



2023

# Annual Report



We are a nonprofit social enterprise bridging the gap between available and safe water in rural communities. We provide ongoing, data-informed support to ensure continued access.

## Mission

Building a healthier Central America through community-centered safe water solutions.

## Vision

A world where all communities have access to safe water.



# Dear Friends,

Since we began our work in 2008 as EOS International, our organization has grown considerably, and with it, our mission and vision have also evolved. Earlier this year, we were excited to announce our new name of Cova, a name that better reflects our focus on building a healthier Central America through community-centered safe water solutions. While our name has changed, we are the same dedicated team, conducting the same critical work, with the same proven impact for 1.3 million people (and counting!).

We believe in strong bonds. And while the covalent bond between hydrogen and oxygen to create water might be the strongest bond in nature, we are confident that the ones we share with partner communities in Central America are a pretty close second. Equipped with knowledge and resources and skills, we see people taking significant steps toward locally-led sustainable safe water every day. We see public health volunteers happily taking on the task of water quality testing, citizens overseeing water system administration in communities, and teachers laying the foundation for environmental protection in classrooms. We see young adults following (literally) in the footsteps of parents committed to maintaining chlorinators. We see knowledge being transferred long after we have left. And it's a beautiful sight.

It's true, we are firmly rooted in the power of people. But, we also love data – collecting it, unpacking it, sharing it. The results-based partnership prioritizing water quality performance metrics that we entered into with Uptime this year means shared service costs for communities who keep safe water flowing over 96% of the time. We are thrilled that the success of our model is opening doors for us and for those we serve. It is also creating opportunities to share with others. We have grown into contributors of knowledge, publishing peer-reviewed articles and presenting at conferences, and are proud that our projects, research, and results help others across the world implement solutions that are safe, affordable, and sustainable. While our focus is in Central America, this is how we contribute to global change.

We are grateful for the contributions of Alvaro Rodriguez as we wish him well in his retirement after fifteen years serving as our Nicaragua country director. As co-founder of the organization, Alvaro has been instrumental in raising us up to be a premier water quality services organization, and we are grateful that he continues to serve Cova as a trusted advisor.

It is because of the support of the Cova community that more families know the kind of security that safe water brings. With your continued support, coupled with bold strategies, ambitious goals, and strong bonds, we enter a new year believing that everything is possible.



**Wes Meier**

Co-founder & CEO



**Diana Cáliz**

Co-founder & Honduras Director



**Alvaro Rodriguez**

Co-founder & Former Nicaragua Director



**Ivette Morazan**

Nicaragua Director



## Why Water?

# Two billion people lack access to safely managed water worldwide. - World Bank



### The Greatest Threat

Unsafe drinking water is one of the greatest single threats to human health, causing an estimated one million deaths each year. **But, it doesn't have to be this way.**



### 25% Lack Safe Water

In Latin America and the Caribbean, 25% of the population lacks access to safe drinking water. **Let's make that zero.**



### Every Two Minutes

One child under the age of five dies from diarrhea caused by dirty water and poor toilets. **We can't stop time, but we can stop this reality.**



### Educational Impacts

Globally, 31% of schools lack safe water, with 443 million school days missed due to preventable water-related diseases. **With safe drinking water, we can aim for perfect attendance.**

Ending The Water Crisis One Community At A Time

## Our data-driven approach to water security delivers long-lasting, life-changing results.

We believe safe drinking water not only improves the health of rural communities in Central America, but provides a basic need that lays the foundation for building a stronger, more prosperous life. By putting people first in our mission to end the water crisis, Cova delivers solutions that improve quality of life, allowing children to attend school, parents to earn crucial income, and communities to flourish.





# Providing Access To Safe Drinking Water Solutions To



1,310,395 People

269,551 people added in 2023



2,191 Communities

282 communities added in 2023



41 Schools

10 schools added in 2023

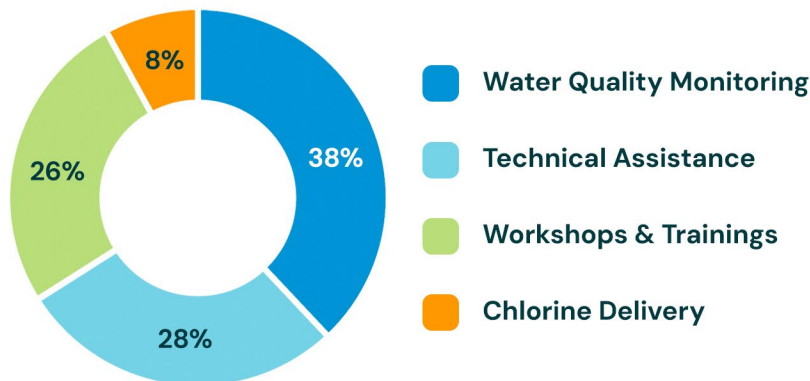
34,612 Visits To Partner Communities To Date

## Empowering communities to become self-sufficient.

In 2023 Cova Circuit Rider Water Technicians made 4,926 visits to rural communities to provide training, capacity building workshops, technical assistance, and water quality monitoring support. After 24 months of regular site visits and support services, communities become self-sufficient and are able to maintain their water treatment system.



