

Case Study- Colombia 2019

Katadyn Gravity Filters and Spectra Universal Aquifer systems were used to provide desperately needed fresh water to refugees fleeing the crisis in Venezuela.

Customer

Operation Blessing – A faith-based nonprofit humanitarian organization providing relief services around the globe.

Location

Border crossings and refugee camps in Colombia on the Venezuelan border, limited water sources, often unsafe.

Project Description

The political and economic catastrophe in Venezuela has caused millions of Venezuelans to flee the country in what is being referred to as the worst refugee crisis ever to take place in Latin America. Many of the refugees crossing the Venezuela-Colombia border have been chronically deprived of food, clean water and medical care. Operation Blessing has responded to this humanitarian emergency by setting up camps in the remote areas of Colombia where the dangerous border crossings are taking place.

Safe water is the first priority in relief situations and Operation Blessing deployed two different Katadyn solutions to ensure that the hydration needs of the refugees were met. One solution was the use of Katadyn First Response Gravity Filters. These were used and distributed to refugees who could use the simple but effective filter themselves to purify water from questionable sources.

The second solution was the Spectra Universal Aquifer. Operation Blessing used the Aquifer when large quantities of water were needed in remote, off-grid locations with no power source. The Aquifer is a rugged watermaker that can deliver up to 360 gallons of fresh water per day from any water source, including sea water. It runs entirely on three included solar panels and is packed into three military-grade cases that can be checked as luggage on a commercial flight. Aquifer units deliver fresh water quantities that exceed a full pallet of bottled water per day, without the negative environmental impact and difficult shipping logistics. Operation Blessing's Water Engineers rapidly deployed the Aquifer in a completely undeveloped area where clean water was needed most.

The First Response Gravity Filter and Universal Aquifer are only part of the Katadyn Group's range of life-sustaining products. Katadyn Group's portfolio includes safe water solutions designed for individual use as well as products that can sustain whole communities, producing 20,000 gallons of clean water per day powered entirely by solar panels.



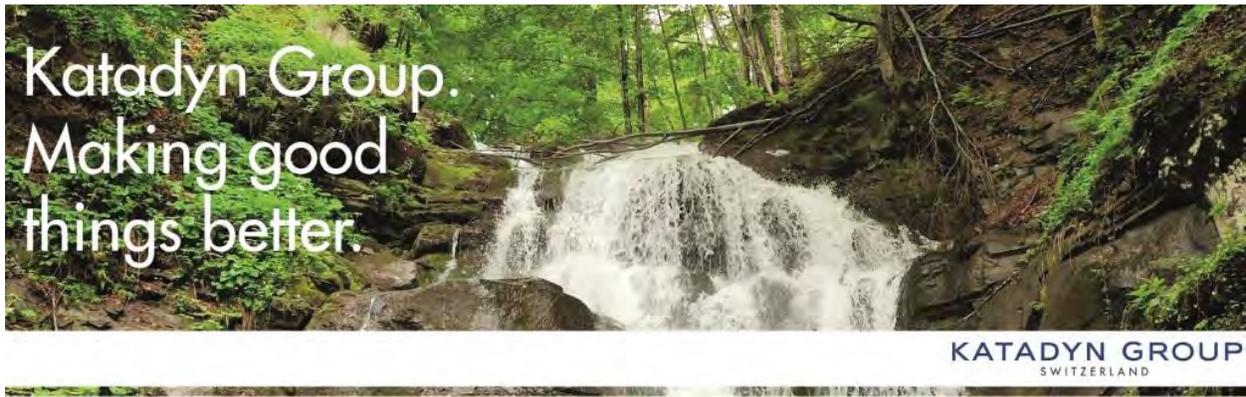
Universal Aquifer



First Response 3 Liter Gravity Filter

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Universal Aquifer purifying water from a remote river, running on solar power

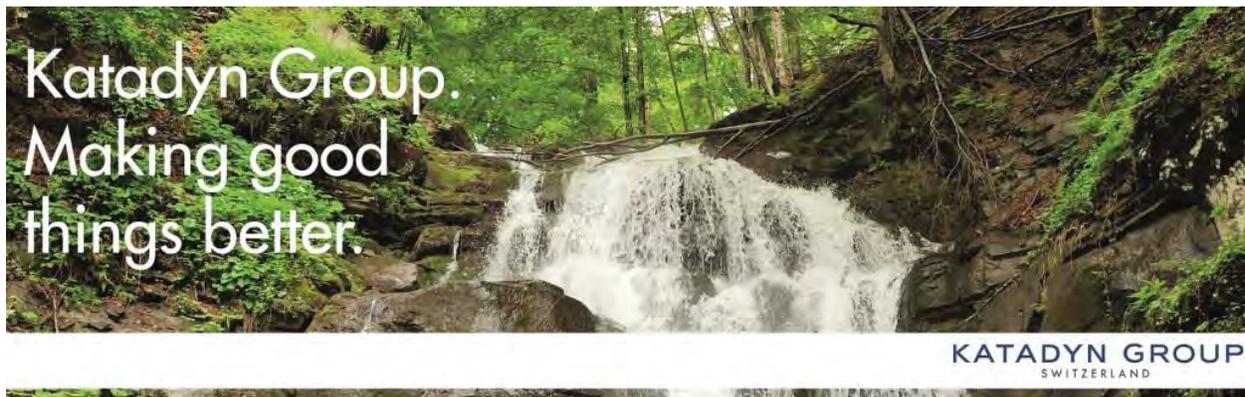


Aquifer system detail

Operation Blessing staff using the First Response Filter

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OPERATION | BLESSING INTERNATIONAL

Operation Blessing (OB) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) humanitarian organization dedicated to demonstrating God's love by alleviating human need and suffering in the United States and around the world. With the support of our generous partners, Operation Blessing provides strategic relief on an ongoing basis through core programs such as disaster relief, health and medical care, hunger relief, and clean water.

The Katadyn Group

The KATADYN GROUP is a global corporate group specialized in the area of self-sufficient nutrition and drinking water supply. Its brands include Katadyn, Trek'n Eat, AlpineAire Foods, Optimus, Pharmavoyage, Micropur, Certisil, Steripen and Spectra Watermakers. With this broad brand portfolio, the group provides products and solutions for the outdoor and marine industries as well as for industrial and municipal needs. Its diverse product palette ranges from freeze-dried specialty meals and outdoor cooking gear to mobile and land-based water desalination systems and specialized disinfection systems for the industry. Indeed, humanitarian aid organizations and the military for years have been regular customers of the Swiss group of companies. With headquarters in Kempththal (Zurich), the KATADYN GROUP employs about 170 people at its subsidiaries in Europe, Asia and the United States.

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