



Stoves added to new Nepal program

We are presently applying for another CIDA grant for a further three year program starting in November, 2009. As part of the application process we must update CIDA on many aspects of life in Nepal, including the political situation. Readers may find interesting the following excerpts from Suresh Shrestha, Program Officer for our Nepalese partner TSS.

“Nepal has faced a serious problem of Maoist insurgency and civil war 1996 until 2008. This has badly affected the overall socio-economic growth of Nepal and its people. There has been a huge cost in lives and infrastructures during the civil war. The consequences of the war can be found in every segment of society and people’s life in Nepal, including in Ramechhap district.

A ceasefire in April 2006 led to the formation of a “People’s Movement” led by a seven political party alliance, including the insurgent CPN-Maoist party. This alliance compelled the King to reinstate the dissolved House of Representatives and hold elections. The ‘Maoist’ party won the election in 2008 and ended the monarchy.

There is now a democratic government in Nepal. As it is a new democracy, there are growing pains and high expectations from the general public. The lack of progress in resolving some social and political problems has resulted in a number of wild-cat strikes and a resulting slow down of products and services getting to various areas of the country. This includes Ramechhap and poses obstacles to the smooth operation of some TSS programs. In the past when there were ongoing rebel activities nationwide, TSS was able to implement all its programs successfully. With the present political problems and in case of any challenges in the future, TSS will likely make arrangements with local power-brokers through informal communication to ensure the job gets done. TSS is recognized as a local organization dedicated to helping local people. It is a non-partisan organization with no political affiliation.”

As with past projects between World Neighbours Canada and TSS the main focus will be to facilitate the building of gravity fed water systems for villages and closed septic latrines for homeowners. In addition to these two projects we are proposing the installation of improved domestic stoves, similar to those WNC has facilitated in Honduras. As in Honduras, the



This woman is showing her newly completed “smokeless” stove. Many people around the world continue to cook indoors with chimneyless stoves which contributes to many health problems. The stove is an adaptation of the traditional stove so it is familiar but improved.

women of Nepal cook on stoves with no ventilation to the outside. Inhalation of the resulting smoke inside homes contributes to respiratory diseases, childhood asthma and eye infections, all significant problems in the villages of Ramechhap. Traditional stoves are inefficient, burning far more fuel – wood, dung and agricultural waste than necessary.

TSS carried out a pilot project over the past few years in which they facilitated the building of 200 smokeless stoves in a number of villages. The improvements in health were dramatic and the reduction of fuel required was appreciated by the women whose job it was to collect it. In the long term, the less wood required for cooking, the less deforestation. In our CIDA application we are proposing to facilitate the installation of 3,000 improved stoves over the next three years.

One of our WNC directors, Dale Dodge is traveling

to Ramechhap in May and will bring back news for our fall issue of Developments. As well, Suresh will again be visiting British Columbia in the fall. If any of our donors or organizations they represent would like to have Suresh and Dale come and make a presentation, please let us know as soon as possible and we will try to arrange it. Between Suresh’s stories and Dale’s photos we can guarantee you an enjoyable evening.

Home | Videos | Programs | Stories | Volunteer | Reports | Newsletters | Contact

World Neighbours Canada

World Neighbours Canada is an international people-to-people organization that supports grassroots community initiatives to alleviate hunger, disease and poverty in Asia, Africa & Latin America

World Neighbours Canada supports local organizations that share some basic principles:

- build on traditional knowledge and values to help people to analyze and solve their own problems
- encourage and train local leaders and organizations
- rooted in the tradition of neighbour helping neighbour.

World Neighbours Canada is operated by volunteers who work out of their own homes. Because our overhead costs are very low, we send 100 per cent of your donation to the field program. Furthermore, a portion of your donation is matched by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Make a Difference
Make a Donation Now!

View an Introductory

Check out our updated website at

www.worldneighbours.ca



April Lawrence, a Kelowna television reporter, received a Jack Webster Fellowship to visit Honduras and Peru. Her time in Honduras was spent in the villages of La Esperanza project.

April summed up her experience, "Visiting the people of Honduras and seeing how they are working to create a better life for themselves, and their children, was truly an inspiration."

The first of her reports will air on CHBC at the end of this month.



Board members Mary Doyle and Brita Park set up a World Neighbours Canada booth at a recent women's trade show in Oliver, BC.

Other board members have been:

- organizing and presenting sideshow talks to Rotary Clubs, public gatherings and front room pot lucks.
- keeping the organization up to date on its reporting to CIDA and foundations.
- managing the finances and sending tax receipts.

Donors can help with these efforts by finding opportunities within their own circle of friends and acquaintances to extend the message of World Neighbours by:

- passing on to their e-mail contacts information about our web site at www.worldneighbours.ca
- arranging a World Neighbours Canada sideshow talk at their church, service club or book club.

Burkina Faso women turn peanuts into power

Traditional Gourmanche culture in Burkina Faso comprises several religions: Christian, Muslim and Animist. One thing they have in common is male domination. Women are property, not entitled to have a say in household decisions of great importance to their lives and those of their children.

In pursuit of the Millennium Development goals, the Fada program of APDC seeks to change this situation. Literacy and numeracy training for women is the beginning and this is where our new program is now.

Once women achieve the basics, they are encouraged to form women's groups which often become savings and credit groups. This may start with the commercialization of peanuts (mostly used for cooking oil), a crop traditionally grown by women close to the home. Peanuts are cheap at harvest, expensive later on. By pooling their tiny amounts of savings, a group of women can have enough money to buy peanuts at harvest, store them for several months, and then sell them at a profit. After a couple of years, this profit can form the base for lending to each other to buy an animal for fattening, material for sewing for resale, or tuition fees for their children.



As the resources of the savings and credit groups grow, so does the confidence of the women. For the first time ever, women have money of their own and this changes the power dynamic inside their family. Suddenly, their opinions begin to matter.

2nd Honduran program begins among the Chorti

The Maya Chorti (pronounced shortly) are the surviving remnant of the people who built the magnificent Mayan ruins at Copan, Honduras. Dispossessed and enslaved by the Spanish they now are relegated to tiny plots of land on the surrounding mountains with little or no agricultural land, limited access to potable water and no health services. Not surprisingly they have some of the highest child malnutrition numbers in all of Central America.

Investigation began last summer with staff visits and a thorough analysis of the situation that led to the decision this December to begin a program with an emphasis on health. A local nurse with development experience, Flor de Maria Milla, began work in March as the coordinator and will begin developing volunteers among the 1,715 people in the six villages that make up the Copan program.

