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Programas de Agua No Contabilizada usando *Contratos Basados en Resultados* son 68% más eficaces para alcanzar sus metas

Oportunidades de negocio para el sector de agua, saneamiento e infraestructura:

Según *estimaciones* de la consultora Miya de Arison Group y del Grupo de Especialista de Pérdidas de Agua de International Water Association, a nivel global el Agua No Contabilizada (ANC), esto es el agua potable producida que no es facturada por pérdidas físicas o comerciales, es de 126.000 millones de metros cúbicos al año (unos 346 millones de m³/día o 77 litros per cápita diarios). Esta cifra representa casi \$40.000 millones por año en pérdidas e ingresos no facturados.

En un análisis comparativo por regiones, América Latina y el Caribe registra el mayor valor pérdidas con \$8.000 millones al año, seguido por Asia, Estados Unidos y Canadá y Medio Oriente.

De ahí que la reducción de ANC ofrece oportunidades para las empresas operadoras de servicios para impulsar la sostenibilidad de sus negocios. El Banco Mundial evaluó 43 proyectos de ANC bajo la modalidad de *Contratos Basados en Resultados* (PBC por sus siglas en inglés) y demuestran que su desempeño es 68% más efectivo en la reducción de pérdidas comparado con programas tradicionales.

Entre los objetivos que apuntan los operadores privados con la modalidad PBC en mercados emergentes están:

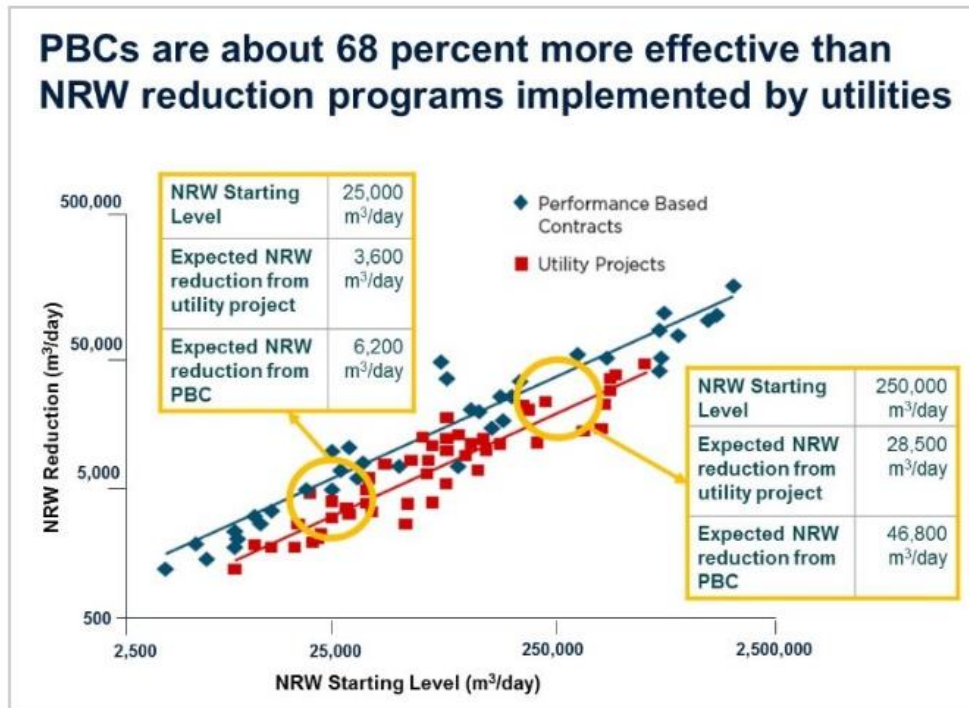
- 1) Tasa interna de retorno promedio de 18% a 35% dependiendo del tipo de financiamiento.
- 2) Asignación de riesgos equilibrada para: restricción de tiempo y costo, eficacia de intervenciones, financiamiento de materiales y equipos y pagos asociados con incremento de facturación.
- 3) Roles y riesgos deben estar claramente definidos entre las compañías y operadores.
- 4) Tiempo suficiente y tamaño de mercado. En promedio el plazo para la obtención de resultados puede variar de 20 a 48 meses según el número de conexiones a intervenir.
- 5) Operadores deben involucrarse más dando acceso a datos, participando en detección y reparación de fugas, identificando conexiones ilegales y dando soporte a contratistas en temas legales.
- 6) Reducción de ANC debiera tener respaldo de multilaterales para asegurar el pago a tiempo para mantener el programa dentro del cronograma y evitar demoras en los pagos.

En caso de requerir mayor información sobre el **diseño de Contratos Basados en Resultados** puede contactarse en español a carlos.aguilar@hydrovalue.com de la empresa [Hydrovalue](http://hydrovalue.com).

What do private companies look for in a performance-based non-revenue water project?*

[Recent estimates](#) place global annual non-revenue water (NRW), i.e. water produced but not billed because of commercial or physical losses, at 126 billion cubic meters. This translates to nearly \$40 billion in annual losses on waste and foregone revenues—a sum, that even if a fraction could be recovered, would underpin a compelling market opportunity for private service companies and a boost to public water utilities’ sustainability.

