



World Neighbours Canada Developments

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\$20 Canadian Equals a Sealed, Hygienic Toilet

By Dale Dodge, WNC Director

Since 2000, World Neighbours Canada has been using WNC and matching CIDA funds to put in sealed, hygienic toilets in many villages of Nepal. What at first was a hard sell to villagers who have practiced "open defecation" all their lives, has now become a highly requested item. Our partner, Tamakoshi Sewa Samiti (TSS), has been fielding increasing numbers of requests from villages who already have a water system in place, to help with the installation of the new toilet. Outhouses and pit toilets have been tried in the past, but there has always been problems with smell and with the attraction of unwanted pests, vermin and insects. The design of the sealed, hygienic toilet overcomes these issues.

The process goes something like this. Upon getting a request from a village, TSS sends out a crew to educate the villagers on basic issues of hygiene and disease, and demonstrates how the new toilet can help. TSS tells the people that they, via WNC funds, will supply the hardware for the sealed toilet at no cost, but that the villagers must dig and prepare the pit (much like a septic tank) and the toilet house themselves. Because the finished toilet will be odour free, it can be built very close to the villager's own house.

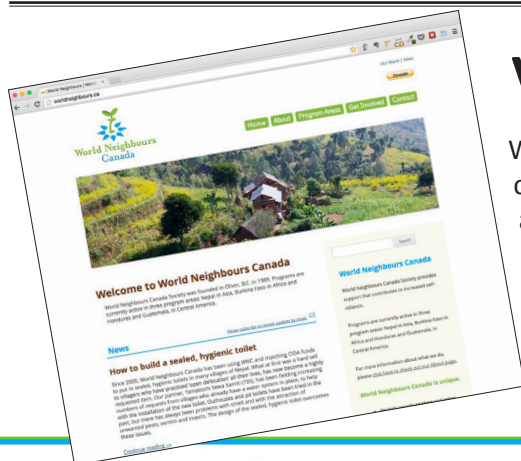
The homeowner will dig a pit about six feet square and about eight feet deep, and then will line the pit with rocks. The rocks will be capped with a lid of cement, and the whole pit and cap will be covered with dirt. Going in to, and through, the rock wall of the pit, will be inserted a four-inch black, polystyrene pipe. The pipe is connected to a toilet pan – a ceramic, white, 16" square, flat pad with two foot pads and one hole. The hole leads to a standard P Trap that you see in our western toilets. The P Trap is key to the suc-

cess of the whole toilet, as it will hold water and the water will prevent odours from the pit from coming back into the atmosphere. The toilet pan is connected to the black pipe, placed flat on a rock or dirt floor, and a small house, looking very much like an outhouse is constructed around it. The toilet house is made from stone or homemade brick, is about 5'x5' square, is high enough for an adult to comfortably stand, has room for a large bucket of water for washing and flushing, and has a (usually) tin roof to keep out the rain.

Villagers can usually prepare the pit and the toilet house in one to two weeks. The cost to the villager is the cost of roofing material, and of the rocks and bricks. Most of this is locally available for little or no cost. The cost to WNC is less than \$20 CDN, including freight. The benefit to the villagers is an 80 per cent reduction in gastrointestinal diseases when they get both the water system and the toilet. Add to this the convenience of the close at hand, and private, toilet house and it is little wonder why the sealed, hygienic toilet has become such a highly requested item.



Villagers carry supplies they need to build water systems and toilet houses.



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We at World Neighbours Canada have been working on our online communication. We have beefed up our website, which presents information and reports on all our project areas, and our society in general. On the website, you can sign up for online updates (these only come about once a month), and even donate to our program. Check us out at www.worldneighbours.ca.

You can also find us on Facebook, at www.facebook.com/WorldNeighboursCanada

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Tackling Machismo in Honduras – Start in School!

By Vera Radyo

We arrived at a two-room village school in the mountains of Azabache in Honduras about 10:30 AM. There were 22 children in Grades 4-6 waiting for us in one of the two classrooms. Even though their teacher did not show up today, the children did as they are keen to learn. In many rural areas there is a problem with teachers who live far from the community showing up for work. Often they are paid little and the transportation is difficult. In this case, the two teachers live in Danli, a town some 1.5 hours away by bus on a very

difficult road. During the week, the teachers live in a little room beside the school and go home on weekends. It seems that here they start the school week on a Monday or Tuesday, as suits them.

Fortunately for these children, Isamar, a volunteer with Vecinos Honduras, had been working with them on gender equity issues. In Central America, there is a lot of machismo and violence against women is far too common. Vecinos Honduras is working to change attitudes as part of the Michael Newman Program, supported by World Neighbours Canada and the Kenoli Foundation.

The children put on a play for us demonstrating what they had learned. They started with a family scene, where two children treated their mother poorly and demanded that she do everything for them. When the children went to school, they were rigidly placed in activities specific for boys or specific for girls. Then a gender advisor came to the classroom and explained the difference between sex (biological traits that we cannot change) and gender (cultural attributions that can be changed). There was more discussion about the expectations of each gender and what forms good human relationships. The children told us that as a result of this training, the girls feel more empowered and the boys now help out with duties in the home.

This gender training is not a one-off, but a weekly session at the school. As these children are changing their attitudes to gender issues, they will impact subsequent generations. It's very powerful!

Vera Radyo is the Executive Director of the Kenoli Foundation and a World Neighbours Canada supporter.



Women's Rights Improving in Burkina Faso thanks to APDC

By Judy Gray, WNC Director

APDC, World Neighbours Canada's partner organization in Burkina Faso, runs a program in Fada province that encompasses food security, health issues, environmental protection, and women's rights.

Food security is increased by loaning money to women to buy sheep, and the provision of training on how to properly care for the sheep. With the sale of the animal, women and their families have cash to purchase needed food items.

Environmental improvements include workshops on land clearing techniques, preventing bush fires, and the use of organic fertilizers and appropriate irrigation methods.

Awareness about health issues is also important, especially for women. Workshop sessions are led by

health workers on family planning and the modes of transmission and means of prevention of HIV/AIDS. APDC describes the value of a series of awareness sessions on women's rights that were conducted in the villages in the spring:

"Many in the program villages have observed a remarkable change in women's access to land for production purposes... numerous women have initiated their own activities that increase their property and financial revenue...[there has been] a drop in violence and other sufferings of women."

The overall goal is to eliminate the discrimination, violence, and suffering that women are submitted to, especially in rural areas, which hinders the development and fulfilment of women.

Despite these positive changes, APDC does not hide the problems



that continue to exist and readily states that the rate of progress is slow and ongoing leadership workshops will be needed. Furthermore, there has recently been widespread banditry, including poaching, kidnapping and rape of women, looting of homes, as well as other acts of violence. This instability has led to reduced attendance at meetings as women fear meeting highway robbers and bandits.