



Safe Water from Women to Women with Solvatten for a better health and a better environment

Below please find more detailed information about the SI Sweden Union Programme:

More than a billion people lack access to safe water today

Solvatten - a Solar Safe Water System - uses **solar energy** to purify contaminated water.

After a few hours in the sun, the water is free from the pathogens that cause diseases like dysentery, salmonella and cholera.

A unique feature with Solvatten is that it also heats the water.

This saves time, energy, money and the environment.

An indicator shows when the water is safe.

Requires no batteries, spare parts or chemicals.

Easy to use and carry – holds 10 litres of water.

No maintenance costs.

Long lifespan.

Creates small business opportunities for women.

Reduces emission of carbon dioxide.



The Swedish Soroptimist Award 2012 was given to Petra Wadström, Inventor of Solvatten and CEO of Solvatten AB, and this was the beginning of a co-operation between SI Sweden and Solvatten AB. In October 2012, SI Sweden started the Solvatten project.

We demonstrated Solvatten – Solar Safe Water System – at the Berlin Congress July 12-14, 2013 and we received A Best Practice Award in the category ‘Address the specific needs of women and girls by improving environmental sustainability and mitigating effects of climate change and disasters’, Program Goal 5.

President Barack Obama visited Stockholm on September 4, 2013. Before his visit to the Royal Institute of Technology he had specifically asked to get more information about three Swedish innovations, one being Solvatten, here demonstrated by Petra Wadström. The President said ‘Congratulations to a wonderful achievement, it is a great story to tell!’



Petra Wadström has received many prestigious awards, the most recent being ‘**Momentum for Change Lighthouse Award**’ by UN’s Climate Secretariat UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) from December 2015.

Our Solvatten Programme meets **all 17 Sustainable Development goals, set up by the UN.**

In four years, up to the end of September 2016, Swedish SI clubs, four German SI clubs and one Finnish SI club have raised **1 226 900 SEK** (EUR 119400, USD 132426), with which the Solvatten Programme Group has bought more than **ONE THOUSAND** Solvatten units that have been distributed to vulnerable families in for instance Kenya, Tanzania, Angola, Malawi, Sénégal, RDC and Sierra Leone. Recently we started up a project in Nepal. All incoming donations will be spent on Solvatten units for new or ongoing projects. Today, about 42 000 Solvatten units are in use all over the world serving around 200 000 people with SAFE DRINKABLE water.

In accordance with our policy, the women (beneficiaries) are requested to pay a symbolic amount for their Solvatten and in connection with the handing-over the women are instructed and trained not only in the actual use of Solvatten, but also in matters concerning Hygiene, Health, Economy and Environment.

We have received numerous positive reports from women using Solvatten. They are delighted that they do not have to spend several hours every day collecting firewood, their families get much less sick and are able to work much more, and the children can go to school much more often. The risk of children getting burnt from traditional stoves is also reduced.

The savings made by one family using one Solvatten for one year are:

- **45 fewer sick days**
- **200 USD saved (no need for buying medicines, charcoal, kerosine)**
- **400-450 kWh solar energy absorbed**
- **56 workdays released**
- **10 trees left standing**
- **400 m² forest spared**
- **2 tons fuelwood spared**
- **1-2 tons LESS CO₂ emission !!!!**

On www.soroptimistsweden.se and www.solvatten.se you will find many Reports on the excellence and outstanding qualities of Solvatten and Evaluation reports describing five areas of savings: Water costs, Energy spendings, Health costs, Time spent on fetching water and fuel/day and finally Sick days. The reduction of carbon dioxide emissions is also measurable. Please do not hesitate to contact us for more information.

If you would like to contribute to this programme, please send your donation to the Soroptimist account at
NORDEA – IBAN: SE95 9500 0099 6034 0657 1178, BIC-code SWIFT: NDEASESS

In Friendship
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