



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE - VIETNAM

July - Dec 2007

An e-newsletter from Church World Service Vietnam

PROGRAM NEWS

Projects funded by the U S Department of Agriculture (USDA) now completed

In FY03 CWS received funding from USDA for the following projects:

- 1) Rural Public Health: Water supply and toilet facilities in 36 rural clinics in Long An province.
- 2) Water and Sanitation for Kindergartens and Primary Schools: Water supply and toilet facilities in 40 kindergartens and primary schools in Ba Vi district, Ha Tay province
- 3) Ethnic Minority Education: Education improvements in 87 kindergartens and primary schools in Bac Lieu province and in 27 kindergartens, primary schools, and training institutions in Thai Nguyen province

The last projects to be accomplished were the Education Support Projects in Pho Yen and Song Cong districts, Thai Nguyen province. The final evaluation survey has been conducted and showed that the projects are highly appreciated by all stakeholders.

CWS Vietnam has received excellent support from USDA both in Vietnam and in Washington DC.



Clean water



School toilet

Muong Te - Integrated Development Project

In September an evaluation of the project's household latrine constructions during 2006-2007 was carried out

During 2006-2007, a total of 70 household latrines were built in the villages of Bum Nua commune. The evaluation of the latrine construction was conducted by the project management unit of the district Health Department in order to assess the activity results, initial impacts, as well as to plan for the expansion of this activity to include more households, villages and communes. The results of the evaluation have been shared in a workshop with participation of relevant project stakeholders. In this workshop, a small network of village IEC collaborators was set up in the first 5 villages in Bum Nua commune for the promotion of construction of latrines for the households as well as for promotion of personal and environmental hygiene practices.



Inspection of a new latrine

Muong Te - New project agreement for 2008-2010 on Health and Hygiene promotion signed with FELM

In December 2007, we had the pleasure of signing a three-year project agreement for cooperation between CWS Vietnam and the Finish Evangelical Lutheran Mission. The new project activities (budgeted to USD220,000) will be implemented in Muong Te district from 2008 to 2010 to support the health development and hygiene promotion in the ethnic minority communities. We are very much looking forward to this new partnership.



Phuc Thuan, Thai Nguyen province – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

1. Phuc Thuan's water supply system was handed over to the community and put into operation

In August 2007, the construction of a water system for the community in Phuc Thuan was completed, put in operation and a test run for one month. The water system, which applies AGF10 (Automatic Gravity Filter) filter technology supplies filtered water to 80 households, the communal clinic, the People's Committee office, the Post Office, 1 primary school and 1 kindergarten in the community. Regulations and water tariff rate have been discussed and agreed upon in the village meetings. Furthermore, the villagers have appointed an operation and maintenance (O&M) team. Training and necessary tools for O&M have also been provided enabling the team to conduct regular operation and small repairs.



Mr Ai, PPC, introduces the system



2. New schools (kindergarten and primary) in Dam Ban village brought into use

Following a needs assessment in July 2007 with participation of commune leaders, school representatives and CWS staff at the Dam Ban village, where ethnic minority people make up 85% of the village population, a design of 2 separate buildings of 4 classrooms for village primary school and kindergarten have been made to meet the demand of students for the 2007-2008 school year. In November, the schools with new classrooms and with ramps on both sides of the stairs to encourage and for the convenience of disabled children going to school, and other necessary teaching and learning aids such as tables and chairs for students and teachers, boards, bookshelves, educational toys, etc. were put in operation to help make the school environment more accessible, friendly, safe and attractive to the students.



Kindergarten in Dam Ban



3. New Five-Year Agreement between ELCA and CWS Vietnam

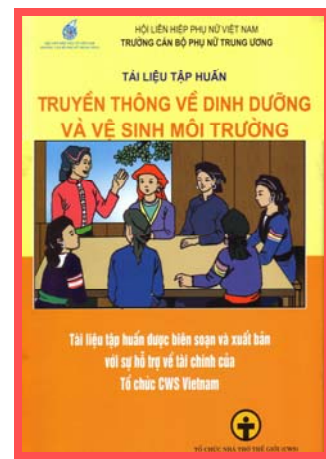
ELCA has agreed to fund an Integrated Development Program for Ethnic and Disadvantaged Communities in Mountainous and Rural Areas of Vietnam starting from February 2008 with a total budget of USD440,000. We appreciate their trust in our work and we are very much looking forward to the continued partnership with ELCA.



Social Work Project

Women's Union Training College project: two training courses for female social workers have been conducted

Under the project support for social work at the Women's Union Training College, two training courses have been conducted for female social workers from mountainous communities in the Northern provinces of Vietnam. The training aims to create a core team of social workers with the knowledge and skills to assist people in their own communities in identifying their needs and assist them with their concerns, to find solutions and thereby promoting community development. Also, under this project, a training manual for IEC (Information-Education-Communication) on nutrition and environmental sanitation was developed and published, used in the training and delivered to all participants for their use in their communities.



Training manual

Emergency Response Program (ERP)

CWS-Nordic Assistance in Vietnam (NAV) joint relief aid project in Thua Thien - Hue province

As reported in the last issue of this Newsletter, our 2007 ERP Plan was reviewed and updated in February 2007 in a workshop in which also staff from NAV (a member of ACT International) participated. This cooperation has now continued through a jointly organized relief activity.



