



## Clean water near home for the people of Maidane Khola

By Dale Dodge, Director, World Neighbours Canada

The small community of Maidane Khola in Nepal, with 64 houses and 324 people, depends on small natural, spring-fed water sources – like the one in the photo – to provide water for the residents. Women and girls walk to this water source many times a day for domestic water. They carry 5 gallon pails, weighing about 50 pounds, back to their homes up to one kilometer away. The water is muddy, not protected from animal access, and, in the dry seasons, is in short supply.

World Neighbours Canada's partner organization in Nepal (Tamakoshi Sewa Samiti, or TSS) was asked was asked by the community to help with providing a more stable water system. To do this, another source was found that was about 2 km away. It is a small stream but it has the capacity to supply up to 450 people. To access the water, the villagers will dig a 1 meter trench the entire 2 km route and lay PVC pipe in the trench. A cement catchment tank at the source and a reservoir tank at the end will supply up to 12 tap stands in the village and one in the local school. Instead of packing water for 6-8 hours a day, this job will now take only about 1 hour. And because the majority of the work to install the water system is done by the residents, you can be assured that they will have a vested interest in making it last.

World Neighbours Canada's original proposal to Global Affairs Canada projected that we would provide gravity-fed water systems to 525 families. With this system, the actual number is now 651 families for the same amount of money. We are confident that the combination of funding from Canada, TSS ingenuity, and many hours of hard work and local management by the people of Maidane Khola will produce another life-changing water system.



*Rural people in Nepal often rely on small, unprotected springs, like the one above, for their community water supply.*



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## Local Organizations leading COVID-19 prevention in Honduras

by Gabriel Newman, Director, World Neighbours Canada

Vecinos Honduras works diligently with communities to build capacity so they can be resilient. Primarily, they work to ensure communities have strong community organizations that can work for the betterment of the local people. COVID-19 has tested their resilience and their self-reliance, with Vecinos Honduras staff largely confined to its home base by a COVID lockdown. We are relieved to report that these organizations were able to rally and organize without the continued presence of Vecinos Honduras.

When the COVID-19 restrictions were implemented, many of the regular activities that took place at a community level were delayed. Vecinos Honduras staff adjusted to train and prepare the volunteers and deliver biosecurity equipment. Some activities were planned by phone, trusting in the responsibility of the members and directors from the different organizations.

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## Progress and Challenges in Burkina Faso in 2020

*Charles Tankoano, coordinator of our partner organization (APDC) in Burkina Faso, reports on the most important gains and the most critical challenge APDC has faced over the past six months.*

One of the most valuable activities has been the market gardens tended by 135 women from 6 villages. This production contributed to reducing malnutrition in children aged 6-59 months, and in improving the diet of pregnant and breastfeeding women. The sale of excess produce also provided income to participating households at a time when COVID 19 and terrorism were crippling most socio-economic activities in the region. The proceeds have enabled the women to meet more of the needs of their households. Secondly, the knowledge gained by many villagers (about 5,000) on various health topics - nutrition, family planning, deliveries of newborns by qualified persons, and culinary demonstrations - has led to improved health. Thirdly, the continuation of the women's savings and credit initiative by 250 women in 16 villages mobilized the amount of almost \$7,000 (from the women themselves). Finally, the funding from World Neighbours Canada and Global Affairs Canada, money that could be counted on, was a critical factor that ensured success during a



*Women proudly standing in their initial year of market gardening; Charles Tankoano on the right.*

period marked by increasing challenges.

The greatest challenge is insecurity: the multiplicity and frequency of terrorist attacks in villages. Those attacks have forced the population to flee to more secure settlements, and resulted in the loss of property, food, and lives. Furthermore, the insecurity has led to aggravated food and nutritional insecurity, and an increased level of poverty among villagers, reducing the progress made during several years of work. APDC has refused to give up and will not abandon the villagers. Instead, we have opted to adopt alternative implementation strategies including holding meetings in small groups and training sessions in secret locations.



*Above left: Charles Tankoano, coordinator of APDC and Judy Gray, director, WNC surveying the lush onions in a market garden. Above right: Inside the garden - what lush tomato plants!*



## COVID-19, continued

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The health committees strengthened the training of families in hygiene, water treatment and disease prevention. Having local leaders deliver key messages has led to greater acceptance of education for the prevention and contagion for COVID-19.

Monitors and guide mothers continued to work with children in their communities, monitoring growth and development of children under the age of 5 years old. While they could not gather in groups, volunteers found ways to visit mothers safely and ensure proper nutrition, education, and monitoring. These volunteers are committed because they have seen the benefits to children - malnutrition is decreasing, and intellectual development has been strengthened.

As of the end of August, no-one in the program communities had been infected. This is a testament to the hard work of those community-run organizations.



*Health committee members from different communities come together to assess problems and work out solutions collectively.*



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