ISSUES SPECIFIC TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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Issues Specific to Developing Countries

Specific issues:

- Lack of funding
- Difficulty in access
- Difficulty in communication
- Lack of training of qualified people
Main problem

First and foremost problem:
• Lack of funding in the health sector
• Bad management of those funds
Most equipment purchased without a planned and regular maintenance program:

- Maintenance people only called when something goes seriously wrong.
Lack of regular maintenance:

- Equipment can attain serious working and safety problems
- Stoppage time can be unnecessarily long.
Donations

Lack of funding compensated by donations

- A well thought donation plan is rare
- Donations can be a problem:
  - Lack of specific spare parts
  - Lack of specific running supplies
  - Manuals and displays in foreign languages
Donations

- Some equipment practically unusable.
- Common for developing countries to became graveyards of donated equipment from richer countries.
- Proper donation plan and quality check of the donated material should be implemented.
Another problem

Capital centered

• Most resources allocated to administrative center
• Support and attention to smaller hospitals and health centres around the country overlooked or ignored.
Access and communications

Difficulties in road access and communications.

• More investment in communication network, including teleradiology image exchange, based on a growing mobile phone network.
Diversity of manufacturers

Excessive diversity of manufacturers.

- Lack of well planned acquisition
- Different hospitals and centres have different manufacturer machines
- Difficult to have a cheaper single team and maintenance program.
Diversity of manufacturers

• Most manufacturers not interested in going to remote areas to service a single unit of their brand
Training of local engineers:

- Service, maintain and repair the equipment
- Get over how protective manufacturers are about allowing other people to touch their machines.
Training

• Most developing countries have few qualified people trained to service, maintain, repair and use equipment.
• Even more critical: lack of training programs for them.
Objective:

• Training programs for engineers and medical physicists
• Aimed at maintaining equipment running at its best, and optimizing its use.