



Fall 2021

DEDICATED PARTNERS NOT WAVERING DESPITE MULTIPLE CRISES

Dear Donor,

In Canada we tend to forget how well-shielded we are from crises. Through all the forest fires that threatened so many communities in B.C. (and burned a few) this summer, we were protected by the remarkable people in the wildfire service, municipal fire departments and other agencies. For most of us, life continued as normal, perhaps with some disruption to our travel plans. In the countries where World Neighbours Canada operates, there is much less protection from crises. Crime, terrorism and flooding (not to mention COVID-19) have challenged our partner organizations this year.

In Honduras, violent crime is pervasive. Vecinos Honduras (World Neighbours Canada's partner organization) has had to avoid working in some areas because of extreme risks to staff. Some gangs have shifted their operations to rural areas to escape police pressure. Travel at night is too dangerous, but no time of day is safe. A team of Vecinos Honduras staff was robbed in daylight and lost their laptops and cell phones (and were thankful to escape with their lives). Yet these committed people continue to strive to lift their compatriots out of poverty. Indeed, they are expanding their program in the Dry Corridor, an exceptionally poor area that is disproportionately affected by climate change.

In Burkina Faso, our partner organization (APDC) has adjusted to the threat of terrorist activities. The people committing acts of violence have motivations and allegiances that are often difficult to ascertain, and no-one knows when and where (or why) they will strike. Meetings in villages are kept small so as not to attract attention. Training activities are largely restricted to the district capital where the level of security is higher. Despite the risks, APDC staff continue to do their jobs and have made remarkable progress in activities ranging from child nutrition to sheep-raising.

In Nepal, the civil war ended in 2005 and the former Maoist insurgents are now part of a government that is plagued by complex political and legal wrangling. Tamakoshi Sewa Samiti (TSS), our partner organization, has served the communities in the district of Ramechhap through thick and thin. The latest obstacle was weather – earlier this month materials for a new village water system were stranded on a remote road as heavy rain caused landslides and washouts. The villagers mounted their own rescue and transported the stranded materials by tractor, with the remainder delivered by TSS when conditions permitted.

The organizations we work with, and the communities they support, persevere under conditions that most of us could not endure. They are people who are determined to tackle the manifestations and roots of poverty, come what may. They deserve our support.

We take a long-term perspective – the alleviation of poverty does not happen in one or two years and working through crises is a constant theme. Thus, your continuing support is very much appreciated. If you can sign up for monthly donations, the certainty of funding would be an added benefit. As always, we will be happy to send a personalized Christmas card to a friend or relative telling them that you are making a donation on their behalf.

Best wishes for the holiday season!

Sincerely,

Bruce Petch, Executive Director (Volunteer)



Storm blocks transport of water system materials in Nepal

From a report dated 12 September 2021 submitted by Suresh Shrestha, Senior Program Officer, Tamakoshi Sewa Samiti

We have encountered major troubles in transportation of construction materials from the district capital of Manthali to Duragaun village for building the Kasten Khola drinking water system.

It is all due to unpredictable rainfall, landslides, and road obstruction. This year we have experienced more rainfall compared to previous years all over the area. Last week, Kathmandu Valley recorded its highest rainfall in 20 years. The preliminary construction works (digging and site clearance for construction of intake at source & reservoir tank) in the village were already started. The villagers were waiting to get the non-local materials to start the construction work. We had transported all construction materials from Kathmandu to Manthali one week ago. But we didn't transport them to the village due to the previous week's rainfall and road obstruction.

Yesterday, after learning about the road condition, we attempted to transport only 50% of the construction materials from Manthali to the village. Unfortunately, there was unexpected massive rainfall and landslides. All the materials were unloaded in an isolated place on the road. Due to fear of further landslides, the truck driver didn't want to stay in that area, and he returned to Manthali.

We contacted the villagers to see if they could get to that isolated place and take care of those materials. The



Transporting water system materials on mountain roads (file photo).

materials were about half-an hour driving distance from the Kasten Khola village site (walking requires more time). The local government ward office is involved in clearing the obstructed road with the use of an excavator.

The field visit by the external research team for the final gender analysis is also on-going these days. Previously it was planned to start from September 1. But due to rainfall and road obstruction it was postponed by one week and started September 9. During their field travel, they faced the most horrific travel ever in their lives (as they explained) due to sudden rainfall and flooding on road.

Update on 15 September: All unloaded materials (except the sand) have been transported by the villagers using a local tractor multiple times. The sand which was transported from Manthali and unloaded in the middle of the road has yet to reach the community.

Welcome to new Nepal program coordinator Gordon Carnes



We are pleased to introduce Gordon Carnes as our new Nepal Program Coordinator, and extend our gratitude to Dale Dodge who is stepping down from this role after years of dedicated service. Gordon joins us with deep knowledge of our program in Nepal.

As the International Service Director with the Rotary Club of Aldergrove, he has worked closely with us and our local partner organization Tamakoshi Sewa Samiti (TSS) for many years. Gordon is one of the charter members his Rotary club and has held numerous positions over 30 years, including club president. He is a retired veterinarian after 37 years in private practice, and

with this expertise Gordon is providing advice on our sheep-raising project in Burkina Faso. When asked why he is excited to join our team, Gordon said, "Visiting Nepal with Dale a few years ago and seeing how WNC, TSS, and our Rotary club's efforts had made such an impact in the lives of so many of the villages that we visited was very rewarding. Knowing that it was the people helping themselves and they had taken ownership of the water projects with all their hard work reinforced my belief that these kind of sustainable international service projects was something that I would like to be more involved with."

Burkina Faso: Women participate in livestock market for the first time

By Gurleen Grewal and Judy Gray

This past May, World Neighbours Canada was successful in securing funding from the Fund for Innovation and Transformation for an innovative project titled, "Empowering Rural Women in Burkina Faso." The project began in June, and working with our local partner organization in Burkina Faso, APDC, we are now testing a new approach to strengthening women's economic participation in small rural villages in the eastern part of the country. Women are developing the professional knowledge and skills needed to manage and sustain family-based sheep-fattening businesses, with support from their husbands and adolescent children.

This project aims to show that women's labour roles are not subordinate to those of men, and that they can be active and insightful managers of informal businesses.

As the first phase of our project is now underway, women in rural Burkina Faso have completed training sessions in basic financial literacy, animal-fattening skills, and entrepreneurship. This represents a great step forward in communities where women tend to be sidelined when opportunities for professional development arise.



Veterinarian assists with deworming of sheep purchased at the livestock market.

Though many women have little or no literacy, their dedication to becoming competent managers of animal-fattening businesses is clear both in their perfect attendance record, and in their keen observations of how immediately applicable the content of each session is to building a sustainable animal-fattening business.

One of the most novel experiences for women in the project thus far has been their participation in the purchase of sheep. Never before had women been to the local livestock market to negotiate the purchase of sheep, not even as observers. For the first

time, women were able to accompany household members, typically husbands or fathers-in-law, to observe this process, to see how a healthy animal is identified, to note how a transaction is initiated, and with what criteria and interests each side attempts to arrive at a fair purchase price.

As our project unfolds in the months to come, we are excited to see how the women in rural Burkina Faso come into their own as savvy entrepreneurs, learning to trust and recognize their potential to contribute to the development of their communities.

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while others choose to ensure there is ongoing support for the charities of their choice.