A new joint initiative is aiming to drive declines in NRW faster, cheaper, and more sustainably by assisting water utilities to engage private companies in performance-based contracts (PBCs). The World Bank’s [Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility \(PPIAF\)](#) and the Bank’s Water Global Practice, in partnership with the International Water Association, analyzed 43 projects and determined that NRW initiatives supported by PBCs are 68 percent more effective compared to those undertaken by utilities alone, (see for example, Using [Performance Based Contracts](#) to Reduce NRW) and are systematically faster at reducing the rate of loss



Who are the private companies that work in this space? Are their motives and expectations aligned with those developing the project from the public sector? A market survey of 42 companies globally reveals that private companies are as concerned about finding a fair deal as are utilities.

The companies participating in the survey engaged in a range of activities: engineering design, consulting, utility operation, civil works/construction and supply of technology, commercial systems, and materials. Companies have a local, regional, or international reach and their annual turnover has a large variance— from \$100,000 to \$10 million, which naturally affects their outlook and expectations.

Here are six things private companies are looking for in performance-based contract opportunities for non-revenue water reduction in emerging markets:

1. Robust project internal rates of return (IRRs)

Whether contractors are expected to bring financing or not, median expectations for project IRRs is around 18 percent, with some companies looking for up to 35 percent. While NRW projects make huge economic sense, careful consideration of project cashflows is needed. For example, many utilities charge well below cost recovery tariffs and have a backlog in maintenance, not uncommon where leakage is high, which could mean large capital outlays, both of which drag on cashflows.

A strong IRR usually means a tangible financial reason for the government/utility to stay committed to the project. Companies' expectation on returns is tempered by risk perception. As one company puts it, "If contract risk is reduced, a lower IRR would be acceptable."

2. Fair risk allocation

Our survey identified four of the most common risks related to PBCs for NRW:

Time and cost overrun

Efficacy of interventions

Financing of materials and supplies

Payments linked to an increase in billings

We wanted to find out whether companies considered these as high or low risks and how many would assume the risk versus seeking mitigation from the utility/public counterpart. Ninety-four percent of respondents considered pre-financing of materials and supply as being 'high,' compared, for example, to only 44 percent that considered efficacy of interventions to be a high risk. This is consistent with the very few number of companies (12 out of 40) interested in projects that would require them to bring financing. Seventy-two percent and 66 percent of companies considered time and cost overruns and payments linked to billings, respectively, as 'high.'

This is notable: while most companies considered at least three of the risks as being 'high', there were almost an equal number of companies considering that they would assume the risk as those that expected the utility to mitigate them, indicating that some companies are looking for more balanced deals, while others had an appetite for taking on risks, for which, presumably they expect to be compensated.

3. To understand PBCs and the local context

Although the majority of companies (65 percent) have been involved in NRW projects, many were not familiar with how PBCs work and a substantial portion (44 percent) seek training on performance-based contracts. A bit more than one-third of the companies also indicated the need to better understand the local water and regulatory context. Working in partnership with local companies is not a perfect solution to overcome the lack of local knowledge, as it brings up other considerations for companies. While a large majority are open to working with local companies, more than 70 percent would only do so where roles and risks are clearly identified and allocated between the partner companies.

4. Sufficient scale and time

Respondents had a wide range of expectations on project size. Expectations on minimum project size correlate well to the size of the companies themselves as well as their view of the opportunity cost of deploying a relatively limited number of expert staff to what they consider as ‘small’ projects. The range that companies were looking for as a minimum were projects that covered at least 7,000 to 125,000 connections. This wide range also translated to expected minimum contract sizes: the lowest minimum threshold was around \$500,000 while on the upper end, an average of \$5.5 million was considered attractive. Companies expected projects to be, on average, implemented within 20–48 months.

5. To work in collaboration with utilities

Perhaps contrary to the expectation of utilities, a high portion of potential PBC companies (71 percent) believe that utilities need to be involved in the project and only a few think contractors need to work fully independently. Utility involvement can come in the form of providing access to data, participation in leak detection and repair, identification of illegal connections, to supporting on legal issues, etc. What seems to be an important feature of utility involvement is timeliness. Time is of the essence in NRW control, thus, assuring responsiveness of the utility is important for contractors.

6. To be supported by multilaterals

Companies would like to see development institutions, such as the World Bank, involved in project funding. They see this involvement as a sign of credibility in the project preparation. They also sought support from development institutions to ensure payment by the utility. Timely payment must be ensured to keep the project on schedule. Considering the performance basis of payments, companies are wary of delays in payments linked to slow project progress that is caused by government actions or inaction.

For more on the role of multilaterals in PPPs, see the [State of PPPs \(1999 to 2015\)](#).

The insights from this market survey are informing a new wave of NRW performance-based contracts being developed by the World Bank Group and partners. Lessons, tools and resources are also being made available through a new portal on [“PBCs for NRW” on the PPP Knowledge Lab](#).

Fuente: [Blog del Banco Mundial](#), 05-julio-2018.

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Jemima, a Philippine national, leads PPIAF’s water portfolio and supports its sub-national financing practice.

A lawyer by training, Jemima has over 12 years’ experience managing water and sanitation market development initiatives. She advised Governments on regulatory reforms and privately driven performance improvement programs and is involved in developing long-term commercial financing for water and sanitation in Asia and Africa. Most recently, Jemima was the global business leader for the Water and Sanitation Program, overseeing initiatives on local private sector development in 16 countries. She recently published a book on the market opportunities for local private sector in water and sanitation, “Tapping the Markets: Opportunities for Domestic Investments in Water and Sanitation for the Poor”.