Partnership with Water Mission improves handwashing in rural Peru

Worldwide do not have facilities with soap

worldwide have basic handwashing facilities²

global cause of death

Over the past few years, Water Mission has brought clean water to 250 families in Padre Cocha, Peru, a community that previously lacked this basic necessity. Because access to hands-free, water efficient handwashing facilities remained a challenge, the organization sought a durable solution that would conserve water, be easy to transport and install, and deliver hands-free operation.

Kohler Co., through its Innovation for Good® program, had just what they were looking for: the Kohler Cleanse. A portable handwashing station, Kohler Cleanse can be installed anywhere alongside a bucket of water or a gravity-fed hose with no plumbing or electricity needed.

The two organizations partnered to bring this easy-to-use tool to schools, health care facilities, community centers, and homes throughout Padre Cocha and surrounding areas. And for those impacted, the experience has been overwhelmingly positive.

With installations at a community center and the boat dock, Kohler Co. and Water Mission have increased hygiene in places where people of all ages gather.

"It is very easy to use, innovative in design and hygienic."

~ Roque Nolorbe, cleaning manager of the boat dock



With Kohler Cleanse installed in several primary and secondary schools, students and teachers are finding it easier to keep their hands clean throughout the day.

"Having this faucet is a very important opportunity for handwashing because using it is very easy for children and it is practical for constant handwashing at key points of daily life."

~ Olga Díaz Pérez, director of the primary school



Families who've received a Kohler Cleanse for their home say it's a big improvement over the buckets or hoses they used previously.

"Everyone in my house washes our hands without any problem. It has been very practical to use this new faucet."

~ Edna Shapiama, homeowner



For health care workers, hands-free operation removed the likelihood of contamination, which can come from touching a dirty faucet.

"This new faucet is better than the previous one because we don't use our hands to get the water, we only use our wrists, and that helps us to wash our hands in a healthy way since we avoid contamination."

~ Maritza Garcia Ramirez, clinic obstetrician



COMMUNITY

SCHOOLS







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About Innovation For Good®

Innovation for Good (IfG) is Kohler's in-house startup composed of Kohler Co. entrepreneurs who are commercializing business opportunities with a social purpose. Since 2011, IfG has brought together associates from across businesses, skills, and perspectives in an innovation incubator designed to explore products and solutions for pressing global, social, and environmental issues. We believe that the private sector has an important role to play in the development of scalable solutions that improve people's lives, and we are committed to doing our part.

Innovation for Good.

BY KOHLER.