

2024

Annual Report



COVA

SAFE WATER SOLUTIONS



Community Centered, Data Driven

Ending the water crisis one community at a time.

Much like hydrogen and oxygen need one another to form a covalent bond to create water, Cova relies on successful partnerships to provide comprehensive safe drinking water solutions to rural communities in Central America. We partner with communities to provide educational opportunities and build capacity for self-sustaining, easy to maintain, and financially viable water treatment solutions that lead to healthy lives, while empowering communities to be active participants in the process.

Hola Amigos,

Last year was a pivotal chapter in Cova's story. It was a year that affirmed the strength of our community (thank you!) and the value of our work at both the fundamental household-water level and within the global water community. It was a year of momentum, of leadership, and of partnership, and would not have been possible without the Cova community of support. We are incredibly grateful.

We hit our stride by recognizing not just a regional need but a global need for our unique Circuit Rider and in-line water treatment model to cost effectively improve water quality. We shared our experiences and increasingly saw our value at global WASH conferences such as World Water Week and the UNC Water and Health Conference, both contributing to and learning from the network of experts. We have stepped up to host the Community of Practice (COP) for in-line chlorination and water quality sensing, which gathers hundreds of sector participants from around the globe to learn and share together.

Knowledge-sharing and experience have shaped our model into one that others now look to and learn from, and we are proud that community trust and support—locally and internationally—has brought us here.

It was a year of growth. We expanded to new regions and honed the technical capacity of communities equipped to keep safe water flowing in Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador. We continue to establish our model, networking with government entities and mapping out areas of greatest need, and laying the groundwork to expand into new communities. We began the rigorous process of carbon credit certification—another step toward scaling our impact in sustainable ways.

Cova was selected to pilot a results-based framework for safe-water funding with Uptime, unlocking a new strategy for Cova to scale our model to reach millions of new people. It has been a true joy to see strategic funders join the steadfast support of our earliest champions and closest supporters who have fueled this mission from day one—all of us coming together in shared commitment to expand access to safe water to people currently going without.

It was in many ways a year of growth and of change, but the heart of our mission remains the same: building a healthier Central America by walking with communities to co-create community-centered safe water solutions that last. We are proud to have strong local leadership in each country we work.

As we look back, we are filled with gratitude for the supporters, partners, families, and researchers who walk alongside us every step of the way. 2024 confirmed the strength of the Cova community to make this work possible. Thank you!



Wes Meier
Co-founder & CEO



Diana Cálix
Co-founder & Honduras Director



Ivette Morazan
Nicaragua Director



Oscar Melendez
El Salvador Director

Our Impact In Central America



1.5 Million People

Total All-Time Reach Provided With
Access To Safe Water Solutions

279,814 added in 2024

684K active reach* 2024



291,918 Families

Total All-Time Reach Provided With
Access To Safe Water Solutions

43,047 added in 2024

129K active reach* 2024



2,549 Communities

Total All-Time Reach Provided With
Access To Safe Water Solutions

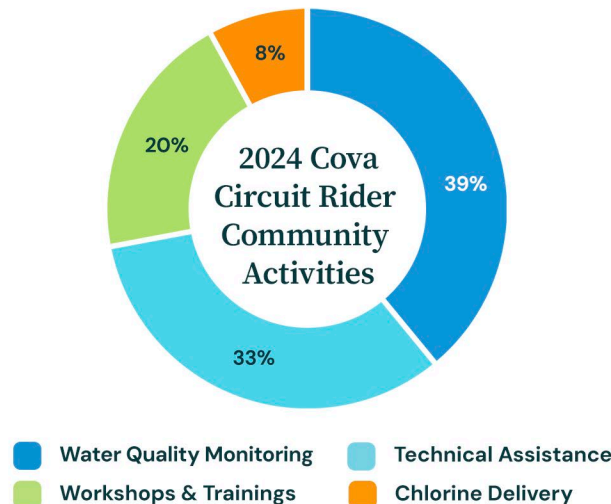
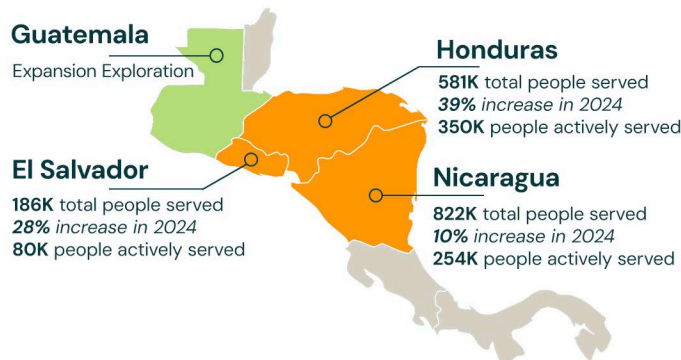
358 added in 2024

