



World Health  
Organization

# Preventing cholera with water treatment-what works and implications for programmes

WHO International Scheme to Evaluate Household Water Treatment Technologies

Global Taskforce on Cholera Control WASH Working Group Mtg, Feb 2019

# Outline

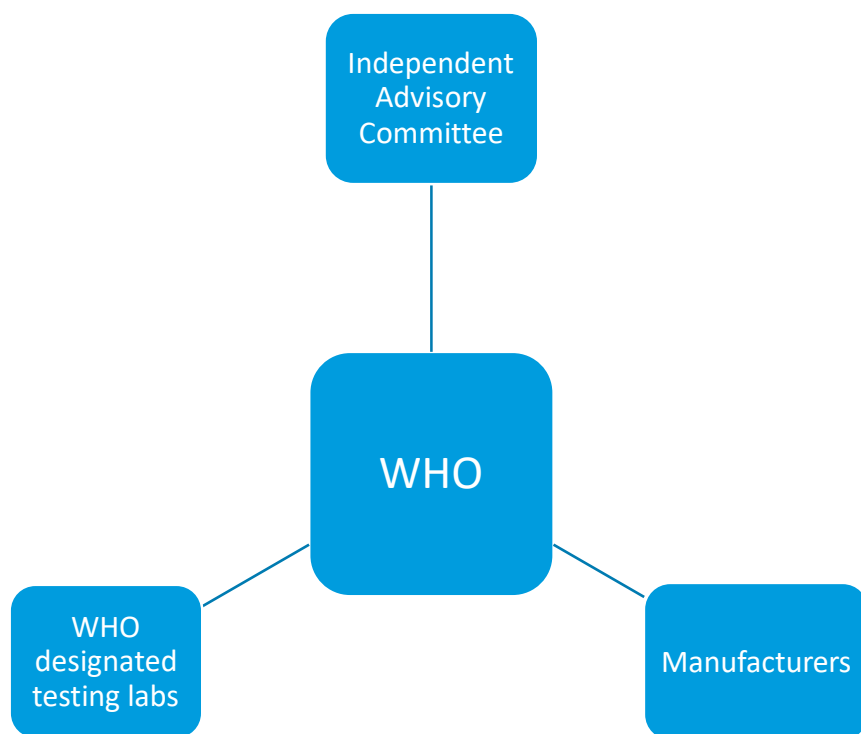
- ◆ Describe scheme
- ◆ Present highlights of testing results from Rounds I-II
- ◆ Discuss implications for implementers with a focus on chlorination

# Why an evaluation Scheme?



- 💧 Issue: HWT market is diverse; product performance varies
- 💧 Need: Independent health-based performance evaluation to guide selection
- 💧 Gap: Many countries lack health-based regulations and technical capacity to test performance

# Scheme objectives



- 💧 Promote and coordinate independent and consistent evaluation of HWT products, and guide product selection
- 💧 Strengthen national capacity in conducting complimentary evaluations, regulation of HWT products

# HWT performance evaluation criteria

*E.g.: If a filter demonstrated 99.999% protozoa reduction, 99.9% bacteria reduction, and 90% virus reduction, what performance classification would it achieve?*

Performance classification	Bacteria (log <sub>10</sub> reduction required)	Viruses (log <sub>10</sub> reduction required)	Protozoa (log <sub>10</sub> reduction required)	Interpretation (with correct and consistent use)
★★★	≥ 4	≥ 5	≥ 4	Comprehensive protection
★★	≥ 2	≥ 3	≥ 2	
★	Meets at least two-star (★★) criteria for two classes of pathogens			Targeted protection
-	Fails to meet criteria for one-star (★)			Little or no protection