### 2023 Circuit Rider Community Activities



### Where We Are Providing Safe Water





Our Proven Model

# Innovative solutions to overcome difficult challenges.

To ensure sustainable results and long-term success, Cova Circuit Rider Water Technicians routinely travel to rural communities across Central America to provide training, capacity building, technical assistance, and water quality monitoring support to community water boards through a three-phase approach.

**Each Circuit Rider creates a monthly circuit among 50 to 60 communities, ensuring safe drinking water continues to flow.** Through Cova-led training and capacity building efforts, communities move from Phase 1 to Phase 3, assuming increasing responsibilities required to maintain and operate their water system. Cova Circuit Riders remain available to communities for technical assistance and further capacity building as needed. Moving communities from Phase 1 to 3 allows a Circuit Rider to support an additional 150 communities.

By helping communities become self-sufficient, we are able to reach more people even faster, improving lives all across Central America.





# Cova's Circuit Rider Model



**Phase 1**

**Implement**

—

**50 Communities Supported by One Cova Circuit Rider**

- Laboratory Water Quality Analysis
- Technical Assistance
- On-Site Water Quality Monitoring
- Chlorine Distribution
- Community Capacity Building
- Water Treatment Implementation

36% of Cova Communities in Phase 1

**Phase 2**

**Transition**

—

**50 Communities Supported by One Cova Circuit Rider**

- Laboratory Water Quality Analysis
- Technical Assistance
- On-Site Water Quality Monitoring
- Chlorine Distribution
- 
- 

21% of Cova Communities in Phase 2

**Phase 3**

**Self-Sustaining**

—

**200 Communities Supported by One Cova Circuit Rider**

- Laboratory Water Quality Analysis
- Technical Assistance
- 
- 
- 

43% of Cova Communities in Phase 3



# Co-Operating For Clean Water

With an abundance of enthusiasm and hands of all sizes pitching in, platforms are built, tanks are mounted, pipes are installed. The installation of a combination water system at the La Independencia School replaces the water tap that delivered untreated, unclear, contaminated source water to the schoolyard. The first tank in the two-tank system receives the source water and settles impurities to the bottom. The clear water transfers to a second tank, is chlorinated to remove bacteria, and is rendered safe to drink.

The water will be used not only for washing little hands and cleaning up big messes, but, as the school's primary drinking water source without worry. With installation complete, students, teachers, and parents alike tuck into tiny desks to participate in training. The functionality, the maintenance, and the proper use and care of the water system will require co-operation. There is no hesitation in the room to buy-in. The payoff is simply too great.

The first glass of water flowing cool and clean from the tap of the second tank is long-awaited. It is but the first of many. And there is more than enough to go around, to move La Independencia forward.



# Reaching The Remote

In Pamkawas, a community in Nicaragua's remote Bosawas Biosphere Reserve, the carnage left in the wake of Hurricanes Iota and Eta in 2020 left the community without a water system. Instead, a pumphouse without a roof or a pump, solar panels mangled and twisted amidst the tall grass, and a cracked and crumbling tank are all that remains.

With the outpouring of generosity by the Cova community during our 2023 Within Reach Spring Campaign, your support combined with the community spirit of local men and women who contributed sweat equity to get the system back up and running. The Pamkawas water system today features solar panels mounted expertly and positioned to maximize sun exposure, proudly powering the pump from which flows water to a rehabilitated and waterproofed tank boasting a bright blue coat of paint. Safe, treated drinking water flows with convenience and confidence from tap stands serving 79 homes and families, a health post, a church, and the local school.

Members of the newly established water board have participated in Cova's training, have put their knowledge into practice, have gained confidence, and have been entrusted by the people of Pamkawas to operate and maintain the restored community water system as their own collective water utility.





## Safe Water, Saying Yes

Maria-Elena is a health volunteer who tests water quality, collaborating with Cova to ensure safe drinking water in the community of La Victoria in rural Honduras. The water system feeds the school her grandchildren attend. So, it's safe to say that she stays on top of it.

When La Victoria's water source became unreliable, Cova worked with the water board to annex a new water source, ensuring enough water to serve the growing population. And Maria-Elena was right there to learn and to serve and to support. "I drink water, so I get involved!" For Maria-Elena, it's that simple.

She is one of those grandmothers who says yes, and not just to her ten grandkids. She organizes women's coffee cooperatives, serves on the parent board at the school, volunteers, and cooks to feed the whole neighborhood. When she was invited by Cova to add monthly water quality testing to her list of responsibilities as community health promoter, she said yes without hesitation.