1,123 active reach* 2024

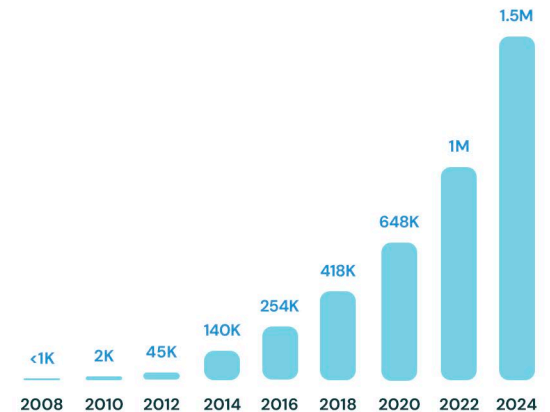
74% Chlorination Rate (All-Time) – active reach communities with sufficient chlorine to eliminate harmful bacteria

* **Active Reach:** Communities/Individuals currently participating in Cova's Circuit Rider Model

Where We Are Providing Safe Water Solutions



Total All-Time Population Provided With Safe Water Solutions



Cova Circuit Riders conducted **7,337 visits** to support communities in 2024, ensuring continued access to safe drinking water through **42,178 all-time visits**.

Our Innovative And Proven Market-Based Approach

Building a financially sustainable model for long-lasting results.

Cova has always been committed to making real, lasting change in the lives of Central Americans through safe water solutions. We believe the best way to accomplish our bold mission is through innovative strategies that create sustainable results. **Our market-based approach does exactly that.**

By leveraging upfront philanthropic support for community water projects, we fuel a financially sustainable model that generates revenue, ensures communities have continued access to safe drinking water, and accelerates our goal of reaching more Central Americans even faster.

Cova's three-phase model requires an initial investment in a community for the first two years to install a water treatment system, build the capacity of the water board, and offer necessary technical support. By year three, the community's co-investment covers the costs of Cova Circuit Rider services that comply with local regulations for safe water services. Cova Circuit Rider services include water quality monitoring, technical assistance, trainings, and advanced laboratory water quality analysis.

Financial investment in Phase 1 and 2 leads to organizational revenue generation in Phase 3 through the ongoing sale of chlorine to treat a community's water. On average, 50% of Cova's annual revenue is earned income generated through the sale of products and services and results-based funding, guaranteeing financial stability and sustainable results.

Our unique framework not only creates a financially viable model, but drives results and scales impact for those who need it most.



Solving The Global Water Crisis

Over four billion people lack access to safely managed water worldwide – a number twice as high as previously estimated.

Unsafe water limits people's access to education, health, and economic opportunity, while worsening gender disparities.



Health

Unsafe drinking water is one of the greatest single threats to human health. More than 1,000 children under the age of five die every day from diseases caused by unsafe water and sanitation. **Most of these deaths are easily preventable.**



Education

Worldwide, 29% of schools lack access to safe water and sanitation, leading to 443 million school days missed each year due to preventable water-related diseases. **Safe water helps children stay in school and build brighter futures.**



Income

Sickness caused by unsafe water leads to adults missing out on crucial income opportunities both for themselves and their families. **Studies show that every \$1 invested in water and sanitation provides a \$4 economic return.**

In Latin America, where Cova works, 35% of the population lacks access to safely managed water services. Safely managed drinking water must satisfy three criteria: available on demand, accessible on premises, and free from fecal and priority chemical contamination. Through our Circuit Rider Model and market-based solutions, Cova is building a healthier Central America through community-centered safe water solutions. We rely on successful partnerships with communities, government, and NGOs to provide comprehensive solutions that create change at scale, while providing ongoing, data-informed support to ensure long-lasting, sustainable results.

Safe drinking water and a healthy planet are inextricably intertwined.

Climate change is making access to safe drinking water increasingly difficult across Central America. Drought, extreme weather, wildfires, soil erosion, storm-damaged infrastructure, and deforestation are all degrading both the quality and quantity of available water.

