



Partnerships and Community Action: Post-Earthquake

by Navjot K Gill, WNC Director

There is no doubt that Nepal faces unique barriers to development. The terrain shifts from the highest altitudes in the world to the lower, flat Terai regions. It is a country home to over 125 different languages and close to 70 indigenous groups. The Nepalese Civil War stretched for 10 years, killing over 19,000 people. It is a nation that only recently abolished the monarchy (in 2008) and passed its first constitution as a democratic country in 2015, the same year a devastating earthquake killed more than 7,500 people. Under such circumstances, it is very important to provide support through partnerships with well-established grassroots organizations that take a holistic approach to development.

Our partnership with Tamakoshi Sewa Samiti (TSS) in Nepal is a great example of how grassroots organizations can lead change. TSS staff has local knowledge and works in partnership with communities. Since 1989, World Neighbours Canada has provided funding to TSS to build water systems in over 145 villages and the construction of over 22,000 toilets. By 2020, we will fund another 21 water systems and approximately 4,000 toilets, with support from Global Affairs Canada. Yet, this is just one element of the work that TSS does! The projects that are funded by World Neighbours provide the foundation for other important work.

TSS has many other initiatives that improve the lives of families and communities. It has a hospital that addresses health care and emergency relief and a credit and savings union that provides economic empowerment. After the 2015 earthquake, TSS implemented an emergency nutrition program (funded by UNICEF) that trained over 300 health care workers and community leaders in malnutrition monitoring for children and mothers. Simultaneously,



An elder sharing her experiences and stories at a community meeting hosted by TSS in April 2016.

another project delivered peace and conflict resolution workshops (funded by Asia Foundation) in order to build community capacity in the villages of Ramechhap. Each element is important on its own and collectively they create a system of positive change.

Ways to donate to World Neighbours Canada

- Check out worldneighbourscanada.ca and make a donation by PayPal or through CanadaHelps.org.
- Did you know you can also donate stocks? Email info@worldneighbours.ca for more information.
- Of course, if you prefer, you can still mail us a cheque - look for the enclosed envelope to make this more simple.
- Remember - because our overhead costs are very low, we send 100% of your donation to the programs. (Our minimal admin costs are covered by our directors.)

Christmas Gift Idea!

We are offering a special Christmas deal again this year! Make a donation as a Christmas gift in the name of a family member or friend. One of our volunteers will send a handmade, handwritten card on your behalf, using images taken by one of our board members who is a skilled photographer.

People Working Together to Raise Healthier Children in Honduras

Excerpts from a report by Vecinos Honduras

Vecinos Honduras is building greater capacity in families, organizations and communities to improve the health conditions of mothers and children. The project is supported by World Neighbours Canada and Global Affairs Canada. Health monitors, guide mothers and health committees have been identified to undertake actions of support in their communities. These individuals and organizations have started a training process on topics of Integral Care for Children of the Community and Early Stimulation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. Training on acute respiratory infections was given to members of the health committees, volunteer monitors, mothers of children under the age of five and pregnant women. Mothers and health volunteers reflected on the importance of early detection of diseases. This allows the caregiver to seek immediate care for the sick child. Participation of women so far is very high (91.5% of the total participants) compared to men, which confirms that at family level women are the most interested in their children's health. In order to achieve greater participation of men, the project



Making plans to improve children's health.

must define specific strategies that aim to break the old cultural patterns that put all the burdens on women.

The project is a perfect complement to the interventions already undertaken by Vecinos Honduras on health topics. It facilitates concrete actions with the families and communities in which the health conditions of children are poor. The community-focussed strategy will strengthen ties of solidarity and trust, as the needs and health problems are common to most communities. It is in public health issues where the desire and interest of the population to participate in the collective search for solutions becomes evident.

New initiatives in Burkina Faso: Malnutrition screening

By Judy Gray, WNC Director

As part of the federal government funding that WNC received beginning in early 2016, APDC, our partner NGO has been able to implement some new activities. A new endeavour for APDC undertaken this spring, was a malnutrition screening of all children aged 6 months to 5 years, in the 18 project villages. This amounted to screening almost 5000 children. Rates of malnutrition among children are tragically high

in the area. Part of the funding provided by GAC under the Maternal, Newborn, Child Health initiative will go towards Health Centre diagnoses and provide support to the most severely malnourished children. In the past, undertaking an activity of this magnitude would have been too costly and time-consuming. During our April 2016 visit, my husband, Peter, and I were fortunate to attend a training session for community health animators about the *dépiage* process (malnutrition screening). What might appear a simple procedure to us - measuring upper arm circumference and recording the results - is not easy for people who have never had formal schooling. In addition to training the community health workers, APDC must train a "secretary" - a member of each village, who is literate and who

will complete the needed paperwork.

The day following the training session, we visited Kpartangou to witness the process "in action". There were about 50 mothers gathered under the village's big tree, waiting to have their children screened. A number of children fell into the moderately or severely malnourished category - the goal is now to diagnose the cause and then provide training and support so mothers can begin to alleviate the situation. Mothers were keen to learn about the opportunity to have their child evaluated at the regional Health Centre. The visit to these remote villages in eastern Burkina Faso, made us realize, once again, how slowly change occurs in many parts of the world and the gravity of the problems that many people face. We know that this global screening will happen several more times during the course of the project and hopefully, a decline in the number of malnourished children will be observed.



Screening for severely malnourished children.