Service learning in Lutheran schools

Long-term, sustainable development

Sustainable development is a process that empowers people in poor communities to ultimately help themselves. Sustainable development is an empowering process that places those being affected at the centre of their own development.

Sustainable development mobilises people to act and solve their identified issues/problems. It has proven itself to be an effective method of resolving problems or issues such as the lack of basic public services, land rights, lack of basic necessities (food, clean water, shelter, clothes) and so on.

Sustainable development equips people with the necessary knowledge, skills and appropriate values and attitudes to act and manage their own development.

Sustainable development catalyses the emergence of alternative structures and systems (cooperatives, people's organisations) which become instruments of the people to effectively and collectively assert, protect and contend for their own interests.

Sustainable development is a holistic approach that considers:
- Human rights and the rights of children
- Gender equity promotion
- Environment and
- Effective communication

All sustainable development projects must be planned, monitored and evaluated, based on a defined and structured system. The system includes country strategy outlines, cooperation agreements, programmatic action plans, field monitoring functions, evaluations and impact assessments.

Sustainable development includes:
- Men and women of the community
- Long-term planning
- Infrastructure building (with local products and
- people-power) ie roads, housing, dams
- Buildings – schools and medical posts
- Water and food availability and security – building water posts or wells, growing and rotating crops, growing different vegetables for variety
- Income generation – teaching practical ways for families to become self-sufficient financially
- Health education – eating a variety of foods, washing hands, safe toileting, brushing teeth, visiting a medical post when ill etc.
- Primary school education, and where viable, secondary school education
- Adult education and training
- HIV/AIDS education
- Birth education
- Peace and reconciliation education
- Conservation of non-renewable resources and finding alternatives sources

- Disaster preparedness, disaster mitigation and disaster management
- Advocacy
- A knowledge of how to network with local and all levels of government and also with other development groups in the area.

Reference: ALWS www.alws.org.au