



# Valuing Water, Valuing Livelihoods

Guidance on Social Cost-benefit Analysis of  
Drinking-water Interventions, with special reference  
to Small Community Water Supplies

Edited by John Cameron, Paul Hunter,  
Paul Jagals and Katherine Pond



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Photographs on the cover were all taken in August 2007 in the village of Folvhodwe, Limpopo Province, Republic of South Africa, where the case-study described in chapter 2 was carried out. The African setting in no way implies that the methods and procedures proposed in this book cannot be applied in other continents. All photographs © Robert Bos, WHO.

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# Foreword

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What is it that a farming family in rural Scotland, an Inuit community in northern Canada, a peri-urban slum dweller in South Asia, a young mother in central Malawi, a family at their vacation home in Iceland and a child in an aboriginal family in Australia are likely to have in common? There is a great chance that, to meet their indispensable need for water to drink, to ensure their personal hygiene and to serve their domestic requirements, they rely on a small community water supply.

In fact, a substantial part of the world's population, in high-income, middle-income and low-income countries alike, relies on small community water supplies. While the definition of "small community" will vary by region, what sets these water supplies apart are challenges in ensuring effective administrative, management and technical support structures. Such supplies serve communities that are, by contextual definition, small and frequently

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