



#RainForAll | requests@islaurbana.org



AGUAVIDA

2024 CAMPAIGN REPORT

Dear Rainmakers,

The Agua Vida Campaign is Isla Urbana USA's annual initiative to expand access to clean, sustainable water for families in Mexico.

Our goal was to raise \$25,000 USD. **Thanks to the generosity of more than 107 donors—with strong participation from Minnesota, California, Oregon, and Texas (especially Rice University students), we not only met this goal, but surpassed it, raising a total of \$32,179 USD.**

Agua Vida 2024 will exceed its target, ultimately delivering:

- **16 Rainwater harvesting systems in homes and a community center in Tlamacazapa, Guerrero, San Jose Tenango, Oaxaca and Xochimilco, Mexico City.**
- **1 System repair (with a new Tlaloque) in Tlalpan, Mexico City**
- **1 Emergency community water storage expansion in San Gregorio, Xochimilco, Mexico City.**
- **15 Purification filters for communities in Acapulco, Guerrero**

The campaign prioritized rural communities in Oaxaca and Guerrero and vulnerable areas in the outskirts of Mexico City, where water scarcity creates both financial and physical burdens on households.

By installing rainwater harvesting systems, expanding water storage capacity, and providing purification filters, families are gaining lasting access to safe water in these communities.

IMPACT

YOUR SUPPORT HAS:

PROVIDED RELIABLE, LONG-TERM RAINWATER ACCESS FOR 122 PEOPLE

ENABLED THE POTENTIAL TO HARVEST 116,520 GALLONS (441,076 LITERS) OF RAINWATER EACH YEAR

EXPANDED COMMUNITY WATER STORAGE BY 2,170 GALLONS, BENEFITING 126 PEOPLE IN SAN GREGORIO, XOCHIMILCO, MEXICO CITY

PROVIDED 15 WATER PURIFICATION FILTERS FOR FAMILIES IN GUERRERO



1

TLAMACAZAPA, GUERRERO

Residential Harvesting Systems

Total number of systems installed: 10

Total number of full-time users: 61

Hours of water hauling saved per year: 180

**Total annual rainwater harvesting potential:
55,740 gallons (211,000 liters)**

Installations: July - August 2025

Located near the city of Taxco, Guerrero, the Nahuatl community of Tlamacazapa faces critical water scarcity and infrastructure challenges. It is the second most populated village in the area.

Though the name translates to “place of shy people,” in Nahuatl, the community is anything but shy—they are hardworking and vibrant, many of whom are highly skilled palm weavers.

In Guerrero, only 7.3% of the population has access to water inside their home (CONEVAL, 2020).

In Tlamacazapa, that number is even lower.

RWHS installed so far: **369**

People impacted: **1,831**



Tlamacazapa's long rainy season makes rainwater harvesting an ideal, sustainable solution.

Beyond meeting immediate needs, these systems empower families with the knowledge and tools to manage their own rainwater, helping to build a stronger, healthier, and more resilient community.



2. Rosaura P. Espinoza



3. Antonio P. Serrano



1. Minerva Barrera



5. Florencia Villegas



6. Maria Anacleto



4. Hermelinda



7. Maria C. Barrera



Before receiving the systems you donated to these families, women and girls spent up to 18 hours per week hauling water.



8. Carlos Leyva



9. Silvia Espinoza



10. Constantina Espinosa

As Pablo Flores, a community member from Tlamacazapa, shared: **“It rains so much that the cistern fills up in just half an hour, which has been a tremendous help for the family.”**

2

SAN JOSE TENANGO, OAXACA

Residential Harvesting Systems

Total Number of systems installed: 3

Total Number of full-time users: 49

Annual rainwater harvesting potential:

12,620 gallons (47,773 liters)

Installations: March & August 2025

Located in the municipality of San José Tenango, Oaxaca, the Mazatec Sierra is a region of extraordinary biocultural richness. Home to over 18,000 people, the region experiences significant rainfall, however, many lack reliable access to clean water—with 89.6% of Mazatec households lacking essential public water services. Rugged terrain and geographic isolation make it nearly impossible to implement conventional water systems, underscoring the urgent need for innovative, decentralized, community-led solutions.

RWHS installed so far: **131** People impacted: **1830**



By continuously training local technicians, cooperative members, and residents —supported by Isla Urbana’s regional team this initiative empowers the community to lead and sustain long-term solutions to water scarcity.



