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This information was provided to us by
Hélène Lefebvre, Director of Development
he.lefebvre@1001fontaines.com

1001 Fontaines pour demain (1001 Fountains for Tomorrow) : Micro-Enterprise for Access to Safe Drinking Water in Rural Areas



Summary

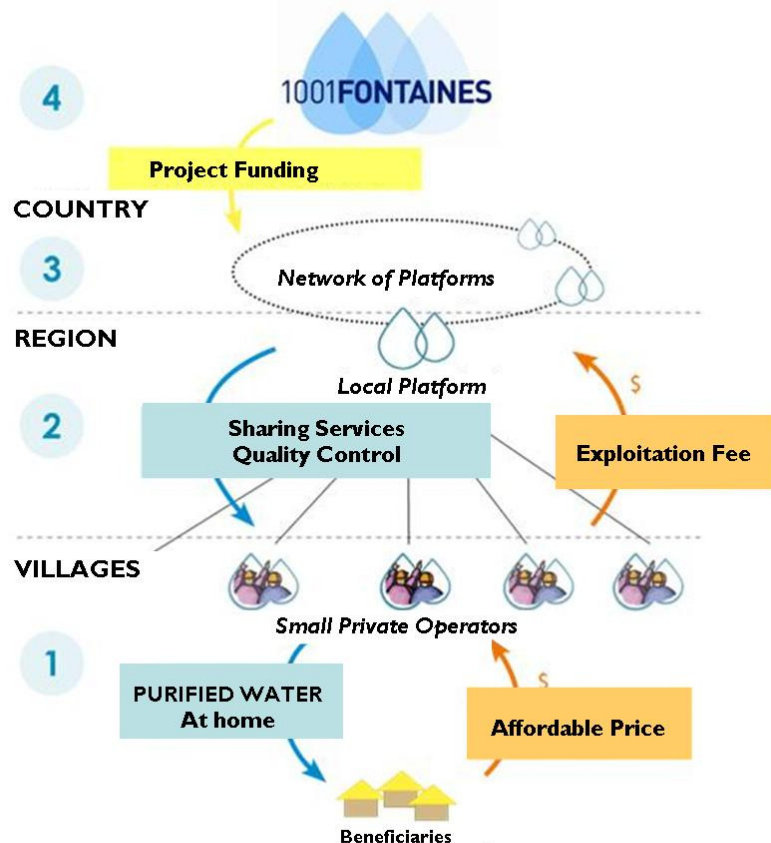
How to provide the greatest number of people with durable access to safe drinking water?
1001 Fountains for Tomorrow has established a simple solution for the poorest populations. Today, nearly 70,000 Cambodians benefit from these projects and studies are under way to replicate this model on a much larger scale. In 2011, *1001 Fountains for Tomorrow* and its Co-Founder received the title of Social Entrepreneur of the Year for Asia, from the Schwab Foundation (World Economic Forum).

Objectives:

The purpose of *1001 fontaines pour demain* is to improve the health of isolated rural populations by allowing them to satisfy, by themselves, their need for safe drinking water in a sustainable manner and without having to resort to specific infrastructures.

Method:

The economic model of *1001 fontaines pour demain* : Entrepreneurship and a local base for a quality and sustainable service of water access.



In each beneficiary village, *1001 fontaines pour demain* sets up a **small treatment unit** (average cost of a treatment unit : € 2,200) using water available on site, usually surface water (river, pond), and relies on two principles for the sustainability of this solution: a simple technical solution and an entrepreneurial approach. It is estimated that the break-even point of a treatment unit is reached with a sales volume of 1 100 liters per day in the dry season.

1. **A simple technical solution:** Each treatment unit purifies 600L of water per hour, by microfiltration and ultra-violet disinfection (UV-C). The water is then distributed in sealed 20L bottles, guaranteeing water quality to the consumer's home. This simple technical process, as well as the very localized distribution, allow the entrepreneur to sell the water at an affordable price for the beneficiaries (less than € 0.01 per liter).
2. **An entrepreneurial spirit:** *1001 fontaines pour demain* is convinced that the best way to ensure the sustainability of the service is to rely on an entrepreneur/ whose revenues will be directly related to the development of his business. The role of the entrepreneur responsible for the operation of a *1001 fontaines pour demain* station is to purify water, to seal it in bottles and ensure delivery to the homes of the villagers, for an affordable price but sufficient to cover his maintenance costs, ensure his salary and that of his employees (1 to 3) and potential growth investments.

The implementation of projects and their monitoring are managed by a platform of technical support, which brings together teams of engineers, technicians and animators supporting entrepreneurs in their business. The platform supplies the services of water quality control, spare parts supply, technical assistance and training, in exchange for a monthly fee paid by each entrepreneur (once he has recouped) to cover the operating costs of the platform. The self financing of the technical support platform is reached when it supports 56 viable treatment units.

Results :

Since 2005, 58 « Fountains » were created in north-west Cambodia, as well as 10 in Madagascar, supplying around **70,000 people** with safe water each day, of which half are children under 10. A sponsorship program has been established for primary schools located in villages with a Fountain, to provide them with water for free.

In 2012, the activities of *1001 fontaines pour demain* are continuing in Cambodia and Madagascar, while studying in depth how to replicate the model in other countries (especially India).

Sources :

Web site: www.1001fontaines.com

Video links: [1001 fontaines vue par Shamengo - 2min](#) and [1001 fontaines - 6min](#)

Detailed documentation is available on request from 1001 Fountains for tomorrow