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LWF waters the life of poor people



LWF Nepal

Jamuna Tamang, resident of Dumse village of Damak Municipality-5, Jhapa district in the eastern part of Nepal, got relief from water scarcity which the village faced for many years. Until two years ago the village's only source of water was Mawa River, 1.5 kilometers away from the village. The villagers were compelled to drink unsafe water. Tamang used to have a little bit better water during the rainy season by collecting rain water.

Narayan Limbu of the same village also faced similar difficulties. Narayan used to collect milk from the village and sell to the local Humse Dumse cooperative. He was forced to clean milk can with dirty water. Sometimes people used to refuse to buy his milk due to bad smell. He was in difficulty.

Their fate changed after Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Nepal with funding from the European Commission and UNHCR, constructed a water tank of 100,000 liters capacity and began distributing water to 24 families of the village. After getting clean water Narayan maintained hygiene of the milk he collected. His sale went up to 200 liters milk daily, up from 150 liters.

A total of 386 households of Damak Municipality-5 have been receiving clean drinking water from the tank. Water to the tank is being supplied from the Mawa River.

Of the total cost of NPR 5,088,000 (approx. Euro 40,704), locals contributed NPR 832,000 (approx. Euro 6,656) while the project covered the remaining amount. There are no addi-



tional operational costs except for the watchman. People have now filled the holes in their yards used to collect water. Chairperson of Dumse Water and Sanitation Consumers' Committee Dal Bahadur Rai said that in the past people and animals used to get sick. These days, with time spent for fetching water from the river saved, they have been able to send their children to school on time and work on their kitchen garden. ■

Disabled child can further enjoy his learning at school



Vongkam joins cleaning activity at school with his friends



Vongkam with his family at home



LWF Laos

Vongkam, 11 years old boy with disability, he's got seeing disability. He is child among 7 children of Mr Kam Aiy Ser, 50 years old and Ms Oun Boun, 40 years old, they are one of the poorest families in the village, live in rural Khmu ethnic village in Viengphoukha district, Luangnamtha province.

Vongkam studies in grade 2 of primary school, he receives scholarship support from LWF Rights Based Empowerment Project (RBEP) through provision of education materials such as books, pencils, textbook, uniforms, school bag, and others.

Ms Da LWF Community empowerment Facilitator (CEF) who works based in this village told

that "Normally Vongkam is supposed to study in higher grade but because of his disability made his learning and development slower than others children"

Supporting scholarships is among many activities under empowering people access to social services especially the most vulnerable groups of people in the villages. There are many factors contribute to low quality of education including lack of proper teaching techniques, insufficient supportive materials and non-friendly learning environment for children particularly for children with special needs.

Mr Phan, primary school teacher grade 2 said that "Vongkam's family is very poor, they could

not afford to fully support Vongkam to study, he just got one little tinny book and pencil to the class" Mr Phan and other teachers in school have never obtained additional training to further improve their teaching skills especially for children with special needs.

A school director, Mr Tokkeo said that "we have to go and talk to Vongkam's family many times to ensure his regularly present at school" he also emphasized that "I always suggest his teacher to give special attention to Vongkam, ensure he's happy at school without discrimination since I observed the evidences of ridicule among his friends"

Mr Kam aiy said that "I'm very much happy that my son received the

support from LWF, we don't have capacity to handle this and we're also illiterate, Vongkam is very active at home I think also at school"

Kam Aiy family has strong committed to continuously encourage Vongkam and their other children to school. And thanks to LWF for considering this assistance to the family.

vLWF Laos values all form of education as important tool to support enhancement of community understanding and united, turn people from dark to brighter corners and contribute to sustainable development. LWF Laos together with the communities will continuously seek grassroots of poverty and address them together.

First Khmu Ethnic Woman Leader in the Village



Ms Buapha middle with CEF and others VA member VPK

LWF Laos

Buapha, 28 years old khmu ethnic woman lives with her husband and 3 daughters in rural community of Vieng-phoukha district, Luangnamtha province.

Buapha and her family live a village where LWF Rights Based empowerment Project (RBEP) is being implemented. Buapha is very active woman in the village; her family is one among many role model families within the village.

