**FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**

As Christians, we believe Jesus’ death and resurrection has made widespread restoration of people to holistic wellbeing both possible and eminent. Christian relief and development agencies have the opportunity to engage in this process of alleviating poverty by working to bring people into right relationship with God, themselves, others, and the resources that are available to them.

The steps taken to cultivate financially sustainable safe water services can play an integral role in this transformational process. In particular, efforts to establish sound financial planning and management practices foster healthy relationships with God’s resources. The process builds a foundation for accountability, transparency and trust. If done in an integral manner, these activities can also be effective at demonstrating the character of God and the grace of Jesus Christ.

**CHALLENGES**

- Ultimately, the financial success of any WASH service rests on the shoulders of the local management personnel. These individuals need to be motivated and have confidence in their God-given ability to fulfill responsibilities, and they need to and believe that they are capable of managing finances indefinitely on their own. It is unrealistic to expect WASH management personnel to be able to maintain accountability, transparency and trust. If done in an integral manner, these activities can also be effective at demonstrating the character of God and the grace of Jesus Christ.

- Full recovery of all costs associated with major capital costs and operational costs is not always possible. Adequate and realistic planning is the most critical element of financial sustainability. This budget for the water supply system in Ka Ot, Cambodia (left and below) accounts for the full life-cycle costs associated with ongoing service delivery and replacement of infrastructure. In addition to cost recovery, affordability is also taken into account in the suggested monthly tariff and container-based fee.

**Approach**

- **Planning**
  - Adequate and realistic planning is the most critical element of financial sustainability. This budget for the water supply system in Ka Ot, Cambodia (left and below) accounts for the full life-cycle costs associated with ongoing service delivery and replacement of infrastructure. In addition to cost recovery, affordability is also taken into account in the suggested monthly tariff and container-based fee.

- **Capacity Building**
  - Accurate record keeping and transparent money handling are also critical to the financial viability of WASH services. It is important that these administrative responsibilities receive adequate and appropriate training. Safely water management personnel in Uganda (right) and Indonesia (far right top) are shown receiving such training from Water Missions International staff members. Professional business operations not only help to cultivate financial sustainability but also to ensure accountability as exemplified by the financial audit in Bugoto, Uganda (fair right bottom).

- **Follow-up and Support**
  - It is unrealistic to expect WASH management personnel to be capable of managing finances indefinitely on their own. Ongoing administrative support and monitoring is critical to the financial success of WASH services.

**Motivation**

- As Christians, we believe Jesus’ death and resurrection has made widespread restoration of people to holistic wellbeing both possible and eminent. Christian relief and development agencies have the opportunity to engage in this process of alleviating poverty by working to bring people into right relationship with God, themselves, others, and the resources that are available to them.

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