99.999% = 5 log

99.9% = 3 log

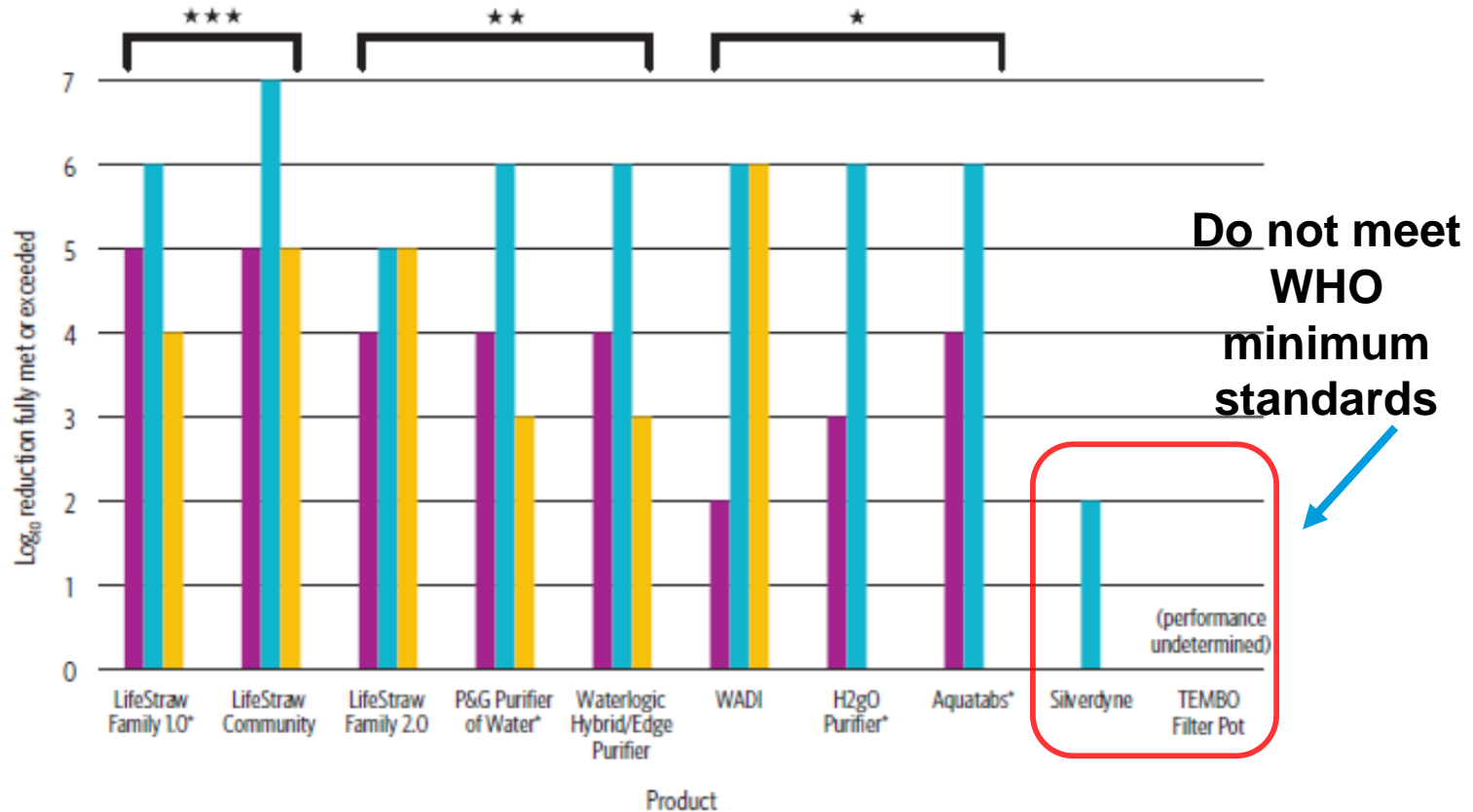
90% = 1 log

# Round I results

FIGURE 5

Log<sub>10</sub> reduction of bacteria, viruses and protozoa met or exceeded by products evaluated in Round I