As a result of organized awareness campaign on gender equity and women empowerment of the project, the Village Authority (VA) envisages significant competences in Buapha and interest to promote her as one of the village authority members. Ms Amphone LWF Community Empowerment Facilitator (CEF) said that “since the VA wants to promote and higher roles of women and involve them more in the village development work, and they focused to Buapha immediately”.



Village Head for Pangxai village VPK

Buapha is delighted and willing to part of the village development work since she and her family have been contributing their times and skills on this ranging from being leader for youth and women union in the village. Buapha later was elected as village head by the villagers and VA members.

Buapha told that “in the previous of time, women understood that only men are able to take roles in decision making” she also addressed that “women in the village are very quiet and shy to express

their thoughts and concerns in the meetings, I want to change this perspective”.

This is such new faces of experiences in the village and villagers to have woman as part of the authority. Mr Sompheng, one of the VA members said that “the villagers are very delighted and congratulate to Buapha for this opportunity”.

Given the great opportunity, Buapha has been demonstrating effective roles and responsibilities, given trainings from LWF, contributes her knowledge and skills into her work, widening her experiences about women issues within the communities and actively participate in the project operation in the community.

LWF will further support intervention on women empowerment advocacy from

grass root level in the within the operation areas, ensure that women everywhere particularly in rural ethnic communities aware of their rights and live in peace and without all form of discrimination.

Efforts of Women for Bearing of Fruits - Community Orchard



Women are engaged in weeding and watering the plants

LWSIT

Jahurbona is one of the tribal communities under STEER (Rural) project Bankura Unit which has been adopted by LWSIT in 2014. With 12 members from among the tribal women, they formed a Self Help Group prior to LWSIT intervention, but unfortunately no body was there to neither guide them nor nurture them for their development.

After intervention of LWSIT and at the time of community meeting, the members of women groups expressed their willingness to take up various developmental initiatives with the support from LWSIT.

In the process, members of women group were involved in various types of training, meeting, exposure visits to nearby Ranjitpur community & Rangapara communities wherein they got motivated themselves to explore further

opportunities around them.

Consequently, they thought up to develop orchard by planting fruit plants and in order to realize this, they took some land on lease for 25 years from the land owners with agreed terms and conditions between the Women SHG and land owner.

The women group was inspired by seeing the results of similar support provided by LWSIT in neighbouring village. So, this group developed a mixed Orchard (Mango+Jackfruit) covering 4 acres of land as Community Orchard.

They have planted 200 nos. of Mango plants and 200 nos. of Jackfruit plants in this field and entire management of this orchard is done by the women group members themselves.

The fruit plants will be matured within four to five years and will start giving fruits to

provide supplementary nutrition for their family members as well as to increase the group fund through selling of Mango and Jackfruits.

Most importantly, the grown up plants will release Oxygen to the atmosphere and receive CO₂ from the atmosphere in order to reduce carbon emission. In order to feed the plants, the group have constructed a Vermin Compost pit at the orchard site from which they fetch the organic matters and apply to the plants.

Besides, agro-horticulture is planned to grow some vegetables and field crops at the space available between rows and columns of the fruit trees. In the long run, the group is expected to fetch at least Rs 75,000/- (US\$ 1,170/- approx..) in the first year which will increase further with growth and expansion of the fruit trees.

About AZEECON

AZEECON is an informal, member-led regional network of field programs and Associate Programs of Lutheran World Federation/Dept of World Service active in promoting disaster risk reduction in seven countries.

AZEECON's primary role is primarily capacity-building - facilitating practical, peer-to-peer learning in the broad field of LRRD (Linking Relief, Rehabilitation & Development) responding to mem-

bers' needs and priorities. AZEECON offers a convenient and cost-effective platform for member organisations and staff to gain knowledge, exchange ideas and interact regionally.

Over the past 5 years, over 500 staff have participated in the range of capacity-building activities conducted in topics such as Trafficking, Food Security, Climate Change, HAP, SPHERE Standards, Youth, Advocacy, RBA etc.

Country Members



ASIAN ZONE EMERGENCY AND ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION NETWORK



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