

Success story: Alternatives to migration for youth in Honduras



Young people taking technical training at the Vocational Training Institute.

By Vecinos Honduras staff

Residents in remote communities of Honduras, where World Neighbours Canada's partner Vecinos Honduras operates, face numerous challenges. Global, environmental, and economic factors pose significant difficulties, particularly for young adults. Consequently, migration often draws them away from their homes in search of economic opportunities. This is why Vecinos Honduras implements various programs to support these communities and address their local needs.

One of the programs Vecinos Honduras implements helps young men and women gain trades and skills they can use to stay and work within their home communities. This article will highlight one of the many participants.

Arnold Iván Gonzales Pérez is a 23-year-old young man from Las Olivas community in Langue, Valle, in the heart of the dry corridor in Honduras. Arnold attended ninth grade at the "Dionisio de Herrera Basic Education Center" in his community but couldn't continue his studies due to economic limitations. He felt he had no other option than to help his father in agricultural activities to support his family. At times he would also work as a bricklayer's assistant to generate some economic income.

Upon learning about the training opportunity sponsored by Vecinos Honduras in coordination with the Vocational Training Institute (INFOP), he expressed interest but required his parents' support. They concurred, noting that it would be beneficial for him to acquire business skills and make

productive use of his time in a manner that would positively impact his life.

Initially, 28 young people started the training plan, but some had to withdraw for different reasons. Arnold said he was clear about his goal and would remain dedicated. After completing his obligations at home, he would then head to his training. He said, at first, it was difficult for him to adapt but, as time went by, he managed to establish friendships and trust with his classmates and instructors.

His training was for 10 months and focused on welding and computing. Now completed, his goal is to set up his own welding workshop to generate income and put into practice the knowledge acquired through his training. This opportunity gives him hope that he can stay in his community, support his family, create income, and serve his community.

He says, "Young people should take advantage of their time in productive activities that help them develop their skills and create the possibilities to generate their own economic income".

Sustainable agriculture project in Nepal makes impressive start

By Gordon Carnes, World Neighbours Canada Nepal Coordinator

Our first quarterly report from our new Nepal NGO partner, BBP-Pariwar, has been received, informing us of progress made in the Ramechhap district of Nepal. This project aims to empower women farmers by providing comprehensive training and support in agroecological practices, commercial vegetable farming, organic manure and fertilizer production, agroforestry techniques and sustainable livestock management.

To date, 4 women's groups have been formed involving

over 70 participants in the Ramechhap district with more anticipated in the future. Through the formation and activation of self-help groups, the project will enhance financial literacy, group functioning and account management skills, and promote economic self-reliance. By distributing goats and improving livestock productivity, the project will support income generation and food security for women. Ultimately, the project will enhance sustainable agricultural productivity, environmental resilience, and the overall well-being of women farmers and their communities.

Some of the activities already carried out include starting home nurseries to grow grass fodder for livestock, visiting the Sindhuli-Jyammire Learning Center for practical agroecological learning, and training for financial record keeping. Future activities will involve kitchen gardening support, wastewater collection using plastic ponds, bio fertilizer and vermicomposting, commercial vegetable production and livestock rearing.

World Neighbours Canada has been supporting communities in the Ramechhap district of Nepal for three decades with the development of gravity-fed water systems and toilets. With most communities now having water and improved hygiene it was recognized that improving agricultural practices in the face of climate change and economic challenges was a priority in these communities. World Neighbours Canada in partnership with BBP-Pariwar has now begun to address these issues. The Aldergrove Rotary Club has supported World Neighbours Canada's work in Nepal for many years and continues to be a key ally in the new program.



Home nursery for shrubs used for animal feed.