



## Healthy Homes in Honduras: Clean Communities

*by Gabriel Newman, WNC director*

Vecinos Honduras knows how important healthy homes are for ensuring healthy sustainable communities. While building efficient and smokeless stoves to improve household health has always been a hallmark of Vecinos Honduras's work, there are numerous other approaches they employ in this objective.

Workshops have been conducted on how to construct food storage facilities, interior walls for homes, and clean water storage containers, as well as mosquito mitigation tactics and the importance of clean communities. These activities, combined with smokeless stoves, improved nutrition, and health education, greatly contribute to healthier homes.

The food storage facilities are essentially storage cabinets that are up off the ground with secure doors to limit pests such as bugs and vermin from getting in and contaminating the food. The interior wall workshops are to encourage families to create spaces within their home to improve cleanliness and home management.

Mosquitoes are a serious concern in Honduras. Malaria is prevalent in the El Paraiso province where many of the projects are located. Mosquitoes also carry Zika, Chikungunya and Dengue viruses, so it is imperative

that communities ensure they are not contributing to the mosquito population. Exterior water storage containers help collect clean water while ensuring that they do not become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Community clean-ups are organized to remove solid waste from the roads, lots and homes and to eliminate mosquito habitat.



*The residents of the community of Casa Nuevas carrying out a cleanup campaign by removing solid waste and cleaning the entire environment around the house to avoid hatcheries or sanctuaries for mosquitoes that transmit diseases.*

## Burkina Faso villagers facing drought and terrorism

*translated from a report by Charles Tankoano, Coordinator of APDC, World Neighbours Canada's partner in Burkina Faso*

The project supported by World Neighbours Canada and Global Affairs Canada in Burkina Faso is multi-faceted. Support is provided for production of field crops, livestock and vegetables. Training is given on child health and nutrition and family planning.

Ultimately the intent is to have healthier, well-nourished children. Recently there have been many challenges. The lack of water from February

through March was a major impediment to market gardening - women from two villages were forced to abandon their gardens completely.

Animal diseases and low livestock prices have taken a toll. But the women participants are holding their own, continuing to fatten and resell animals as best they can. APDC provides financial support for purchasing the animals initially and provides guidance on proper care and feeding.

There have been many attacks by suspected jihadists, especially in the north and east parts of

## Continued... Burkina Faso

the country. The terrorist attacks have reduced the pace of activities and everyone lives in fear. One night, terrorists appeared at a meeting and asked what the purpose was. Village gatherings and nighttime debate have been suspended.

In Canada, we do not consider how the possible threat of terrorism would affect one's mental and physical well-being. We can only hope that peace and calm will return soon to a region in which people are so friendly, warm-hearted and welcoming.

Despite the difficulties, the villagers and project staff maintain their determination to continue the project activities. There have been adjustments - APDC staff complete the essential tasks and training without spending too much time in the villages.

Charles Tankoano continues to maintain a positive outlook, stating that the villagers are determined to make improvements in their lives and believe in the pertinency of the activities, always hoping that a more positive and peaceful time is just around

***Right: Animal fattening to increase income (and child nutrition indirectly) are key elements of the program.***



## Nepal Project Partners, Suresh and Govinda, tour British Columbia

*By Dale Dodge, WNC Director*

With support from Global Affairs Canada, we were able to bring two people from Nepal to tour B.C. The purpose of these visits is to get our partners to talk to Canadians about global issues, rural development



***Suresh and Govinda receive gifts of appreciation from the Rotary Club of Aldergrove.***

approaches and gender equality issues. The recent visit by representatives of our partner organization, Tamakoshi Sewa Samiti (TSS) did that in spades!

Suresh Shrestha, Senior Program Officer, and Govinda Ghimire, Director, spent 10 days in B.C. and spoke to many Canadians in several locales. Their audiences included: Rotary Clubs – in Aldergrove, Oliver and Kamloops – all supporters of our current water systems project. Community groups – in Aldergrove, Cawston, Oliver, Vernon, Kamloops, Vancouver and Coquitlam – all public meetings with 10 – 30 people in attendance. Schools – an elementary school and a secondary school in Kamloops were excited to host the pair. Universities – in Penticton – to construction technology students at the Centre of Excellence in Okanagan

College who were interested in the water project and in the earthquake 'proof' buildings built since the major earthquakes of 2015. And in Kamloops, at Thompson Rivers University, to 60 nursing students studying Global Health. They asked how people access routine and emergency health services in a remote place like Ramechhap. The connection between water supply, sanitation and health indicators was crystal clear to the students. Oliver Sikh Temple – thanking them for the very generous donation the Temple gave to our one-time Earthquake Appeal in 2015.

It was a very busy 10 days, but Suresh and Govinda never stopped smiling and were wonderful ambassadors for World Neighbours Canada, for Tamakoshi Sewa Samiti, and for Nepal.