



World Neighbours Canada

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Looking ahead: Support for new beneficiaries

By Judy Gray, World Neighbours Canada director and coordinator for Burkina Faso

Over the past two years, WNC has provided technical and financial support to APDC for the implementation of a number of income-generating activities. We have mentioned in past newsletters, that since December 2022, the security crisis in Burkina Faso has forced a growing number of rural populations in the east to move to Fada for greater security, making living conditions difficult for these already poor populations.

To date, APDC has been able to provide financial support for 47 women to set up an income generating activity. These activities strengthen the resilience of the beneficiaries and enable them to meet

the daily needs of their households, such as the purchase of food, clean water, healthcare, and to pay for the childrens' education.

These activities are of paramount importance for these vulnerable populations as they strengthen their financial empowerment and self-esteem and contribute to improving the health of their households.

However, there are still a significant number of vulnerable women who are seeking assistance to enable them to set up an income-generating activity.

Recently, APDC implemented a plan to loan money to 90 more women to allow them to set up a personal enterprise. The employees of APDC will provide the training for each type of enterprise, and the women will be given a reasonable number of months to repay the money lent. Usually, the money is used to purchase the equipment and materials required for start up. These income generating activities are quite varied and have been chosen by the displaced people themselves (mostly women). Rébéka states, "APDC conducted an assessment with questions to better understand their aspirations. The activities chosen include, for example, pig farming, the sale of cereals, equipment for weaving traditional loincloths, and the sale of food products such as cakes and peanut biscuits."

We, at WNC, have learned over the past few years how critical the support of the APDC staff is in ensuring the success of these newly



Tandama with her two piglets: She'll fatten them and sell the male. Hopefully, the female will have piglets she can raise.

trained beneficiaries. Rébéka shared with me just what this support looks like: "To enable beneficiaries to be more successful in their activities, the APDC team conducts regular follow-ups with all beneficiaries to understand the progress of their activities and the difficulties they encounter, and to give them advice and encouragement. These home visits are very important for the success of these women's businesses. WNC provides financial support to APDC to enable the team to continue these regular follow-ups with former and new beneficiaries."

It is clear that the monetary support WNC provides to allow the APDC Fada office to operate is put to excellent use as these experienced employees play an essential role in the success of these much-needed personal enterprises. Beneficiaries are extremely thankful to be given the opportunity to begin an enterprise which allows them to earn funds that improve the family's life and provides hope for the future.

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Nepal program set to scale for lasting impact

By Gordon Carnes,
World Neighbours Canada director

A lot gets accomplished in a short time. For example, BBP-Pariwar (our Nepal NGO partner) recently provided a progress report for our project in the Ramechhap district of Nepal. During the third quarter alone this program, which enhances women's empowerment and sustainable agriculture, has trained a total of 70 women farmers from four self help groups in capacity-building programs including agroforestry, livestock management and vermicompost preparation.

Goats were distributed to 19 households along with two breeding bucks that will improve household income and nutrition. Prior cultivation of fodder grasses was undertaken earlier this year that will provide nutritious feed and help with soil conservation. Future support for the construction and improvement of animal sheds is to be undertaken. Manure will be incorporated into the

production of biofertilizers.

Support for water retention ponds and provision of seeds for vegetable gardens will improve nutrition and increase household incomes. Fruit trees were distributed earlier this year and 95% are growing well.

The report concludes, "The third quarter demonstrated tangible progress toward improving women's livelihoods, nutrition, and resilience through integrated agricultural interventions...which has strengthened local ownership, empowered women leaders and enhanced sustainable resource management. Despite challenges posed by geographic constraints, seasonal factors, agricultural peak period, dispersed group locations and social and political uncertainties, the project achieved strong participation



Seventy women farmers in Nepal are part of a capacity-building program including agroforestry, livestock management and vermicompost preparation.

and measurable outcomes. With continued technical support and strategic follow-up, the project is well positioned to scale successful practices and ensure lasting impact in the community."

BBP-Pariwar and the program participants are very appreciative of WNC continued support and would like to thank all those that make this program possible.

San Marcos community comes together for their children

By Gabriel Newman,
World Neighbours Canada director and coordinator for Honduras

In the community of San Marcos, Honduras, there is a school that has 155 students, and nine teachers. The director, Francisca Guevara Williams, a 33-year-old teacher, has been traveling by motorcycle from the city of Langue to the community of San Marcos every day for the last three years. She affirms that the effort she makes is part of her daily routine and that her motivation to teach children has been maintained since she began to work in the community of San Marcos.

This sounds idyllic; however their little school had been forgotten by the State for a long time, and several government administrations have come and gone without it receiving support. As a result of this neglect, the latrine, which is shared by students and teachers alike, began collapsing, creating unhygienic conditions for the staff and children.

The teachers began negotiations together with the Parents' Association (APF) and sent requests for support to the local government, but their demands were not met. The Director comments that, after so many years of waiting for support for the improvement of the toilets and water collection system, she

was losing hope until she learned that Vecinos Honduras may be able to assist. Thus, they began negotiations with Vecinos Honduras and leaders of community organizations to work on this project. With a positive response from Vecinos Honduras and the decision of the community organizations to collaborate, they completed the installation of two toilets, two sinks, constructed a base and installed a tank to store water all within one week. The community collaborated by supplying local materials and labor for construction; and the teachers provided the transportation of local materials and food for the parents who worked on the construction.

On their own initiative, parents improved the doors of the restrooms using local resources, making it safer for children who use the facilities. The change is positive to improve the health and safety conditions of children and teachers.

The children, parents and teachers are grateful for the support provided by Vecinos Honduras and WNCs. Through this process, they have learned that working together strengthens communities and generates greater possibilities for improved living conditions. This project is part of the Healthy Homes approach Vecinos Honduras uses in communities to ensure safe water, hygiene and health are central to the development of communities.

Photos: Improved hygiene for school children in Honduras.