Sustainable water management practices are key to Cova's programs. We are working hard to restore degraded watersheds and promote climate-smart practices rooted in local knowledge and community engagement in partnership with the US Forest Service and local NGOs.



8 Nurseries

Cova has established temporary and permanent centrally-located nurseries to serve communities.



4,000 Trees

Together with our partners, we have planted 4,000 trees, with 20,000 seedlings currently growing in nurseries.



42 Communities

Over forty communities are partnering with Cova, working to reforest the areas around their watersheds.



By the end of the century, rainfall in Honduras is projected to decrease by 20%, leading to a 41% reduction in water availability, while water usage will continue to increase. – United Nations Development Programme

Our water treatment system requires no electricity to operate. Treating water with chlorine eliminates the need to boil water for consumption, decreasing carbon emissions and deforestation from fuelwood collection.

Something In The Water

Margarita hikes up the rocky hillside switchbacks with ease despite the slip-on sandals she dons. Margarita is not a woman deterred by the trivial. Sensible shoes or not. She has overcome too much. Everyone in Platanales has. This is a path she travels often as the president of the water board. At the top of the hill sits a water tank, freshly painted in hues of peach and adorned with a new Cova chlorinator on top. No, this is not the first hill Margarita has climbed, she has moved mountains. A cliché, yet fitting metaphor to describe the journey to consistent, reliable safe drinking water in Platanales.

Margarita motions toward the landscape, to the hillside homes where families like hers now enjoy safe water from taps. Words rush from her—grateful, breathless, overflowing with blessings and unfiltered joy as she describes the collaborations and kindness and aligning of the stars that conspired to bring this dream to life at long last. She gestures wildly, cheeks flushed with happy urgency, animated by the levity, the relief, the freedom that safe water brings! Until she needs to stop to catch her breath. A pause.

She smiles still, but her voice falters and her eyes well when her words drift toward the before—the sickness, the suffering of elders, the mothers sitting helpless in health centers with fevered children. And perhaps just as painfully, the years of being overlooked—being dismissed by officials who deemed her community too remote to prioritize a water system. Too far. Too poor. Too small. Just too hard to reach.

But Margarita was not too proud to lead a charge anyway. To seek out help. To gather support. To offer sweat equity. When a water system was secured, Cova was there, is still there, to make sure that quality water reaches every home. Cova's simple water treatment means safe water now flows. There is no place too far.

Margarita prefers not to dwell in the yesterdays. With a clearing of her throat, she shifts once more toward hope, toward the horizon. Toward what's next for her community. Healthy students. A school that goes beyond third grade, she dreams. Maybe a modest community center. With the seemingly impossible achieved, Margarita dares to imagine.

Platanales is a tight knit community. There's a resilience in the air. There must be something in the water.



“Now people are satisfied, everyone has water in their homes, and we feel happy because for us this is the greatest blessing. It is the first thing one needs in one's home, one's lifeblood, without which we have no life. And today we are happy.”



Safe Water And Full Circles

"Everything has changed," Profesora Thelma declares, sharing that access to safe water permeates all aspects of one's life, marking a clear *before* and *after* in time. Thelma's own *before* included much sickness and worry. As a health volunteer, she had a front row seat to the effects of unsafe water – the stomach problems, the dysentery, the pain. Thelma's *after* brings her comfort as a teacher, confidently providing the simple refreshment of safe water without worry to her pupils. Creativity and potential fill her kinder classroom at the Serrera community school.

For Cova Circuit Rider, Brayan, a former student of Thelma's, this *before* and *after* hits a little different. He once sat in the tiny chairs of Thelma's classroom, his own masterpieces hanging precariously from the walls. In a reversal of roles from student to teacher, it was Brayan who nurtured Thelma's skills during her tenure as president of the Serrera community water board, collaborating to improve water quality through chlorination.

Today, Brayan is just a phone call away as Cova continues its work with the community to ensure a sustainable safe water supply for Thelma's current students. Full circles create strong bonds.

Planting For Tomorrow

Nelson and fellow community members equipped with four manual post hole diggers and two plastic soda crates carrying saplings, each small tree no taller than a pencil, navigate the trail that guides the small group into the Rio Cajé watershed. Once barren pastureland without a single tree, tall vegetation now lines the trail, and pine and sweetgum trees—strong, and tall, and proud—pepper the landscape.