Rice distribution

Since the typhoon Lekima, which ravaged the central coast of Vietnam in September, this part of the country has suffered from a long spell of continuous floods. Thua Thien – Hue is one of the most severely affected areas. In response to the appeal called by the People's Aid Coordination Committee (PACCOM), on December 29th, CWS in collaboration with NAV organized a joint aid relief distribution for 440 poor households of 1,990 people in 3 communes of Quang Dien district, Thua Thien–Hue province. Each family was provided with rice, cooking oil, fish sauce, canned meat and shrimp paste that will support them for 3 weeks. This will be followed by distribution of mosquito nets in January 2008.



SPECIAL EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

Integrated Development Project in Muong Te district, Lai Chau province – Program Steering Committee Meeting in Sapa

On 10th December the members of the Program Steering Committee held its yearly planning meeting in Sapa. The following topics were discussed:

- Report from the Health PMU as well as the Education PMU on the implementation of the project during 2007, activities and remaining issues
- Financial statement on the project from the beginning to Quarter III, 2007 and sharing of audit reports
- Extension and continuity of the project
- Project work plan for 2008



World Water Monitoring Day - Phuc Thuan (ELCA)

For CWS Vietnam, Information – Education – Communication (IEC) has become an annual activity within its projects in order to raise awareness and encourage increased hygienic behavior of local communities at its project sites. This year, the program was organized on October 13th, 2007 in the Phuc Thuan Primary School No 1, Pho Yen district, Thai Nguyen province as part of the "Community Water System and Education Development" project to participate in the World Water Monitoring Day™, an international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement to protect water resources around the world. With easy-to-use test kits, more than 250 school teachers and students had a chance for the first time to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies for a core set of water quality parameters including temperature, acidity (pH), clarity (turbidity) and dissolved oxygen (DO), along with other designed fun activities.



Collecting water samples



Testing of the water

Clubs for Women in Difficult Circumstances

Another IEC activity was a competition arranged amongst the "Women in Difficult Circumstances" clubs as part of the Social Work project supporting the operation and expansion of social work clubs in communes of the Dai Tu district. The competition was organized in December 2007 to raise communities' awareness on HIV/AIDS issues, drug prevention, trafficking of women and children. The competition attracted the participation of more than 250 people from the district and its communes.



Ty, CWS Vietnam, had the privilege of handing over the prizes

Sphere training series in three provinces

In an effort to support local Government agencies at provincial, district and commune levels better to cope with situations in emergency response and preparedness, CWS in cooperation with Oxfam Hong Kong and Disaster Management Centre (DMC) organized a training series in three pilot provinces Thua Thien – Hue (in June), Lai Chau (in July) and Ben Tre (in August). The purposes of these trainings are to introduce participants to the Government's guidelines on Flood and Storm Control, the Natural Disaster Damage and Need Assessment guidelines, and the Sphere minimum standards as well as the promotion of applying the same in response to disaster emergency situations.



Opening speech by Mr. Truong, Director of the Disaster Management Centre

VISITS and TRAVEL

M&E training in Bangkok with special focus on Sphere

From 3rd to 7th December 2007 CWS Vietnam Program Manager, Dung, participated in Church World Service Pakistan/Afghanistan (CWS-P/A) regional monitoring and evaluation Sphere training with 30 participants from other CWS offices and other organizations from totally nine countries in the region. The goal of the training was to strengthen the capacity of humanitarian relief workers, so as to increase their efficiency and effectiveness in addressing the areas of greatest need in the humanitarian context, by using Sphere Minimum Standards as one of the quality and accountability tools.



Agneta (Interim Country Representative) on study tour to CWS Cambodia

The aim with this trip was for Agneta to familiarize herself with other CWS country office's work through visiting its different projects. The visit schedule was tight and during the week she had time to visit the Svay Rieng province (bordering Vietnam) to look at CWS Cambodia's WatSan projects, the Kompong Tom province, focusing on Partnership Programs and support to Community Development, and, of course Phnom Penh, where she was introduced to one partner organization working with young people and women with micro credit schemes, sewing and weaving and literacy projects, as well as an organization working with students in secondary schools and in universities on youth education, mainly focusing on social work. In the CWS Phnom Penh office Agneta also got a thorough introduction to the organization itself, a good overview of all its operations and programs. Agneta is very grateful to the warm hospitality shown.



Photo: Courtesy CWS Cambodia

STAFF UPDATES

Goodbyes

During the autumn we sadly had to say good-bye to three of our members of staff: Thu Ha, our Finance Assistance, Thu Phuong, our Program Officer and Ngoc Dung, our Executive Assistant/Translator. Both Thu Ha and Thu Phuong have left for new exciting jobs and we wish them all the best. Ngoc Dung has started her life adventure, she and her husband got a son on 1st December.

Welcome

On 1st October we welcomed Truong, our man in Muong Te. He will work there as our Project Supporter.

If you would like to obtain more information about CWS Vietnam, please visit our website at <http://www.cws.org.vn/html/home.htm>