1. Moises Martinez F., San Isidro, San Jose Tenango



2. Angelica Garcia O., Rancho Antonio, San Jose Tenango



3. Rafael Garcia C., Llano Nuevo De La Cruz, San Jose Tenango



3

XOCHIMILCO, MEXICO CITY

Olintlalli Chinampa

Community Rainwater Harvesting Systems

Total Number of systems installed: 3

Total Number of full-time users: 8

Total number of visiting users:

30 people per week

Annual rainwater harvesting potential:

37,380 gallons (141,500 liters)

Installations: February 2025

Amid Xochimilco's environmental and cultural challenges, Olintlalli — meaning “earth in movement” in Nahuatl — is a family-run chinampa farm that has cultivated vegetables and flowers for over 60 years and opened its doors to agro- and eco-tourism 16 years ago. Reviving pre-Hispanic agricultural techniques and adapting them to modern needs, Olintlalli is leading efforts in sustainability.

With support from Rice (University) Agua Vida funders, the farm is implementing rainwater harvesting systems to supply clean water for irrigating and washing organic crops, as well as for cooking and handwashing for both the family and visitors.



“The water we need for drinking or washing cookware has to be carried to the chinampa from 3 kilometers away.

With these rainwater harvesting (RWH) systems, we hope to improve the quality of the water we have. Before, we used to collect rainwater directly, without any filtration.”

Rosalba del Valle Gardida

Olintlalli Coordinator



“Xochimilco faces many threats, including pests that harm its native flora and fauna, the overexploitation of aquifers, and the constant advance of urban sprawl, which is causing the loss of both the lake zone and the chinampa region. Sadly, the products grown in the chinampas are often undervalued and poorly paid, forcing many chinamperos to abandon their lands. Water is one of the most affected resource, canal water levels are dropping, and water quality has deteriorated. Although we receive tertiary-treated water from the Cerro de la Estrella treatment plant, over extraction and climate change are further reducing water levels, and in some areas, canals have completely dried up.”

Rosalba del Valle Gardida

Olintlalli Coordinator



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QUILTEPEC, TLALPAN, MEXICO CITY

Residential Rainwater Harvesting System Repair

Total number of systems installed: 1

Total number of full-time users: 4

**Annual rainwater harvesting potential:
10,780 gallons (40,800 liters)**

Tlaloque installation: May 2025

Paraje Quiltepec is an ecovillage and community initiative located in the forests of southern Mexico City, within the borough of Tlalpan. The area faces the same water scarcity challenges as many communities in the outskirts of Mexico City: irregular supply from the city's network, dependence on expensive water trucks (pipas), and the physical burden of hauling water when everything else fails.

In Paraje Quiltepec, one of the low-income community members, Guadalupe, reached out to Isla Urbana after her Tlaloque first-flush diverter, originally installed in 2012, was damaged. The repair not only restored the system but also strengthened it: the team reinforced the piping, thoroughly cleaned the system, and filters. These improvements ensure the system will continue providing clean rainwater for years to come!



RWHS installed so far: **14**

People impacted: **56**



5

SAN GREGORIO, XOCHIMILCO, MEXICO CITY

Community Water Supply System

**Total capacity installed: 2,170 gallons
(8200 liters)**

Total Number of full-time users: 126

System installation by community: July 2025

In June 2025, the community of Cristo Rey, a remote and hard-working settlement in the mountains of San Gregorio, Xochimilco, reached out to Isla Urbana through one of their leaders, Ana.

Cristo Rey is a community that has long struggled with severe water scarcity. Families survive by hauling water and storing it in 200-liter containers, and in recent years, some have begun to rely on rainwater harvesting systems during the rainy season. However, during the dry season, their main community water tank—the only other source of water—was damaged, leaving 54 families completely vulnerable.

Thanks to your support through Agua Vida 2024, Isla Urbana was able to respond quickly by providing three new water tanks to repair and reinforce the community's existing water provision system. These tanks were carried and installed by the community and now supply families, particularly those who still lack rainwater harvesting systems at home.

RWHS installed so far: **37**

People impacted: **182**



While this emergency intervention secured water for Cristo Rey in a critical moment, the community continues to face significant challenges. With Agua Vida's and other support, we hope to continue expanding rainwater harvesting and strengthen resilience in the community so that families in Cristo Rey no longer have to live under constant threat of water scarcity.





