



Spring 2022

LIVING WITH VIOLENCE

Among the many shocking and inspiring stories coming from Ukraine, I am particularly struck by the accounts of people trying to carry on with their daily lives in the midst of violence. The images of people strolling past bombed out buildings are extraordinary.

The local people that participate in programs supported by World Neighbours Canada also demonstrate a remarkable ability to live through violence with some degree of normalcy. They manage to cope with conditions that are difficult to imagine for most of us in Canada who enjoy safe and peaceful lives. The staff of the local organizations with which we work are equally resilient.

Of the three countries where we operate, the level of violence is lowest in Nepal. But it has not always been that way – a Maoist insurgency between 1996 and 2006 resulted in the deaths of over 17,000 people. Our partner, Tamakoshi Sewa Samiti, operated throughout the insurgency by taking appropriate precautions and remaining neutral in the conflict. They asked us to cease visits by World Neighbours Canada directors, to avoid raising suspicions about foreign influences. Now the former insurgents are part of the government, and the country is relatively safe for residents and visitors.

Honduras is a country where peace and security have been elusive. A long history of political violence seemed to transform into pervasive criminal violence. It has one of the highest murder rates in the world, and gangs control much of the country. Vecinos Honduras, our partner organization, lost laptops and other valuables recently in an armed robbery. They have had to reduce activities in some parts of the country where criminals are in control. Yet they continue to work every day with local communities, to train young mothers in child care and nutrition, to support local health committees and farmer cooperatives and to find lasting solutions to poverty.

Burkina Faso has become the epicentre of terrorist violence in West Africa. An Islamist insurgency coupled with inter-ethnic violence that started in Mali continues to take lives despite international efforts to restore security. In the midst of all this, APDC (partner organization of World Neighbours Canada), has continued to serve remote rural communities. In the attached newsletter you can read about the challenges and successes of the sheep-fattening program currently underway. APDC staff and local residents are moving forward, despite the violence around them.

We need your help to continue to support our steadfast partners and the communities they serve. People are doing their best to cope with violence and find ways to rise above dire poverty. Please donate generously, by whatever means is convenient for you. Together we can restore hope for a brighter future for our global neighbours facing both violence and poverty.

Sincerely,

Bruce Petch, Executive Director (volunteer)



Support in Honduras shifts to new region

By Gabriel Newman, WNC director

World Neighbours Canada is pleased to report that we have started two new projects with Vecinos Honduras. Starting immediately and running until June of 2023, the projects are diverse in location and objective. Both projects are small but fill an important void in Vecinos Honduras' communities that are not covered by other funders.

The first project takes place in the Azabache Region which includes the communities outside of the city of Danli, where Vecinos Honduras has worked for over a decade. This region was also part of the previous Global Affairs Canada Maternal Child Health funding from 2016 to 2020. Vecinos Honduras is in the process of wrapping up their projects in that region. One last outstanding task that needs to be completed is to increase technical,

administrative, and financial management capabilities for the entrepreneurs and local micro credit groups that had been created in the area. As part of the many trainings that occurred over the years, many people, especially youth, created small businesses and collectives. Small local credit unions were created as well to help fund these ventures. Now that Vecinos Honduras is leaving, they want to ensure these groups and businesses know how to manage the funds, administration, and legal documents. This training will consist mainly of conducting workshops, bringing in specialized consultants, and in-service training for board members and individual entrepreneurs. The project is expected to be completed by June 2023.

The second project takes place in the community of Concepcion de Maria, in the south of Honduras in an area known as the "dry corridor." This is a new region for World Neighbours Canada but not Vecinos Honduras, which has been in the region for over 7 years supported by another organization. This project will focus on communities and schools that were not part of the earlier initiative. The project focusses mainly on improving safe drinking water access to 6 communities and their schools. The project will include building skills and capacity in the communities, an educational campaign about healthy water, and designing, repairing, and building proper infrastructure, including water tanks and latrines in schools. This project will end in June 2023.

We are grateful that Vecinos Honduras has recovered from the set-back created by Covid-19, and we are happy to assist them in the valuable work they do for local communities.



Water is a scarce resource in the Dry Corridor

Small sheep and supportive husbands: Key learnings from FIT project

by Rebeka Lompo, APDC project coordinator

A sharing session was held to assess what participants had learned in the first phase of the project. A few representatives freely expressed how they applied the new fattening techniques, the difficulties encountered, and the results achieved. The following should be noted: Women made poor buying choices in general (they bought small sheep). They provided good veterinary care (veterinarian support was provided). Feeding was mostly fair, quite good for some. Participation of innovators in the buying and selling process was fair. Learning from innovators about the buying and selling process was fair for buying, quite good for selling.

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Rebeka Lompo (left) chatting with one of the innovators about her experience in sheep fattening.

Responding to community needs for water in Nepal

*By Dr. Gordon Carnes,
Nepal Country Coordinator*

In the attached photo, representatives of Tamakoshi Sewa Samiti (TSS, our partner organization in Nepal) consult with community members of Maidane Khola about a proposed water system. Maidane Khola was just one of many communities in the Ramechhap district that approached TSS for assistance in developing a water system. With climate change and traditional water sources often drying up, women are often forced to carry water for even longer distances. The demand for water systems is always greater than the resources available. A selection process is undertaken to try and reach the most beneficiaries with the available funds. Once a location is selected, discussions are held with the community and a water users committee is formed. This preliminary work is vital to the project's implementation. TSS provides the design, materials, and technical expertise, but the community has to commit to supplying the labour and local material such as gravel and rock.

It is their water system and the sense of the community working together and taking ownership has to be present right from the start. Under the supervision of the technical experts from TSS, the final gravity fed water system of 2021 was successfully constructed in the village of Kasten Khola. It involved trenching close to 6000 meters of pipe, construction of an intake, reservoir, and 14 stand-pipes that serviced 65 households in the community of 330 people. The ongoing maintenance will be minimal, but the village water

users committee collects a small fee from the users to ensure its continued functioning. This was the last of 14 water systems that were completed with the Maternal and Child Health Initiative grant from Global Affairs Canada in partnership with World Neighbours Canada from 2016 to 2021. A total of 657 families with a population of 3,795 people were able to benefit from the water systems installed. On their behalf, we thank World Neighbours Canada donors and Global Affairs Canada for the support.



Consulting with community members about a proposed water system

...sheep and supportive husbands, continued from page 1

As for reinvestment, they all wished to reinvest by buying good animals. About 90% of the innovators answered that they will now pay at least 50,000f per sheep (\$110), which shows that they have learned a good lesson about the quality of sheep to buy for fattening. They also said that it is only after they have reinvested by buying 2 large sheep, kept some money for bran, fodder and veterinary care, that they can use some of the money for family needs. The second objective was to find out if power/role relations between men and women have improved. Several men testified that husbands have started to consult their wives for decisions, and they also help them a lot in the fattening activities. They also emphasized that the project has helped bring husbands and wives closer together - accompanying one's wife to the market to buy sheep together helps

to restore harmony between the couple, because even if there were disagreements before, you go to the market together, exchange views on the choice of sheep, negotiate prices, and finally leave home without disagreements. In the same way, several women spoke and mentioned that the gender exchanges have greatly improved their relationship with their husbands. Some said that their husbands now consult them so that they can decide together, others said that they now support them to take good care of the animals, and another said that her husband has mobilized the whole family to support her, he even adds his money to pay for large sheep to be fattened up, she continued. In general, the participants have learned a lot during this phase and have made new commitments to be more successful in this second phase.