

# Case Study

## Katadyn First Response Filter in Colombia

RELIEF

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KATADYN GROUP  
SWITZERLAND

**Project:** Help for refugees fleeing the crisis in Venezuela

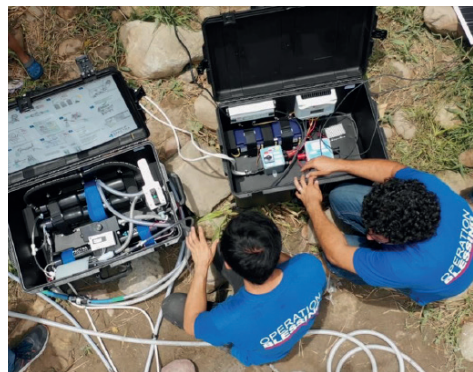
**Customer:** Operation Blessing  
A faith-based nonprofit humanitarian organization providing relief services around the globe.

**Product:** Katadyn Gravity Filters, Spectra Universal Aquifer Systems

**Date:** 2019

### Project Description

The political and economic catastrophe in Venezuela has caused millions of Venezuelans to flee the country in what is being referred to as the worst refugee crisis ever to take place in Latin America. Many of the refugees crossing the Venezuela-Colombia border have been chronically deprived of food, clean water and medical care. Operation Blessing has responded to this humanitarian emergency by setting up camps in the remote areas of Colombia where the dangerous border crossings are taking place. Safe water is the first priority in relief situations and Operation Blessing deployed two different Katadyn solutions to ensure that the hydration needs of the refugees were met. One solution was the use of Katadyn First Response Gravity Filters. These were used and distributed to refugees who could use the simple but effective filter themselves to purify water from questionable sources.



The second solution was the Spectra Universal Aquifer. Operation Blessing used the Aquifer when large quantities of water were needed in remote, off-grid locations with no power source. The Aquifer is a rugged watermaker that can deliver up to 360 gallons of fresh water per day from any water source, including sea water. It runs entirely on three included solar panels and is packed into three military-grade cases that can be checked as luggage on a commercial flight. Aquifer units deliver fresh water quantities that exceed a full pallet of bottled water per day, without the negative environmental impact and difficult shipping logistics. Operation Blessing's Water Engineers rapidly deployed the Aquifer in a completely undeveloped area where clean water was needed most. The First Response Gravity Filter and Universal Aquifer are only part of the Katadyn Group's range of life-sustaining products. Katadyn Group's portfolio includes safe water solutions designed for individual use as well as products that can sustain whole communities, producing 20,000 gallons of clean water per day powered entirely by solar panels.

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## Product

The Katadyn Expedition is a hand powered high-performance filter. Through means of ceramic depth filtration, it eliminates bacteria, protozoa, cysts, algae, spores, sediments and viruses in combination with particles greater than 0.2 microns. The filter element is easily cleanable in the field, so it can also filter very turbid water over a long period of time.

As it is made of indestructible materials (stainless steel) it has an extremely long life time (up to 100'000 liters). This makes it a very reliable piece of equipment. It filters 4 liters per minute and as such offers the perfect relation between weight, durability and capacity for providing safe drinking water for larger groups on the move in remote areas.

## Summary

Katadyn is proud to be the supplier to Operation Blessing and to support them in their efforts to provide immediate help to people surviving in disaster zones. The Katadyn First Response filters as well as the Universal Aquifer have proven to be effective and reliable in remote areas and any condition.



## About the Katadyn Group

Making good things better: Operating under this maxim, we at the Katadyn Group strive to meet and to exceed our customers' expectations in terms of safe, simple and sustainable Swiss solutions! The Katadyn Group is a global corporate group specialized in the area of self-sufficient nutrition and drinking water supply. Its brands include Katadyn, Trek'n Eat, AlpineAire Foods, Optimus, PharmaVoyage, Micropur, Certisil, Spectra and Steripen. With this broad brand portfolio, the group provides products and solutions for the outdoor and marine industries as well as for industrial and municipal needs. Its diverse product palette ranges from freeze-dried specialty meals and outdoor cooking gear to mobile and land-based water desalination systems and specialized disinfection systems for the industry. Indeed, humanitarian aid organizations and the military for years have been regular customers of the Swiss group of companies. With headquarters in Kempththal, the Katadyn Group employs about 200 people at its subsidiaries in Europe, Asia and North America.

Katadyn Products Inc.  
Pfäffikerstrasse 37  
8310 Kempththal  
Switzerland

Tel +41 839 21 11 | Fax +41 44 839 21 98  
[www.katadyngroup.com](http://www.katadyngroup.com) | [www.katadynngo.com](http://www.katadynngo.com)