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ACAPULCO, GUERRERO

PURIFICATION FILTER DELIVERY

Total purification filters: 15

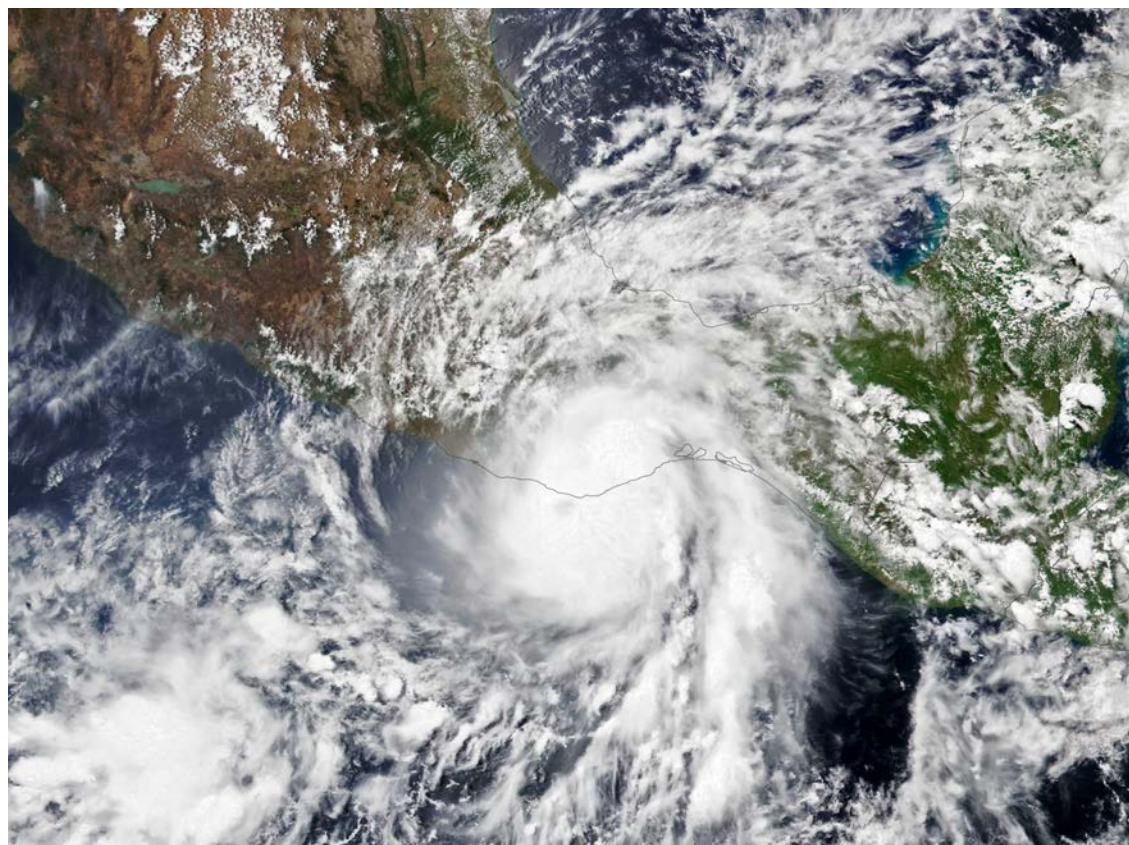
Distribution date scheduled: Oct. 2025

During last year's Agua Vida Campaign, some of you generously supported the implementation of water purification filters for Cacahuatpec, a rural community near Acapulco, Guerrero, after the devastation caused by Hurricane Otis and John, flooding, and other crises that have severely affected the region in recent years.

Unfortunately, the insecurity that followed these disasters has made it difficult for our teams to safely access the area. However, through collaboration with local partners and Isla Urbana's Rain School Program in Guerrero, we are working to ensure these resources still reach families in need of support.

Our current goal is to deliver at least 15 purification filters by October 2025.

We thank you for your patience. We remain committed to this effort and will keep you updated as progress is made.





**THE COMPLETED 2024 AGUA VIDA RAINWATER
HARVESTING SYSTEMS WILL PROVIDE WATER
FOR 122 PEOPLE, HARVESTING 116,520 GALLONS
(441,076 LITERS) ANNUALLY.**

**THE REMAINING INITIATIVES—including the community provision
system and the delivery of water purification filters—extends
the impact even further, reaching at least 141 more people with
reliable access to safe water.**

Thanks to your generosity, Agua Vida 2024 has gone beyond its original goal, bringing clean and sustainable water to families in Oaxaca, Guerrero, and Mexico City.

Together, **you have ensured water access for 263 people**, including expanded storage for dozens of families, and brought hope to individuals and entire communities that face daily struggles with scarcity.

None of this would be possible without you.

With deep appreciation,

The Isla Urbana USA Team



Isla Urbana
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