



BEYOND BENEFICIARIES

Louise Hollingsworth, Public Relations, Water For People Canada

In our sector, success has focused almost exclusively on counting beneficiaries – the number of people supported with improved water and sanitation facilities in a given year. Really, we need to start asking – do the beneficiaries actually have running water and sanitation years later? Do these beneficiaries, their children and their grandchildren have safe water and improved sanitation or are these successes short-lived?

Water For People has learned this lesson directly from its own experience, emerging from the first organizational strategic plan (2007-2011). Most goals were achieved two years early and were operational in 10 countries, allocating over 80% of our finances to programmatic work, achieving organizational excellence targets and shortly surpassing our goal of supporting 1,000 people/day with improved water or sanitation facilities.

Water For People has learned over the past four years that counting beneficiaries as its primary measure is an inaccurate indicator of success and impact. We rightly celebrate the exciting day when families get a new water point. But, this day is only the start of an important journey that we need to better track and understand. We have learned that the question is **not** how many people we help in Year X, but how many of these people still have services in the years that follow. How many people never have to turn to a non-governmental organization (NGO) again for support, once the expected lifespan ends of their new water facilities or latrine, supported originally by Water For People? How many communities actually have the ability to maintain and replace their systems so that they never have to go back to a dirty water point or seek a new charitable support?

Water For People is implementing a program called ‘3, 6, 10,’ which links the core sustainability indicators with the following crucial financial indicators, so that we can really hold ourselves accountable for our work:

- **3 years following project completion** – evidence that money is available for repairs, that repairs are happening and the account is well managed (accurate financial management, no fraud, etc.).
- **6 years following project completion** – enough money is available to replace the most expensive part of the system.
- **10 years following project completion** – enough money is available to replace the entire water system.
- **Ultimately, what percentage of community water systems and sanitation facilities are actually replaced without the financial support of an external NGO?**

The final indicator identified above is the most important one. There is no time limit on this as different technologies have different operational life spans, but it will be critical to measure whether funds are available locally

continued on page 78

(between the community, local government and, increasingly, local private sources such as microfinance institutions and even private operators) to replace systems.

It is intentional that none of the indicators identified above focus on health outcomes. It is extremely difficult to demonstrate conclusively that a water intervention led to a clear health outcome without doing complex studies utilizing control groups that do not receive the same intervention. This is a ques-

tionable use of scarce sector resources and can be morally problematic. What is certain is that no positive health outcomes can be expected if the project fails. As such, if the sector can begin to demonstrate that water is flowing, toilets are used and managed hygienically, and hands are being washed at key times, then that would be an enormous step forward for the sector, without having to take that extra step to show that water and sanitation are functioning *and* health has improved. ♠

Possible sustainability indicators for sanitation

- No open defecation.
- No feces or urine on floor/seat/walls of latrine.
- Latrine is being replaced when full or cleaned as needed so that family can always use a latrine.
- No family without a toilet in the community.

Possible sustainability indicators for water

- The quality of water meets host country government standards over time – with a focus on a handful of bacteriological parameters (*E. coli* and total coliforms) plus any other water quality challenges that are known in the area and that undermine household health (like arsenic in West Bengal, India).
- The quantity of water available to households meets host country government standards over time.
- That the water system is inoperable for no more than one day per month.
- The number of users per water point meets host country government standards.

Possible hand washing indicators

- People in communities know all times when hand washing needs to be practiced.
- People are demonstrating proper hand washing technique.
- Soap or other cleansing agent and water are available for hand washing at the latrine and in the kitchen.



Solutions for Wastewater Treatment

Multiparameter Mixed Liquor Analysers

- Single, dual & multi channel (up to 8 independent channels/analyser)
- Digital communication interface with sensors
- Self cleaning sensors with self contained air jet pump

Dissolved Oxygen Analysers

- Fluorescence technology
- No membranes
- No disposable cartridges
- No electrolyte
- No regular calibrations required

Total Suspended Solids Analysers

- Infrared technology
- Portable and fixed versions

pH, ORP

- Smart sensors & built-in self cleaning port

Sludge Retention Time (SRT) Controllers

- PC based - OPC interface with SCADA
- Maintain target SRT
- SRT/DO set point optimization

Ultrasonic Interface Analyser

- Smart sensors reduced cabling costs
- Up to 128 sensors on a MODBUS RS485 network
- Field mountable controller for settling profile viewing
- ZigBee compliant wireless communications available
- HART, Profibus and Foundation Field Bus protocols forthcoming

Wastewater Samplers

- High sample repeatability
- Portable and fixed
- Sample on time or flow
- Refrigerated or non refrigerated
- Indoor or outdoor

Transit Time Ultrasonic Flowmeter

- Single and dual channel
- Portable and fixed versions
- Reliable and accurate measurement with up to 10% entrained solids in streams
- Non intrusive clamp-on sensors
- Advanced capabilities and functions

Septage Receiving Systems

- Control, analysis, visualisation and management of volumetric and weighscale systems for liquids and solids vehicle reception facilities











Cancoppas Limited • (800) 595-0514 • ON
Capital H2O System Inc. • (403) 251-2438 • MB, SK, AB
Cascadia Instrumentation Inc. • (778) 578-7956 • BC
DCH Process Dynamics • (613) 226-4413 • Eastern Ontario
Cancoppas Québec Ltée. • (450) 424-1370 • QC
QIP Maritimes • (506) 635-1931 • NB, NS, PEI, NF

www.aysix.com

info@aysix.com