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Basra Clean Water Project

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Basra Clean Water Project

Goal

To provide the people of Southern Iraq with clean, safe drinking water.

Clean Water Crisis

Politics

- Millions of dollars have been promised to help
- Geopolitics—Turkey and Syria are not allowing as much water to flow from the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
- Residents don't have access to much of the water from the rivers
- Negotiation talks have failed

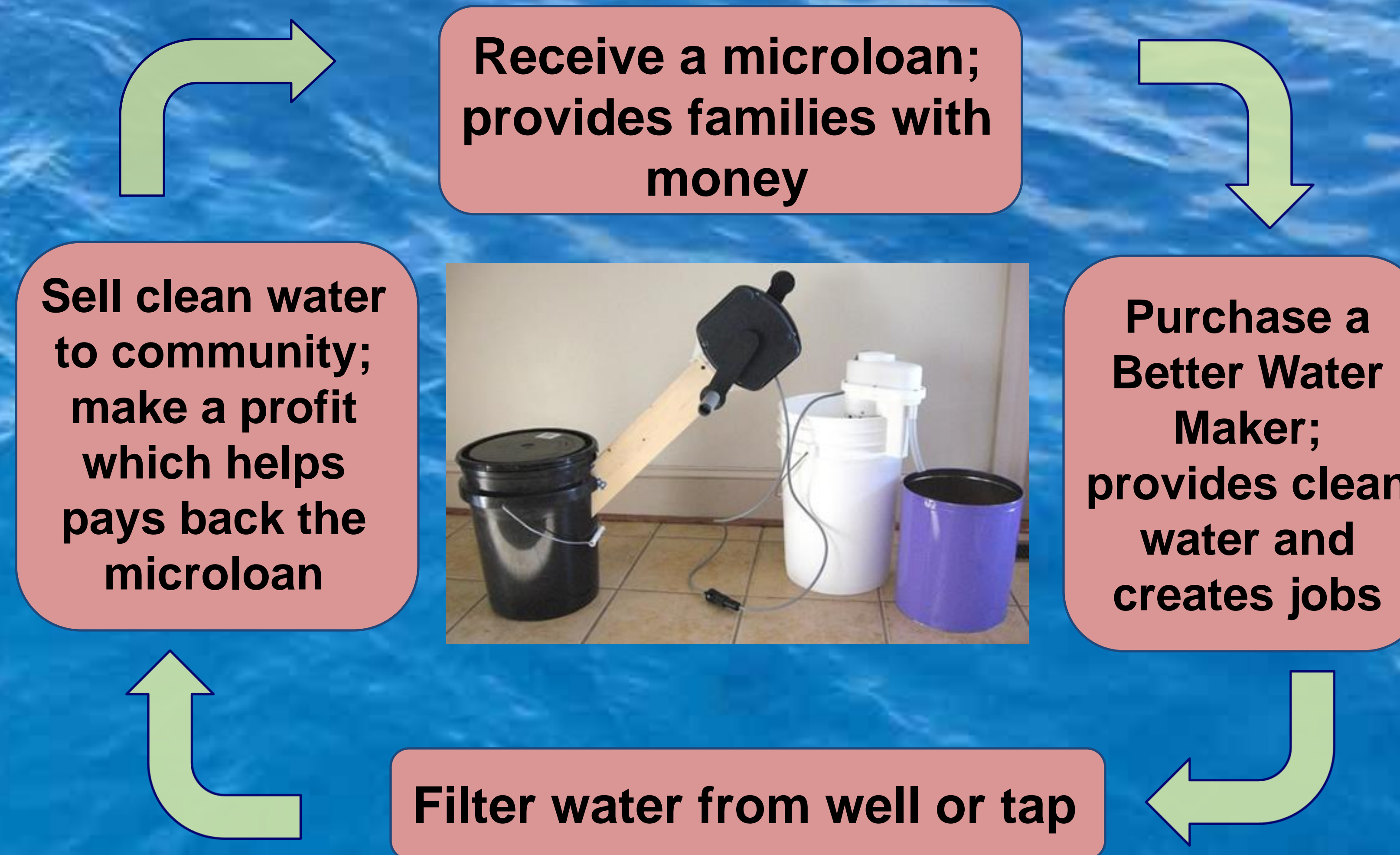


Environment

- The flow from main rivers has been greatly reduced
- Severe drought
- Water is unsafe and salinated

Solution: Better Water Maker (BWM)

- Invented by Bob Bechtold, B9 Plastics Inc.
- Access to water from taps, wells, and the rivers
- UV light kills bacteria and viruses in water
- Water only flows if it has been properly treated
- Portable
- Produces as much water as needed
- One 'Alia (extended family) can share a BWM
- Sustainable—uses human power and produces no waste.



Microloans

- Given to a person that cannot get a loan through a bank or lender
- Range from a few hundred dollars to a few thousand.

Popular Loans:

- OptInnow.org—Anyone can donate money; once loan is paid back, the donation is recycled to another person
- Kiva.org— Profiles of potential micro-businesses are posted online and for people to pick and choose who to give money to; each loaner is paid back and can choose to donate to another person if they choose.



Results

- Affordable
- Profit can be made
- Based on these criteria a BWM is the best solution
- Much of the water is salty in Iraq; a BWM cannot get rid of the salt but can provide safe water

Impact

- Residents will immediately be able to have clean, safe water
- Families will no longer try to leave Basra
- More stability and hope



On-Site Support



- Industry's Humanitarian Support Alliance (IHSAN) NGO
- Karin Nunan is on the IHSAN board of directors and living in Baghdad
- Mrs. Nunan provided much of the information to make this project possible
- We hope IHSAN will be able to implement Better Water Makers in Basra

Photos: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Basra_location.PNG, <http://www.b9plastics.com/news.htm>, <http://b9plastics.com/projects.htm>, <http://www.time.com/time/quotes/0,26174,1649523,00.html>, <http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=20090920/FOREIGN/709199908/1404>, http://www.cleveland.com/world/index.ssf/2009/04/drought_threatens_iraqi_garden.html

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