

INNOVATION FUND SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
World Neighbours Canada
Ramechhap Rural Health Improvement Project (S-63424)
December 1, 2006 - March 31, 2007

BACKGROUND

The Innovation Fund is providing financial support to a World Neighbours Canada (WNC) project in the Ramechhap district of eastern Nepal. WNC's implementing partner in Nepal is the Tamakoshi Service Society (TSS). On-the-ground activities began in May/June 2006. The project covers a two-year term. There are two major components to the project: rainwater harvesting, an attempt to provide reliable water supply in villages where a spring-source, gravity-fed water system is not possible; and hygienic latrines for safe disposal of human waste. The rainwater harvesting technology has not been widely used in the area, so this component of the project is being done on a small-scale to test its viability and cost-effectiveness. Hygienic latrines are being constructed in response to a widespread cultural shift in the district – it is becoming socially unacceptable to not use a latrine.

The original expected results of the project were as follows:

1. About 75 families (450 population) will construct will construct rainwater harvesting water systems and use it with technical and materials support from TSS.
2. About 2,000 families (12,000 population) will construct domestic toilet house and use it properly with technical and materials support from TSS.

In line with TSS's self-reliance approach, beneficiaries must provide all locally available materials (such as sand, rocks and lumber) and all labour. TSS provides manufactured materials and technical guidance. Details on progress to date are given below.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Rainwater Harvesting Program:

TSS has made agreements with the following 62 families of 9 communities to construct rainwater harvesting system with materials and technical support from TSS/WNC:

	VDC, Ward, Community	No. of systems/families	No. of Population
1	Okhreni - 5, Chyasku	5	41
2	Okhreni - 5, Dhande	6	44
3	Okhreni - 7, Chhap	16	95
4	Okhreni - 7, Kami	6	36
5	Ramechhap - 5, Tulechaur	7	43
6	Salu - 6, Salu	5	30
7	Sukajor - 8, Chambot	5	28
8	Sukajor - 9, Dandatol	6	51
9	Sukajor - 9, Nigalghari	6	50
	Total	62	418

Due to unexpected increases in the cost of construction materials (cement and fittings), TSS will be able to support only 62 families which is a bit less than the original target of 75 families. The prices of cement and fittings have increased by 30% compared to 2005 when the project proposal was prepared.

By the end of March 2007, 37 families of Okhrenei Village Development Committee (VDC) and Sukajor VDC have completed the construction of rainwater systems. It will greatly help the families to fulfill the need of water to a certain extent as there is no alternative such as gravity-based systems or piped water systems in those communities. Each household has constructed a water tank with the capacity of 2,000 liters. The collected water in the tank is to be used mainly for washing, bathing and also for feeding to livestock. It can be also used for drinking after filtering and boiling.

The families have made in-kind contribution in terms of labour for the construction work and the collection of local materials. The families have also made cash contributions for purchase of high-density polythene pipe required to connect from the roof to the tank. For this, each household has contributed about CAD \$26.

TSS has provided the non-local construction materials (cement and fittings) and technical support for the construction of rainwater harvesting system.

2. Community Hygiene Program:

Under the Innovation Fund program, a total of 2,045 families have agreed with TSS to construct household water-sealed latrines. The name of the villages and number of families are given below:

	Name of VDC	No. of Families
1	Bamti	184
2	Bethan	40
3	Bhatauli	42
4	Chuchure	66
5	Daduwa	273
6	Doramba	50
7	Duragaun	127
8	Gagal Bhadaure	61
9	Gumdel	135
10	Khandadevi	29
11	Khimti	244
12	Phulasi	40
13	Puranagaun	22
14	Rampur	64
15	Saipu	188
16	Those	396
17	Tilpung	23
18	Tokarpur	61
	Total	2,045

By the end of March 2007, a total of 1,274 households of the following Village Development Committees (VDCs) have constructed water-sealed latrines:

	Name of VDC	No. of Families
1.	Bamti	133
2.	Bethan	40
3.	Bhatauli	42
4.	Chuchure	66
5.	Daduwa	134
6.	Doramba	50
7.	Duragaun	127
8.	Gagal Bhadaure	61
9.	Khandadevi	29
10.	Khimti	136
11.	Phulasi	40
12.	Puranagaun	22
13.	Saipu	86
14.	Those	285
15.	Tilpung	23
	Total	1,274

TSS has supported non-local construction materials such as pan, siphon and sewage pipe. The respective households have contributed all other requirements - labour and local construction materials etc. TSS support is equal to all participating families. The material and transportation cost is equivalent to about CAD \$12.

With the construction of household latrines, especially women, pregnant and disabled people now have more convenient and comfortable access to latrines very close to their houses. In addition, the members of the participating families have the potential for improved health conditions and use the latrines regularly.



RAINWATER HARVESTING STORAGE TANK UNDER CONSTRUCTION



COMPLETED RAINWATER HARVESTING STORAGE TANK



CARRYING LATRINE MATERIALS FROM END OF ROAD



COMPLETED TOILET BUILDING