

purifier can be operated with DC from a solar-electric system. The electrical consumption is low. You can easily operate an 8 W purifier for an hour or two at midday with just a 10 W photovoltaic module, running through a 4 amp-hour motorbike battery.

*Field trials.* The Winfried Farmer Aid Fund has tested the gravity purifiers in schools, hospitals, and clinics in Myanmar and various locations in Laos since 1998. This work was done in association with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Myanmar and the Women's Union in Vientiane Municipality, Laos.

A reasonably good supply of municipal electricity is available at the project sites in villages in Laos. In Myanmar, however, the difficulty is the unreliability of electricity. Batteries were used for a time, but problems arose with keeping them charged. Using PV appears to be the only practical answer, and we are working with MSF and UNICEF to incorporate photovoltaics as quickly as possible.

*Source:* Home Power No.91, 2002.

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## agency news

### Countries with greatest need receive least water aid

Only 12 per cent of total aid to the water sector in 2000–2001 went to countries where less than 60 per cent of the population had access to safe water. This is one of the findings from an OECD analysis of bilateral and multilateral aid to the water sector.

The water supply and sanitation sector receives about 6 per cent of bilateral aid, and some 4–5 per cent of multilateral aid. Annual average aid allocations to the total water sector are US\$3 billion, with an additional \$1–1.5 billion in loans.

Most aid goes to a handful of large urban projects and nearly half goes to just ten countries: China, India, Vietnam, Peru, Morocco, Egypt, Mexico, Malaysia, Jordan and the Palestinian-administered areas. Many countries where most of the population lacks access to safe water received very little, if any, aid and this is reflected in a

slight decrease in Africa's share of water aid.

Nevertheless, the number of projects using low-cost technologies (e.g. latrines, hand-pumps, rainwater harvesting) seems to be increasing. About 10 per cent of water sector funding goes to water sector reform, institutional support and capacity building, while only a tiny fraction is for education and training.

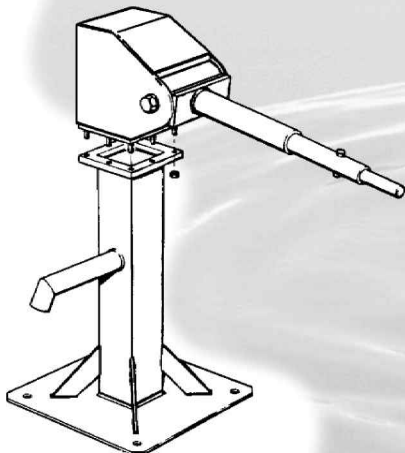
The largest donor is Japan (33 per cent). Together, the World Bank, Germany, USA, France, UK and the European Community (EC) contribute 45 per cent.

For more information see: OECD (2003) *Creditor reporting system on aid activities: aid activities in the water sector 1997/2002*

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