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**GIVE CLEAN WATER AND SAWYER PRODUCTS PROVIDE CLEAN WATER
TO THOUSANDS IN FIJI AFTER BACK-TO-BACK CYCLONES**

NADI, FIJI – May 18, 2018 -- As residents in the tourist town Nadi, Fiji prepared for two back-to-back cyclones in April, Pastor Praveen Chand vividly recalls the endless torrential rain that flooded his church, Anand Assembly of God – not once, but twice.

“We are located in the heart of where the heavy rain and wind occurred, just south of where the main damage took place,” Chand said of cyclones Josie and Keni. “Since Cyclone Winston hit a couple years ago, people here are more on edge when it comes to cyclones. We are still repairing some areas of Fiji from Winston so the destructive reminders of what a cyclone can do still linger.”

Winston -- a category 5 tropical cyclone – killed 44 people as it pummeled Fiji in February 2016. With violent winds sustaining 185 mph (300 kilometers), meteorologists claim Winston as the second strongest cyclone to make landfall in recorded history.

Now, two years later, local islanders experienced devastation from Tropical Cyclone Josie, which struck the main island of Fiji in early April, and Tropical Cyclone Keni about 10 days later. Since then, about 500,000 people – nearly 50 percent of Fiji’s population -- have been using contaminated water on a daily basis. But thanks to a partnership between the Fiji government, Give Clean Water and Sawyer Products – many Fiji residents are now able to drink, cook and bathe in clean, filtered water.

Give Clean Water, a nonprofit organization based in San Diego, California, is working with Sawyer Products, near Tampa, Florida, to provide Fiji residents with the Sawyer PointONE water filtration system, and teach them how to clean the filter -- a crucial step that keeps the water safe and usable.

“We are saddened by the destruction in Fiji caused by this cyclone season and for the families who have suffered so much loss, but we are grateful for the Give Clean Water team and their efforts to bring much needed clean water relief to the great people of Fiji,” said Darrel Larson, international director of Sawyer Products. “Sawyer water filters are a simple, tangible disaster relief solution and bring much needed hope and good health in a time of crisis.”

When the cyclones hit Fiji in April, borehole water wells in the ground became filled with contaminants as muddied flood waters washed over them, making them unsafe sources for water. The country’s Ministry of Health and Medical Services immediately called upon disaster recovery efforts from Give Clean Water and Sawyer to bring clean water systems to thousands of its residents.

“These cyclones, along with the wind and rain we had before, caused a lot of damage from widespread flooding,” Chand said. “The rivers spilled over into the communities, carrying a lot of mud and trash into streets and homes.”

Teams from Give Clean Water and Sawyer have been working out of Pastor Praveen Chand’s church in Nadi, providing parishioners with Sawyer water filters and training them how to clean the filter.

“Learning how to clean the filter not only provides continuous safe water for drinking, bathing and cooking, but will help it last,” Chand said. “We show them the dirt that comes out of the filter when it’s cleaned and they see how important it is to clean it. They are very grateful and excited to have clean water and not get sick from polluted water.”

Give Clean Water officials have trained five people within Chand’s church on how to properly clean the water filter. Those parishioners then trained other families within the church, showing them the cleaning process and explaining the importance of keeping the water filters clean. There are now more than 15 families within the church – over 75 people – who are trained to use the Sawyer water filter and have clean water. Those families are now bringing Sawyer water filters to other villages throughout Fiji and spreading their training knowledge to the thousands of people who still remain without clean water.

So far, they have taken over 40 filters to families in contaminated water areas and showed them how to use the filters.

“Our goal is to provide clean water to 3,000 homes or approximately 15,000 people in Fiji this year alone. These families all reside in one of the areas disrupted by the cyclones and historically have lived without any access to clean water,” said Alon Banks, executive director of Give Clean Water. “Our overall mission is to provide all of Fiji with access to clean water in partnership with the Fijian government by 2022.”

“We have a Sawyer water filter in our house and it excites us to serve families in Fiji,” Chand said. “To bring them clean water so they can stay healthy is an amazing blessing.”

Photo 1: A Fijian resident shows the differences between a glass of murky, unfiltered water (left), and a glass of crystal clear filtered water (right) after it has gone through the Sawyer Products PointONE water filter.

Photo 2: Avinesh Naicker, of San Diego-based Give Clean Water, right, shows a family in Fiji how to use the Sawyer Products PointONE water filter.

Photo 3: Pastor Praveen Chand of Anand Assembly of God in Nadi, Fiji, right, has been helping teams from San Diego-based nonprofit, Give Clean Water, help distribute Sawyer Products PointONE water filters to families in Fiji, as well as teach them how to clean the water filters – a crucial step that keeps the water safe and usable.

Photo 4: Fijian residents are excited to have new Sawyer water filters after two back-to-back cyclones in April – thanks to assistance from Give Clean Water, a nonprofit organization in San Diego, and Sawyer Products.

Photo 5: David Reddy, of San Diego-based Give Clean Water, right, teaches a Fijian woman how to use the Sawyer PointONE water filter.

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About Sawyer

Founded in 1984, Sawyer has been at the forefront of innovation in water filtration, insect repellent, sunscreen, and first aid. Not only are Sawyer’s filters one of the most popular on the trail, they are being used in over 80 developing countries to provide people with clean drinking water. The majority of Sawyer’s products are proudly made in the USA in Safety Harbor, Florida. For more information, visit <https://international.sawyer.com/>

About Give Clean Water

Give Clean Water was founded in 2006, and has been on a mission to make a tangible difference in the world by bringing clean, accessible drinking water to Fiji. The company is dedicated to ensuring its work in Fiji is valid and backed with tangible evident results. For more information, visit <https://www.givecleanwater.org/>

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