■ Viruses ■ Bacteria ■ Protozoa



# Products evaluated in Round II

Technology	Product trade name	Manufacturer	Microbial groups evaluated
Membrane filtration	GrifAid®M3	Safe Water Trust	Bacteria and viruses
	LifeFilta LFJC Jerry-Can with back-wash	SenseSeveri GCV	Bacteria and viruses
	Uzima Filters UZ01	Uzima Water Filters	Bacteria and viruses
Ceramic filtration	Nazava Water Filters	PT Holland for Water	Bacteria and viruses
	SPOUTS Water Filter	SPOUTS of Water Ltd	Bacteria, viruses and protozoa
	Tulip Table Top Water Filter	Basic Water Needs B.V.	Bacteria and viruses
Flocculation-biofiltration	BlueQ™ 2 Stage	Amway Corporation	Bacteria, viruses and protozoa
UV disinfection	Water Elephant	Years of Water	Bacteria and viruses
	Mesita Azul®	Fundacion Cantaro Azul	Bacteria and viruses
Solar / thermal disinfection	AquaPak	Solar Solutions	Bacteria, viruses and protozoa
	JAMEBI Solar Water Pasteurizer	Relevant Projects Ltd	Bacteria and viruses
	SolarBag®	Puralytics	Bacteria, viruses and protozoa
Flocculation-disinfection	AquaSure Tab 10	AquaSure	Evaluation nearing completion
	Rubicon	Prideco Holdings	Evaluation ongoing
Flocculation-disinfection-filtration	DayOne Waterbag™	Day One Response Inc	Evaluation ongoing
Chemical disinfection	BioCool Clean Water	Biocool	Evaluation ongoing
	Chloritard	Karnis & Hals Chemicals Pvt Ltd	Evaluation recently completed
	Flogenic / Aquatabs Flo	Medentech Limited	Evaluation ongoing
	Oasis Water Purification Tablets	Hydrachem Ltd	Evaluation recently completed
	WATA-Standard®	Antenna Technologies	Evaluation ongoing



# Implications for chlorination



WaterAid

- ◆ Chlorine demand is variable and affected by many parameters (*natural organic matter (TOC), salts, pH, temperature*)
- ◆ Aim is to achieve **consistent free chlorine residual** ( *$\geq 0.2$  mg/L at the point of delivery;  $\geq 0.5$  mg/L throughout piped systems in outbreaks*)
- ◆ Must conduct residual testing; adjust dosing as needed-need a site specific approach
- ◆ More centralized chlorination approaches preferred



# Key takeaways from Round I and II

✓ Many HWT products meet WHO performance criteria, including commonly procured products in emergencies and cholera outbreaks

-8/30 provide comprehensive protection

-12/30 provide limited protection (some only in non-turbid water)

