Fundraising and Finance: Summer is Coming

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On June 30th the CNIS, will conclude its 7th financial year. For the past 7 years through strategies based on surgical education and injury prevention the goal of reducing death and disability in the underprivileged is being achieved. Much has been accomplished—but none of this could happen without money.

The funds we obtain from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) - Partnership Branch is released to the CNIS on condition that we raise equal amounts from the Canadian public. This year we had to raise $315,000 and did.

This was accomplished because Canadian individuals and organizations believe that the death and disability for easily treatable conditions is wrong and those Canadians want to collaborate with African and Canadian professionals in correcting this situation. The structure of the cost sharing agreement with CIDA means we depend on the support of Canadian individuals.

Only 9% of charitable donations come from the corporate sector and the Canadian corporate sector does not give to international development. By far the majority of the donations come from the individual. Every CNIS board and executive member not only contributes time but also financially. The CNIS uses money efficiently and responsibly as there is too much work to be done to allow for waste. At least 79% of our cost shared money is spent on direct project implementation, 8% on Canadian public engagement and only 13% on administration. Projects outside of the cost sharing budget have administrative costs reduced to 7% as the logistic structure is already in place and there is an economy of scale. Funds that are designated by the donor for a specific CNIS development activities are used as directed.

The acceptance of contributions by CNIS is an important responsibility which requires a solid system of financial management. A complex bookkeeping system produces financial statements within 2 weeks of the end of the month. A routine external audit occurs annually but CIDA has the right to also audit us independently and has done so in the past. The two accountants Doug Wallis, CA and Rick Acton, CA volunteer their time as members of the finance committee to assure that the CNIS can respond to these external auditors.

The summer is a low time for donations but the work continues year round. The CNIS needs and appreciates your donations at any time, but over the next few months donations would be particularly welcome.