



World Neighbours Canada Developments

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Women gain respect in Burkina Faso

By Judy Gray, WNC Director

World Neighbours Canada's partner organization in Burkina Faso (APDC) hired a consultant to review the impact of its program on equality between women and men. Here is a sample of the comments recorded during a community sharing session:

From women participants: "Participation of everyone, men, women and leaders is a principle of APDC, we saw that it was good so we adopted it. Whether it's for an APDC activity, or our meetings, now we involve everyone".

From men participants: "Before APDC's intervention, we had many problems in our households and our fields. We did not know about soil conservation methods or how to use manure. There was hunger, poverty, fights in the families. Today, as you can see, we are sitting together: women, youth and men together to exchange ideas. This is thanks to APDC. Now we have food to eat. When we cultivate, we can make ends meet with the harvest. Before, this was not possible. We manage to pay our children's school fees, we take the children to the clinic when they are sick. We thank APDC very much and wish them a long life among us."

The women's group added: "With this activity, our husbands respect us. They consult us when making decisions because they know that we can provide financial support. Before, women were at the mercy of men because they did not have money. Whatever the

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Cooking demonstrations, using local and varied ingredients. Such a valuable and much appreciated activity for the beneficiaries! The one pot meal is prepared with guidance from the animateurs, and enjoyed by all who attend - women and children alike.

Celebrating our volunteers!

All of the money raised by WNC from individual donors goes to projects in the program areas. Our organization is run by volunteers who work out of their homes. We are pleased to introduce you to some of these folks!

Volunteer profile: Sabin Shrestha

Sabin Shrestha is from Nepal, and has recently moved to Canada. He is living in Mississauga with his wife (a public health professional) and two children.

He has a master's degree in Population Studies, and worked in development in Nepal for the past 15 years. Sabin has experience in planning and monitoring projects dealing with maternal and child health, water and sanitation, and community development.

We are very fortunate to have such a highly qualified volunteer on our team!



Volunteer profile: Morgan McCarthy

Morgan McCarthy was inspired to join World Neighbours Canada after attending a presentation by Edwin Escoto of Vecinos Honduras last March (Edwin was touring B.C. just before pandemic restrictions began). Morgan recently completed her international relations degree and is looking at getting her master's in international development in the next few years. In the meantime, she wants to learn more about local organizations working internationally and thus really enjoyed what

Edwin had to say.

Morgan has a particular interest in sharing the voices of the people we work with overseas.

She lives in Kelowna and is a very welcome addition to the World Neighbours Canada team!



Gender equity training for water user committees in Nepal

By Dale Dodge, World Neighbours Canada director

Global Affairs Canada (GAC) has been our partner for the past 5 years, and with funding from them and expertise from Tamakoshi Sewa Samiti (TSS) in Nepal, we have facilitated the construction of over 4,000 hygienic, sealed toilet systems and 12 drinking water systems. We have fulfilled all the goals we proposed back in 2015 when we applied for GAC funding.

Another success of the GAC/WNC/TSS partnership has been the introduction of gender equity training for the water user committees in each village getting a water system. When gender equity is improved, allowing women to have more influence, villages will do better in many parameters – child health and family finances, for example. Starting in 2019, we changed the committee training to include not only water system maintenance but also health, hygiene, and basic business strategies – all with an



When women in Nepal have more involvement in water systems, villages do better in many ways.

overarching emphasis on gender issues. Where possible, we tried to get committees from more than one village at a time to participate, so there could be more interaction and group problem solving. Participation has been impressive. In the latest village (Maidane Khola) 10 extra people attended over and above the 9 committee members. The previous training session (for 2 villages) had over 40 people participate. Time will tell if the extra training makes a positive difference once the participants go back home, but we are confident it will.

Burkina Faso, continued

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husband said to do, she was forced to submit because she had no choice. Today things have changed a lot. APDC has helped women in the village a lot. Some people even say that it is a project for women, but everyone benefits. Even if we are not like Fada or Ouagadougou, the village has changed a lot because of APDC."

The full report is available on the WNC website, in the Document and Video Archive page.

And we have good news about funding for the future! We were successful with an application we submitted to the Fund for Innovation and Transformation. Beginning in May, APDC will implement a 15-month project to test a new approach. Women will learn the skills necessary to run a family-based sheep-fattening operation, with support from husbands and children. World Neighbours Canada is thrilled with this news and we look forward to supporting APDC in this endeavour.

WNC partner narratives: Collecting stories from our distant neighbours

By Morgan McCarthy, WNC volunteer

Currently, World Neighbours Canada is in the process of collecting stories from stakeholders in partner countries in an effort to learn how people are impacted by our programs. For many years, we have focused on telling our supporters about what we and our partners have been doing. To expand this narrative, we sent out a call to those who work with our partner organizations in Burkina Faso, Honduras, and Nepal, as well as those who have participated in the programs and have asked if they would like to tell their own story.

Within the World Neighbours Canada network, whether in Canada or abroad, this story campaign will put a face to

the narrative that we have been telling and will give a more personal connection between us all. We hope that once these stories are released, that you will take the time to read them and possibly find a deeper connection to friends and neighbours that are far away, and maybe put a smile on your face!

Jorge Rafael Umanzor Cruz from Honduras was the first person to take the time to tell his story. Jorge has been involved with World Neighbours Canada's partner organization since 2008. He describes his passion for the environment, social and cultural awareness, community building, and the programs that he has dedicated his time to creating. One such program

focuses on helping young adults receive financial help to start their own businesses. We are excited to be able to share Jorge's full story on our website in the next few months, and hope you enjoy reading and learning more about those involved in the World Neighbours Canada community.



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