

AIR RAHMAT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS SHEET

The following provides information on the frequently asked questions about Air RahMat. If you need more information on Air RahMat or the Aman Tirta program, please contact us at aman.tirta@jhucpp.or.id or tel: 720-7776 or fax at 720-2075.

What is Air RahMat?

- Air RahMat is a liquid 1.25% sodium hypochlorite solution, originally developed as part of the Safe Water Systems (SWS) program of the US Based Centers for Disease Control. To use, just add the appropriate amount of Air RahMat (3 ml to every 20 liters of water) to water, shake or stir, wait for 30 minutes and it is ready to drink. When used correctly in conjunction with proper storage, it has been shown to reduce the risk of diarrhea up to 85%.
- Air RahMat will be sold in a 100 ml bottle, enough solution to treat approximately 660 liters of water or the average amount used in a household in one month.

What does Air RahMat stand for?

- Air RahMat stands for:
 - Rah - muRAh (cheap/economical)
 - M – Mudah (easy/practical)
 - AT sehAT (healthy)

These are the three main attributes of Air RahMat. It is a very economic way to get safe water, it is easy and practical to use and it is safe and healthy for all drinking water.

Is Air RahMat effective?

- Yes. Air RahMat is very effective in deactivating many of the most common microorganisms that cause diarrhea disease like E. coli, cholera, dysentery and typhoid fever. Within minutes Air RahMat inactivates the majority of organisms that cause diarrhea disease in humans. In Aceh Besar, reported use of chlorine solution in stored water was associated with a 47% decreased risk of having contaminated drinking water (12.6% vs. 23.8%, RR 0.53, $p = 0.001$) and tended toward a decreased risk in Simeulue (33.3% vs. 49.6%, RR 0.67, $p = 0.095$). Chlorination combined with storing drinking water in a narrow mouthed container was associated with a 56% decrease in the risk of contamination (10.2% vs. 23.1%, RR 0.44, $p = 0.0007$) in Aceh Besar.

Does using Air RahMat reduce risk of diarrhea?

- In clinical studies of projects where the Safe Water Systems (using products similar to Air RahMat) are being implemented have shown reductions of diarrhea disease of up to 85%. Studies in West Timor have shown that after consistent use

of a generic brand of Air RahMat, there was a significant reduction of diarrheal disease among users of SWS compared to those not using the product.

Is Air RahMat safe to use?

- Yes Air RahMat is safe to use. Most of the major potable water treatment systems in the United States and in Europe use chlorination systems. The PDAM system here in Indonesia also uses chlorination to treat drinking water. In the early 1900's, chlorine began to be widely used as a disinfectant. Chlorine revolutionized water purification and dramatically reduced the incidence of waterborne diseases. The provision of safe drinking water has been hailed as the major public health achievement of the 20th century. Chlorine remains the most widely used chemical for water disinfection in the United States. Air RahMat products are a proven intervention that consistently reduces diarrheal disease incidence by about 50% - 85% in users in the developing world. This reduction of diarrhea morbidity leads to healthier children and adults.

Is Air RahMat used in other countries?

- Yes. Similar products like Air RahMat is in more than 25 countries world wide. The United States' Center for Disease Controls developed the Safe Water System SWS- (what Air RahMat is based on) in 1992. Since then there have been to increase access to safe water in countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and in Central Asia. There are more than 2 million households world wide using products similar to Air RahMat.

Has Air RahMat been used in Indonesia?

- Yes. The generic, no-brand name Air RahMat has been used in Indonesia. In 2004 it was distributed free in West Timor after severe flooding threatened the safe water supply. It is also currently being used in Aceh. Since the first days after the tsunami, it has been distributed throughout the region. More than 1.5 million bottles have been distributed so far..

Does DepKes approve of Air RahMat?

- Yes. Air RahMat is duly registered by DepKes as safe product. DepKes also endorses Air RahMat as a safe option for treating drinking water without the need to boil.

Who produces Air RahMat?

- Air RahMat is locally produced in Indonesia by a well established production company PT. Tanshia Consumer Products. The Aman Tirta Program is responsible for the overall productions and distribution of air RahMat and its promotion. Aman Tirta is a Private Public Partnership (PPP) dedicated to creating a sustainable commercial market for a non-subsidized POU water treatment product, Air RahMat. Aman Tirta consists of our commercial partners, PT. Tanshia Consumer Products as the manufacturer of Air RahMat, PT. Dos Ni Roha as the distributor, and LOWE Worldwide for advertising. On the public side, Johns Hopkins's Center for Communication Programs (CCP) leading the behavior

change communication component and CARE International Indonesia leading the community mobilization component.

How much does air RahMat cost?

- Air RahMat costs Rp. 4,000 and can be obtained at retail outlets such as warungs, tokos, obat, etc. Air RahMat will be available in Banten and North Sumatra in January 2006.

Is Air RahMat cheaper than boiling my water or buying bottled water?

- Yes. The cost of using air RahMat is much cheaper than boiling or buying bottled water, especially since the rise in costs of kerosene (most common fuel for boiling water). Following are the average costs of getting safe water (per liter average):
 - AQUA Rp 9,000/20 liters or Rp 450/liter
 - Refill Water Rp 3,500/20 liters or Rp 175/Liter
 - Boiling Water Rp 102/ liter (based on average cost of kerosene at Rp. 2,800/per liter)
 - **Air RahMat - Rp 4,000 to treat 660 liters = Rp. 6.5/liter**

Does water treated with Air RahMat have a bad smell and taste?

- There can be a slight smell of chlorine in the water that is treated with Air RahMat. If there is a slight smell after making the water, you can let the treated water sit for a couple of hours and the smell dissipates. This is same for taste. Many people report not tasting or smelling anything in the water. It depends on how sensitive one is to smell. After using Air RahMat a couple of times, people report that they no longer can perceives the smell or taste, just that it tastes and smells like good fresh water.

Where can I buy Air RahMat

- You will be able to by Air RahMat starting in January 2006 in retail outlets in Banten and North Sumatra. The product will be widely available in the districts of (Banten): Tangerang (Kota and Kabupaten) and Serang. Districts in North Sumatra include Medan, deli Serdang, Karo, and Binjai. Air RahMat is being distributed by Dos ni Roha.
- By mid 2006 Air RahMat will be available in more provinces.