Over the past six years, committed to raising their families in the area—only possible with a strong, reliable water source—community members have poured their time, energy, and resolve into planting more than 5,000 trees throughout the hills and valleys that feed the watershed. Once a mere trickle at risk of disappearing, the source, now fortified and healthy, provides water for seven thousand families, and Cova's simple water treatment makes it safe to drink.

The group fans out across the hillside. Each tiny tree and the dirt embracing its delicate root structure is carefully entrenched. The small holes are backfilled, and the toes of weathered work boots ever-so-gently press loose soil into place. The careful consideration to replant the landscape and restore the watershed's resilience has paid dividends here, and the need to safeguard the source for future generations is deeply understood. There is promise in planting for tomorrow.





Your Investment Changes Lives

Thank You!

Investing in safe water not only reduces death and disease, but also increases family income, keeps kids in school, and improves communities. It is one of the easiest and smartest investments we can make as a society. Safe drinking water provides a basic need that lays the foundation for building a stronger, more vibrant life.

- Cova Board of Directors

Caitlin Shields, *Board Chair*

Diana Cáliz

Katie Frank

Terry Gallagher

Jonathan Goldin

Nicole Kelsey

Greg McGrath

Wesley Meier

Alvaro Rodriguez

Nick Wobbrock

Our Financials

Cova condensed audited financial information for the years ending December 31, 2023 and 2024.
Complete, audited financial statements are available upon request.

Statement of Activities

2024

2023

INCOME

Individuals	\$208,395	\$265,652
Corporate & Foundations	\$712,485	\$291,474
Field Program Revenue/Resources	\$980,618	\$835,938
Total Income	\$1,901,499	\$1,393,063

EXPENDITURES

Program Services	\$1,607,170	\$1,163,558
Fundraising	\$150,398	\$119,427
Management & General	\$25,726	\$12,852
Gross Expenditures	\$1,783,293	\$1,295,837
Foreign Currency Adjustment	\$7,759	\$1,120
Surplus/(Deficit) Related to Net Assets	\$110,447	\$96,106

Financial Position

2024

2023

ASSETS

Cash and Equivalents	\$416,323	\$272,783
Accounts Receivable	\$401,231	\$289,826
Inventory*	\$242,307	\$151,204
Other Current Assets	\$2,819	\$10,416
Net Property and Equipment	\$52,699	\$24,226
Total Assets	\$1,115,379	\$748,454

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

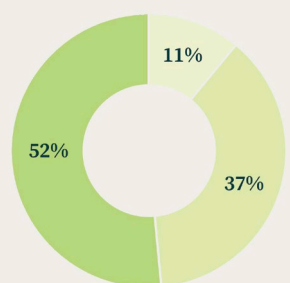
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt	\$28,830	\$12,500
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$5,999	\$23,749
Total Current Liabilities	\$34,829	\$36,249
Long-Term Debt	\$197,195	\$87,500
Line of Credit	\$200,000	-
Accrued Labor Benefits	\$20,722	\$72,521
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$417,917	\$160,021

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$470,433	\$434,837
Temporary Restricted Net Assets	\$192,200	\$117,347
Total Net Assets	\$662,633	\$552,184

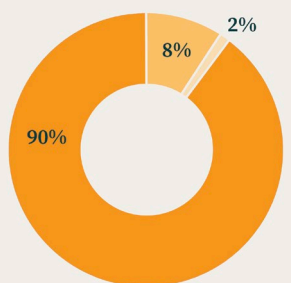
Net Assets at the End of the Year **\$1,115,379** **\$748,454**

Sources of Funds



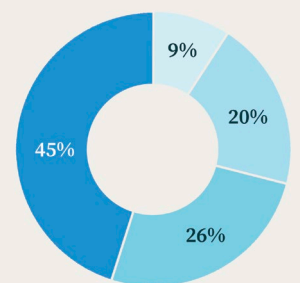
Program Revenue/Resources - 52%
Corporate & Foundations - 37%
Individuals - 11%

Use of Funds



Program Services - 90%
Fundraising - 8%
Management & General - 2%

Program Revenue



Technical, Training, Mgmt. Services - 45%
Treatment Product Sales - 26%
Results-Based Revenue - 20%
Water Quality Testing Services - 9%

* \$213,495 in inventory is recorded as a prepaid asset, representing three containers of chlorine in transit for our Honduras operation.