-5/30 Products fail

*(testing ongoing for five products)*

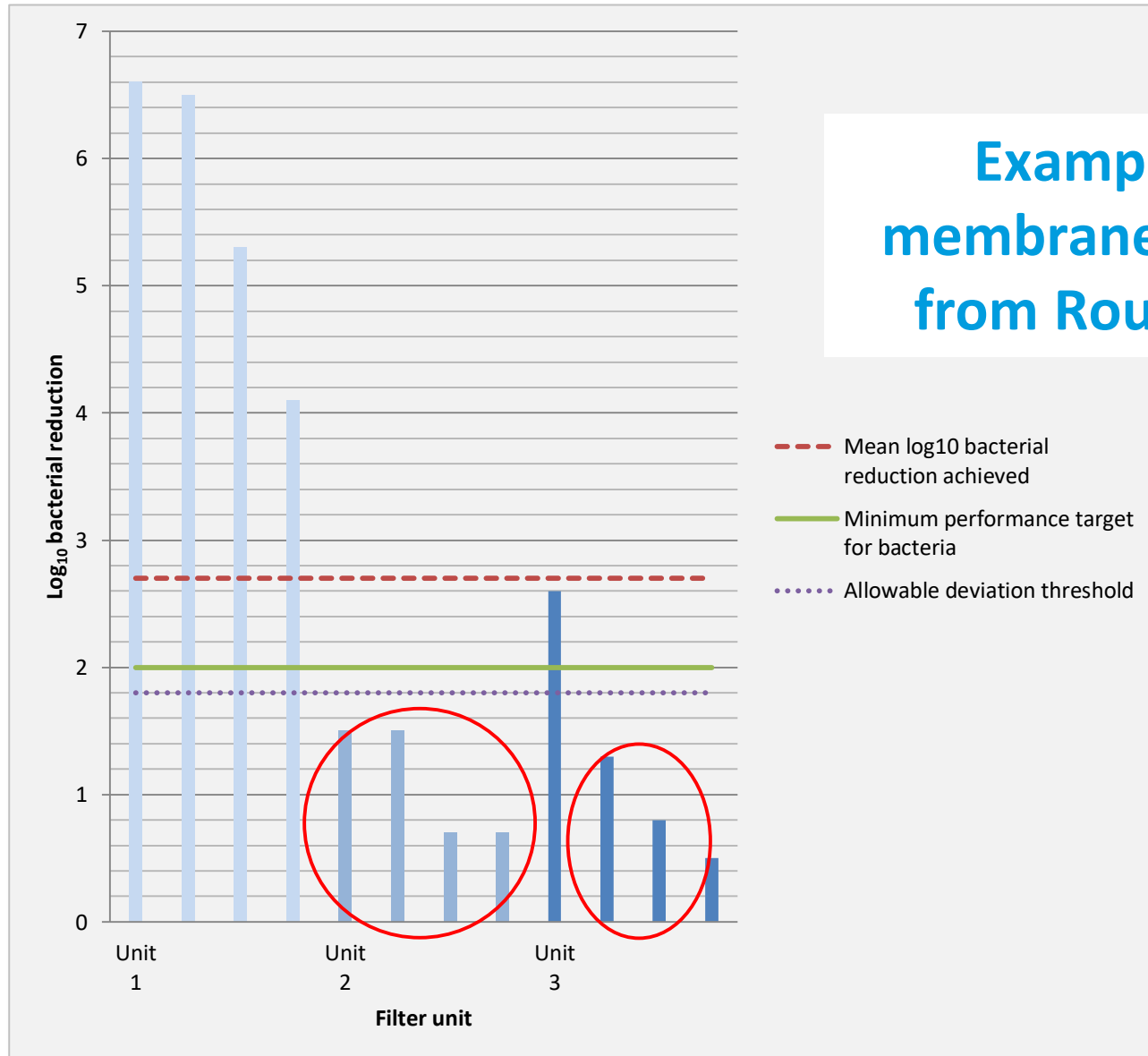


# Key takeaways from Round I and II

- ▲ Manufacturing quality control for many product types is weak
- ▲ Performance claims are often overstated
- ▲ Many use instructions unclear, unrealistic, assume advanced knowledge



# Performance of many product types highly variable



# What to look for in manufacturer claims?



Tested at Ghana Standards Authority with positive results.

*...most effective technology best suited for water disinfection. XX can*

**All the above were from products that FAILED.**

*...show XX eliminates 99.999% bacteria including E. Coli, Shigella, Legionella, Salmonella and Cholera, Aspergillus Niger, Staphylococcus Aureus, and Trichophyton Mentagrophytes, to name a few.*

- ✓ Tested against three main class of pathogens (bacteria, viruses and protozoa) in **independent laboratory**
- ✓ Tested with **different types of water**
- ✓ Use instructions are reasonable and clear
- ✓ Manufacturing follows QA/QC principles and/or appropriate ISO certification
- ✓ Evidence of uptake and water quality improvements

# Summary



World Health Organization

Highlights from Round II:  
Filtration, ultra-violet and solar disinfection technologies

## Full Round II report coming April 2019

WHO International Scheme to Evaluate Household Water Treatment Technologies

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**LifeStraw® Family 1.0**  
Product evaluation report

WHO performance classification	Comprehensive protection Three-star (***)
Manufacturer	LifeStraw SA (part of the Vestergaard group) Chemin du Meislier 57 CH-1006 Lausanne Switzerland www.vestergaard.com
Evaluation procedure	Desk review of existing data
WHO report issue date	Round I, 2015
WHO reference number	07/03/2014-81-20

**Summary of evaluation**

This report summarizes the evaluation results of a membrane filter known under the tradename 'LifeStraw® Family 1.0', under Round I of the World Health Organization (WHO) International Scheme to Evaluate Household Water Treatment Technologies (the Scheme). Evaluation followed the requirements of the WHO protocol for batch filtration technologies, and comprised a desk review of existing laboratory data on the product's performance against bacteria, viruses and protozoa. Based on the review of existing data, the product meets WHO performance criteria and is classified as providing Comprehensive protection (\*\*\* against bacteria, viruses and protozoa.

- 💧 There is **NO** benefit in distributing / promoting products that do not work
- 💧 Effective chlorination requires regular monitoring and adjustments
- 💧 Send us your products for Round III!
- 💧 More info:  
[http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/water-quality/household/scheme-household-water-treatment/en/](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/water-quality/household/scheme-household-water-treatment/en/)  
Email: [hhwater@who.int](mailto:hhwater@who.int)



# Thank you

