Built on research conducted by Nobel Laureate Michael Kremer and run by Evidence Action, Dispensers for Safe Water is a simple, low-cost solution to the problem of unsafe water in rural/remote communities. Dispensers for Safe Water provides reliable safe water services by installing chlorine dispensers right next to the water source, making water treatment easy and convenient for communities. Chlorine is widely used as a disinfectant in water treatment plants around the world and is the most commonly used disinfectant in drinking water treatment.

Dispensers for Safe Water: Key Facts

● Dispensers for Safe Water has a **network of 20,000+ dispensers** installed in Kenya, Uganda, and Malawi. The program reaches **approximately 4 million people annually** at a cost of just over $1 per person, per year. Dispensers for Safe Water has averted over **2 million cases of diarrheal disease and over 2,000 deaths**, both in children aged under five.

● Dispensers for Safe Water maintains adoption rates higher than most alternative water treatment approaches. In 2018, Dispensers for Safe Water achieved an average adoption rate of 58%.

The Problem: Unsafe water

● 663 million people globally lack access to improved water sources, most of them located in Africa and concentrated in rural areas. Nearly **300,000 deaths** of children under 5 annually are the result of diarrheal disease caused by unsafe water and sanitation.

The Evidence for Chlorine Dispensers

● Dispensers for Safe Water are more **cost-effective** than other similar water treatment solutions like solar disinfection, flocculation, ceramic filters, and socially-marketed chlorine.

● A 3ie review covered 65 rigorous evaluations investigating the impact of water, sanitation and/or hygiene interventions on diarrhea morbidity. It concluded that point-of-use water quality interventions could be highly effective if they were able to sustain high rates of product adoption.

● Research by the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, co-founded by Nobel Winner Esther Duflo and Abhijit Banerjee, shows that imposing even a marginal cost on critical health products can make them effectively inaccessible to the poorest people who need and would use them.

How Dispensers for Safe Water Works

● Evidence Action installs chlorine dispensers next to water sources in hard-to-reach rural areas and employs a cadre of circuit (motorcycle) riders who maintain dispensers and regularly deliver chlorine. The program recruits local community volunteers to spread the word among their neighbors about the benefits and safety of water chlorination and to teach community members how to use chlorine dispensers.

● Community members go to their water source to fetch water, place their bucket or jerrican under the dispenser, turn the valve to dispense a correctly measured amount of diluted chlorine, and then fill the bucket with water.

● The chlorine disinfects the water as a community member is walking home, and by the time he or she arrives, much of the chlorine smell has dissipated and they are left with safe water that stays safe for 2-3 days.

Launched in 2013, Evidence Action is a non-profit organization dedicated to scaling evidence-based and cost-effective programs to reduce the burden of poverty for hundreds of millions of people in the world’s poorest places. Learn more at [www.evidenceaction.org](http://www.evidenceaction.org).