



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **About The PlayPump™ System**

#### **What is a PlayPump™ water system?**

A PlayPump system is a child's merry-go-round attached to a water pump that provides clean drinking water and public service messages to schools and communities in Africa.

#### **Why is it called a PlayPump system?**

Because it is more than just a pump; it is a merry-go-round that pumps water from a borehole to an attached storage tank and tap stand.

#### **How does the PlayPump water system work?**

The PlayPump system operates much like a windmill. As children play and turn the merry-go-round, the rotation drives a mechanism to draw water from an underground well to a secure storage tank above ground. The stored water flows from a faucet with a simple turn of a handle.

#### **What are the benefits of the PlayPump water system?**

The PlayPump system:

- Increases access to clean drinking water
- Improves sanitation and hygiene
- Raises awareness of how to prevent and reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and delivers other important social messaging
- Eliminates barriers to education
- Promotes children's play
- Increases opportunities for women and girls
- Spurs economic development

#### **How many people are served by a PlayPump system?**

PlayPump systems are located in communities of up to 2,500 people. Typically, a PlayPump system is installed near a school, so the students, teachers, and the surrounding community are served by the system.

### **How much water can be pumped and stored through a PlayPump™ system?**

The PlayPump water system is capable of producing up to 370 gallons of water per hour at a rate of 16 rotations per minute, from a depth of 130 feet. It is effective up to a depth of 328 feet. The PlayPump system's storage tank can hold 660 gallons of water. The system requires less effort than any other manually operated pump. Hand pumps are difficult for most people to operate and require great effort.

### **Are children ever “forced” to play? Is this another form of child labor?**

No. The PlayPump system is a unique method for helping to meet a community's water-supply needs that allows children to do what they enjoy most – play.

The majority of children who live in the communities where PlayPump systems are installed do not have toys or other outlets for play, so the merry-go-round is a welcome diversion. Children develop social skills as they play and they are able to see the direct benefit of having fun, as water becomes available to them and their community.

PlayPump systems do not have to be used by children. Even the elderly can spin the merry-go-round with ease. It just happens that the pumps are fun, and so kids want to play on them.

### **Do children ever get hurt on the PlayPump™ merry-go-round?**

Most undeveloped towns and villages across Africa lack any safe, well-maintained playgrounds and places for play. The PlayPump system is designed for safety, using a special, forgiving surface under the pump.

There are more than 700 PlayPump water systems already installed serving 1 million people. To date, there are no reported injuries on any of these PlayPump systems.

### **How much does a PlayPump™ system cost?**

The cost to manufacture, install and maintain a PlayPump water system in South Africa is approximately \$14,000. This includes the cost of locating and testing the groundwater, manufacturing and transporting the system, and training local crews on installation and maintenance.

### **How does the advertising work?**

The four billboards surrounding the storage tanks provide important health and education messages and commercial advertising to communities that are otherwise cut off from the mass media that developed countries take for granted. Revenues from the sale of advertising on the billboards help cover costs to maintain the PlayPump system.

### **Who are some of the advertisers?**

Many of the local companies advertising on the billboards make bread, tea, sugar and other staples. International telecommunications companies like Vodacom, a mobile telephone network, and consumer goods companies like Colgate-Palmolive and Unilever also advertise their products.

These companies would otherwise have no way to reach communities, which typically do not receive newspapers or magazines and generally do not have electricity for radios and television.

The billboards will never advertise tobacco, liquor, or other products that are inappropriate for children. In addition, Roundabout Outdoor takes great care in making sure that both public service and commercial advertising are culturally sensitive.

### **How many PlayPump water systems have been installed, and where are they?**

To date, more than 700 PlayPump™ water systems have been installed in rural parts of South Africa, Mozambique and Zambia, improving the health and wellbeing of more than one million people.

### **PlayPumps International and Its Partners**

#### **What is the relationship between PlayPumps International, Roundabout Outdoor, and Outdoor Fabrications and Steelworks?**

PlayPumps International is a nonprofit organization that enables individuals, governments, foundations, and companies to donate PlayPump water systems to African communities and schools. PlayPumps International is registered both as a United States 501(c) 3 organization and as an independent South African NGO, and maintains offices in both countries.

Roundabout Outdoor is a rapidly growing South African company with a social mission. Outdoor Fabrications and Steelworks manufactures the pump, and Roundabout Outdoor installs and maintains PlayPump water systems, and sells the advertising space.

#### **What are the future plans for PlayPumps International?**

PlayPump water systems will be installed in 10 Sub-Saharan countries, with the goal of providing access to clean drinking water to 10 million people by 2010. In the first phase of the expansion, more PlayPump systems are being installed in South Africa and also in Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Zambia. Expansion to East Africa will occur next, including the countries of Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Tanzania, and Uganda.

## **Who are some of the funders of PlayPumps International?**

Individuals, governments, corporations and foundations fund PlayPump™ systems because they know and understand the benefits of clean water, particularly to the children and families in sub-Saharan Africa.

The United States Agency for International Development, the U.S. Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, the Case Foundation, the Lemelson Foundation, Deutsche Bank, the International Finance Corporation, and the Dutch government are among the many donors who have already joined with PlayPumps International to improve lives in Africa.

Host country governments are also important partners of PlayPumps International and are instrumental in mapping water sources and locating suitable boreholes, as well as facilitating the importation of the PlayPump system.