



World Neighbours Canada

www.worldneighbours.ca

Fall 2022

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE & RISING ABOVE POVERTY

The dramatic weather events we are witnessing are heart-wrenching. In Pakistan, most of the country seemed to have been underwater and the death toll keeps rising. Conversely, years of drought are causing great suffering in many parts of Africa. Closer to home, post-tropical storm Fiona in the Atlantic provinces in September claimed lives and destroyed numerous homes and businesses.

World Neighbours Canada has been attempting to help people cope with the impacts of climate change for many years. For the rural poor in Nepal, Honduras and Burkina Faso, a changing climate can be far more than an inconvenience – lives are literally at stake. The predicted change in climate is highly variable and complex within each country. For example, Eastern Burkina Faso has been suffering from extended periods of drought. Ironically, more rain is predicted in the future, but it will come with higher temperatures and probably heavier rainfall that is less well-distributed through the year.

One of the historic strengths of World Neighbours Canada and our local partner organizations has been supporting more productive and more sustainable agriculture. This will remain a priority, given that agriculture is the primary livelihood for the vast majority of the people that we work with. Climate uncertainty is leading us to emphasize new strategies, such as maximizing the benefit of smaller amounts of rain or less regular rain. Another approach is helping farmers to reduce reliance on rainfed agriculture, and instead invest more in livestock, crop processing or even non-agricultural enterprises (support for young entrepreneurs in Honduras to set up motorcycle repair shops is an example).

Helping people to adapt to climate change while also helping them to overcome the obstacles that keep them poor is an immense challenge. At World Neighbours Canada, we are evolving to meet this challenge – we are partnering with other Canadian organizations to prepare stronger proposals for government funding, and we are actively seeking funding from foundations and other sources. There is some risk involved in our new approach, but we are determined to do everything we can to support the hard-working people in our program areas to continue to improve their lives despite the uncertain future they face.

We can do none of this without your support. World Neighbours Canada depends on people like you! We have had great success leveraging matching grants from government and foundations, but such funding depends on receiving donations from our supporters. Please take a moment to think about the people you will read about in the enclosed newsletter – what will their lives be like in ten years? What can we do to contribute to a brighter future for people struggling to feed their families?

Your generous donation will be welcome using whatever method you choose – online or by mail, monthly or annually. If you would like to donate on behalf of someone for Christmas or another occasion, our volunteers will be happy to prepare a personalized card for them.



Sincerely,

Bruce Petch, Executive Director (volunteer)





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Honduras: Saying goodbye to Azabache

By Gabriel Newman, World Neighbours Canada director



The people of Azabache are ready to continue developing their communities on their own.

After ten years, Vecinos Honduras will be leaving the Azabache region of Honduras at the end of 2023. World Neighbours Canada has supported Vecinos Honduras's work building capacity, teaching agroecological techniques, upgrading water systems, and for six years (thanks to support from Global Affairs Canada), implementing a maternal child health project. Now that the communities are better equipped to organize and direct their own future, it is time for Vecinos Honduras to shift to new regions. In 2019, World Neighbours Canada board members Gabriel Newman and Navjot Gill toured the region. They visited the Michael Newman Project, named after the late World Neighbours board member who was involved in supporting the creation of Vecinos Honduras and the beginning of this project. Vecinos Honduras members were eager to share the many success stories: Improved agricultural techniques, family food orchards, water collection systems, improved stoves, cooperatives that were formed, new

entrepreneurial enterprises that started, and mothers with their healthy children. But it was in meeting with the village committees that Vecinos Honduras's successes really shone.

Meeting with the health, water, and community committee demonstrated how the community members were taking ownership of their communities. Discussing their successes was one thing, but it was impressive to hear them talk about their plans for the future. That was the indication that Vecinos Honduras's capacity-building methodology was in fact sustainable.

World Neighbours Canada is now supporting Vecinos Honduras to ensure that the small credit organizations, cooperatives and entrepreneurs in the Azabache region understand their fiscal and bureaucratic responsibilities as financial entities. We want to see this region continue to prosper, under its own efforts and ingenuity, after all the effort these communities have put into improving their livelihood.



Blandine Tompoudi and Suzanne Ouoba sharing with Rebeka, the APDC coordinator, their experience purchasing sheep at the cattle market.

Burkina Faso: The benefits of sheep-fattening

The experimental sheep-fattening project in Burkina Faso is now complete. Sheep-fattening involves buying a sheep, feeding it and caring for it intensively, and then selling it at a higher price after a few months. Here is what one participant said to APDC staff about how the project has made a considerable difference in many aspects of her life.

My name is TOMPOUDI Blandine, I am from the village of Gnianmanga. APDC has helped us, and we have paid for animals, and this has helped us a lot. We have had benefits to support our families and our children. Between our husbands and us, there is a lot of consideration, because before the woman could not have money to do certain things, but thanks to the support

of APDC there is now respect between our husbands and us. We have been taught a

lot of things that will allow us to fatten the sheep for about three months and sell them for a lot of profit. This has also enabled us to help other people in our village, especially in the way they know the health of their animals and the importance of veterinary care. Through the training we received, we learned that women are marginalized in Burkina Faso and in particular in

"Madam, if someone says that this project has not changed his household, he is lying because we cannot even describe to you how this project has totally changed our lives and our relationships with our wives."

Gourma, which is why this project came to help us get out of this situation. APDC encouraged us to stand up and fight to become autonomous and that this will bring respect and consideration between our husbands and us. This allows us to support our children in school, health, food, clothing, and the purchase of soap for washing. The advice they give us pleases us a lot and helps us enormously because often we were very limited because we were ignorant in many areas. At the moment we are very brave; even if your animal dies during the fattening process you will not be discouraged by this event, and you will continue to increase the number of your sheep from three to 100 one day!

And you will have your own business.

This will increase the love and support between women. So APDC has taken a very

good initiative and we thank them very much and the partners who have supported APDC to help us, we thank them very much as well!

We ask them to continue to help us with this kind of knowledge so that we women in Burkina Faso can become autonomous.



Fund for Innovation and Transformation
Fonds pour l'innovation et la transformation

Nepal: Quick facts



After a decade of civil war, Nepal's peace process led to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2006 and a new Constitution in 2015.

The Constitution officially institutionalized Nepal as a federal democratic republic with three tiers of government.

Climate-related and natural disasters are a perennial risk in Nepal—affecting agricultural production, development interventions and the overall financial situation.

Looking for a perfect Christmas gift?

Donate in someone's name, and we will send a beautiful, handmade gift card on your behalf.

