



## Air RahMat - FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)



**muRAH ■ Mudah ■ sehat**

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@jhuccp.or.id](mailto:aman.tirta@jhuccp.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. It is used to treat water at the household level without the need to boil. 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 comes in a 100 ml bottle, enough solution to treat approximately 660 liters of water, the average amount used in a household in one month.

### What does Air RahMat stand for?

Air RahMat means “Blessed Water” in Indonesian and 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 a generic Air RahMat 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 similar results were seen in projects on Simeulue island. 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?

- Yes. In clinical studies of projects using the Safe Water System (using products similar to Air RahMat), 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 (56% reduction of self reported diarrheal episodes).

### 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.

The use of Air RahMat like products in interventions have shown to consistently reduce diarrheal disease incidence by up to 85%. This reduction of diarrhea morbidity leads to healthier children and adults.



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#### **Is Air RahMat used in other countries?**

- Yes. Similar products like Air RahMat are used in more than 20 countries world wide. The United States' Centers for Disease Control developed the Safe Water System SWS- (what Air RahMat is based on) in 1992. Since then there have been programs 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. A generic, no-name brand of 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 as a consumer product by DepKes (RI PKD 2050 2500 647). DepKes also endorses Air RahMat as a safe option for treating drinking water without the need to boil.

#### **Is Air RahMat Halal?**

- Yes. Air Rahmat recieved Halal Certificate from Majelis Ulama Indonesia (certificate number:00120038300206).

#### **Who produces Air RahMat?**

- Air RahMat is locally produced in Indonesia by a well established company, PT. Tanshia Consumer Products. Aman Tirta is a Private Public Partnership (PPP) dedicated to creating a sustainable commercial market for a non-subsidized 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 Center for Communication Programs (CCP) is leading the overall management of the program and it's behavior change communication component. CARE International Indonesia is leading the community mobilization component. The Aman Tirta program is funded by grant from USAID.

#### **How much does Air RahMat cost?**

- Air RahMat costs Rp. 4,000 and available at retail outlets such as warungs, toko-toko obat, and throught participating NGOs, etc. Air RahMat is available in the provinces of Banten, North Sumatra, East Java, Jogjakarta, Jakarta and Aceh.

#### **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):
  - Bottled Water 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 can buy Air RahMat in retail outlets in Banten, North Sumatra, East Java, Jogjakarta, Jakarta and Aceh. 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.
- Air RahMat is available in warungs, tokos, markets, etc. as well as through non traditional retail outlets such as NGOs, micro credit organizations, etc.