



## CHURCH WORLD SERVICE - VIETNAM

July- December 2006

An e-newsletter from Church World Service Vietnam

### PROGRAM NEWS

#### CWS Vietnam Launches Video

In October, CWS Vietnam launched a documentary video entitled "Hien's Story". The video highlights the life of a small La Hu ethnic minority girl living in Nam Xa village, Muong Te district, in the far north west of Vietnam. CWS had been supporting an Integrated Development Project in Muong Te since 2003, funded by SED.

For further information, please visit <http://www.cws.org.vn/html/publications.htm>



#### ELCA supports education and water for ethnic minorities

In November, CWS began implementation of the ELCA funded community development project in Phuc Thuan commune, one of the poorest areas of Thai Nguyen province. Initially, the project will improve education quality in the local primary school by providing teacher training and necessary teaching aids. In addition, the project will provide a community water system which will supply clean water to the school, health clinic, and 50 surrounding local households. The second phase of the project will focus on desperately needed classroom construction. Phuc Thuan commune is populated by the Trai, Tay, Nung and Cao Lan ethnic minority people.

For further information, please visit <http://www.cws.org.vn/html/current.htm>



#### Durian storm response

On December 5, 2006, Typhoon Durian hit the Mekong Delta region of southern Vietnam. The typhoon claimed 73 lives, injured over 1500 people, and caused millions of dollars in damage. CWS responded by sending an assessment team to Tan Lap commune, a coastal area of Long An province. A total of 57 families whose homes were destroyed received emergency housing repair support, and 2 families classified as "extreme poor" received new homes. CWS continues to work with Oxfam and CARE in the Mekong Delta to provide relief to affected families.

For further information, please visit [http://www.cws.org.vn/html/emergency\\_response.htm](http://www.cws.org.vn/html/emergency_response.htm)



#### Food for hungry ethnic minority students

In Nov 2006, CWS began school feeding and take home rice rations for kindergarten and lower secondary schools in Muong Te district, Lai Chau province. The idea was initiated by local parents who said that one of their main reasons for not sending children to school was lack of food. The feeding activities are currently being piloted in one kindergarten where 30 students are provided with a midday meal of rice soup, and 2 lower secondary schools where 95 students are provided with 10kg of rice/month. Parents and teachers are active in the activities and participate in the purchasing, cooking, and distribution of the food.

For further information, please visit [http://www.cws.org.vn/html/current\\_Development.htm](http://www.cws.org.vn/html/current_Development.htm)



## Support Clubs for Women in Difficult Circumstances

CWS has begun a project to help women who have family members who are drug users and/or infected with HIV/AIDS. The project is in partnership with Hanoi Women Union School Department of Social Work, and the Dai Tu district Women's Union. The purpose of the project is to help affected women form support clubs and provide essential management and organization skills for the clubs' operations. The clubs will provide women with knowledge and skills on how to cope with their situations on a day to day basis. It is hoped that the success of the support clubs will spread a positive influence to the families and surrounding community.



Please visit [http://www.cws.org.vn/html/current\\_training.htm](http://www.cws.org.vn/html/current_training.htm) for more information

## Training for Village Health Workers

CWS, in cooperation with the Muong Te district health department, is supporting training for 50 new village health workers. Currently, the district only has 125 qualified health workers to cover 163 villages and 45,000 people. The district health department is eager to improve the quality of the public health network in this remote and mountainous area, and aims to place at least one qualified health worker in every village. The training participants are selected from the local community and stay in the training center for the 6 month course. After the course, the health workers return to their villages to provide more professional services to those in need.



For further information, please visit [http://www.cws.org.vn/html/current\\_Development.htm](http://www.cws.org.vn/html/current_Development.htm)

## WORKSHOPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

### SPHERE Training

In October, Joanne Fairley was selected to participate in the Sphere Project Training of Trainers course in Singapore. This 10 day course was attended by 23 global participants and covered the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response. As a follow up, CWS Vietnam joined with Oxfam to coordinate a 3-day training for disaster response practitioners in Hanoi, Vietnam. This training covered the SPHERE Minimum Standards and was facilitated by Kelly Wooster (International Consultant), with co-facilitation support from Joanne.



### NCA Partnership

CWS Vietnam has begun to discuss an alliance with Norwegian Church Aid in Vietnam to coordinate disaster preparedness and response activities. In November, Joanne met with the NCA Secretary General, Atle Sommerfeldt, and the new Vietnam Representative, Ingunn Brandvoll, to develop an action plan to further align both organizations interests and activities in disaster response. Additional meetings and follow up will take place in January

### Visitors to CWS Vietnam

- Skip Dangers, CWS Regional Coordination Asia Pacific: Visited CWS Vietnam office October 12 to discuss operations and planning.
- Michelle Calhoun, Senior Marketing Specialist, USDA: Visited ethnic minority education project funded by USDA, September 5.
- Finnish Ecumenical Lutheran Mission (FELM): CWS Vietnam hosted a visit of 4 members from FELM on November 14. The purpose was to discuss development cooperation in Vietnam

## Staff Update

### **Birthdays: Yen, Giao, Dung**

CWS had celebrated 3 birthdays in the last quarter of the year for Ms. Yen, Program Assistant on November 12, Ms Giao, Admin & Finance Manager on November 22 and Mr. Dung, Program Manager on December 13. CWS wish them all the best in their new age.

### **Ms Mai's to study abroad**

In the end of July, Ms. Mai said goodbye to all CWS staff to pursue a Masters Degree course in the USA. CWS would like to congratulate Ms. Mai on her success.

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

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