Safe water has given Maria-Elena opportunities, and it seems she has dedicated her life to giving right back. Equipped with a reliable safe water source, families can better adapt to the challenges they face. Safe water empowers. Safe water means being able to say yes.

## Sensor Success

Six pilot program sensors installed in community water tanks in rural Honduras have been collecting tank level and water quality data and sending it to a digital platform for monitoring and recording since their deployment in 2022. Paired with chlorine monitoring data collected manually and routinely in the field by circuit riders, the sensor data has been carefully calibrated over time, an algorithm has been refined, and the sensors now reliably alert for chlorine presence, sending a real-time text message direct to cell phones when levels are low.

The premise of automated alerts is maintaining water quality more of the time. The sooner there is awareness of an issue, the sooner troubleshooting can begin and mitigative measures can be taken — which could be as simple as adding chlorine tablets to a chlorinator to avoid the not-so-simple consequences of poor water quality. In La Florida de Marcala, the first automated alert signaling success of the pilot was sent to not only circuit rider, Brayan, but also to Edmundo, the president of the water board. Investigation and corrective activity swiftly followed. Real-time alerts reduce down-time.

"Kids here don't get sick. We don't worry about that at all. Especially with the sensor — no worries at all." — Edmundo







**Thank you for helping us create  
a world where all communities  
have access to safe water.**



# Our Financials

Cova Condensed Audited Financial Information for the Years Ending December 31, 2022 and 2023.  
Complete, Audited Financial Statements are available upon request.

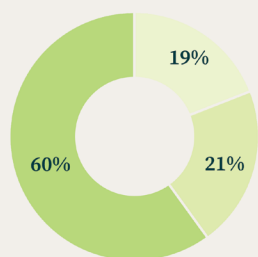
## Statement of Activities

	2023	2022
<b>INCOME</b>		
Individuals	\$265,652	\$224,062
Corporate & Foundations	\$291,474	\$237,917
Field Program Revenue/Resources	\$835,938	\$605,205
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,393,063</b>	<b>\$1,067,184</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Program Services	\$1,163,558	\$999,628
Fundraising	\$119,427	\$98,743
Management & General	\$12,852	\$12,021
<b>Gross Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,295,837</b>	<b>\$1,110,392</b>
<b>Foreign Currency Adjustment</b>	<b>\$1,120</b>	<b>(\$102)</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) Related to Net Assets</b>	<b>\$96,106</b>	<b>(\$43,310)</b>

## Financial Position

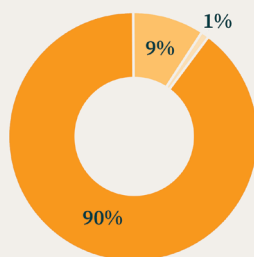
	2023	2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Equivalents	\$272,783	\$298,556
Accounts Receivable	\$289,826	\$143,833
Inventory	\$151,204	\$91,353
Other Current Assets	\$10,416	\$802
Property and Equipment	\$111,661	\$105,439
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(\$87,436)	(\$82,726)
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$748,454</b>	<b>\$557,257</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt	\$12,500	-
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$23,749	\$14,416
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$36,249</b>	<b>\$14,416</b>
Long-Term Debt	\$87,500	-
Accrued Labor Benefits	\$72,521	\$86,762
<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$160,021</b>	<b>\$86,762</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$434,837	\$363,595
Temporary Restricted Net Assets	\$117,347	\$92,484
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$552,184</b>	<b>\$456,079</b>
<b>Net Assets at the End of the Year</b>	<b>\$748,454</b>	<b>\$557,257</b>

### Sources of Funds



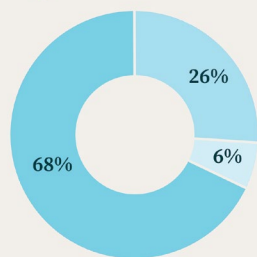
Field Program Revenue/Resources - 60%  
Corporate & Foundations - 21%  
Individuals - 19%

### Use of Funds



Program Services - 90%  
Fundraising - 9%  
Management & General - 1%

### Program Revenue



Technical & Training Services - 68%  
Treatment/Filtration Product Sales - 26%  
Water Quality Testing Services - 6%



# Cova Board of Directors

**Frank Bergh, Board Chair**

**Diana Cáliz**

**Kelly Connolly**

**Veronica Descotte**

**Katie Frank**

**Terry Gallagher**

**Jonathan Goldin**

**Nicole Kelsey**

**Greg McGrath**

**Wesley Meier**

**Alvaro Rodriguez**

**Caitlin Shields**

**Nick Wobbrock**



For more info, visit [CovaAgua.org](http://CovaAgua.org) or contact us at [hello@CovaAgua.org](mailto:hello@CovaAgua.org)

Cova

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