiting are living mainly in very remote, less developed areas without sanitary infrastructure.

### Project Description

Mexico has a total population of over 120 million people. Many, mainly very remote mountain areas are underdeveloped. People there are living under very poor and basic conditions. Running water is very rarely available in these areas. This forces poor people to spend the little money they have on expensive bottled water. Many children die as a consequence of diarrhoea and are infecting themselves with a very aggressive bacterium called Trachoma, ending in blindness if not treated properly. The course of this disease is very painful. Caused by poor hygienic conditions, the infection can be traced back to missing access to safe drinking water in many cases.

10% of the total Mexican population is constantly undernourished as a result of their poverty. In order to help these people, the government of Mexico has initiated the project "Sin Hambre" (without hunger). People participating in the project are receiving daily meals and education in various areas, such as farming, to enable them to lead a more independent life. To help those people spending the little money they have for badly needed food and corresponding calories, Sedesol has decided to equip families with a Katadyn Drip Filter. The unit immediately grants them access to safe, free of charge drinking water and reduces the amount of Trachoma infections. Also, casualties due to diarrhoea are reduced significantly with immediate effect.

Since the start of the project, Katadyn has delivered more than 60'000 Drip Filters to Mexico.



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## Product

The Drip Filter is comprised of two plastic tanks and three cleanable ceramic filter candles. The polluted water is filled into the upper tank and runs only by means of gravity through the filter candles to then be collected into the closed lower tank. From there, the germ-free water can be withdrawn from a small outlet tap.

Among the population, the product is well accepted, simply because the technology is immediately understood and needs little training. One single Drip Filter has a capacity of up to 150,000 litres, depending on the water quality. This is key because the supply of replacement filters to remote areas is logistically demanding and therefore expensive. Drip Filters have proved to be a simple and effective tool to combat a large number of waterborne diseases in developing countries. They have many advantages over other measures such as boiling water (too expensive because of a firewood shortage) or treatment using chlorine (unsuitable for regular use as a disinfectant).

## Summary

Katadyn and the local sales partner are proud of being part of a nationwide project against poverty and hunger. The Katadyn Drip Filters have proven to be effective for many years in remote, less developed areas and are significantly helping people to reach a better living standard.

## For more information, please contact

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