



Expanding & Enhancing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (E² WASH) NEW IDEA 2020

Final Report | January – December 2020

BACKGROUND

New Integrated Development and Essential Action 2020 (New IDEA) is a multi-sector initiative designed to help communities and families address the challenges they face in attaining their right to a dignified wellbeing. In many ways and places, Vietnam is a relatively prosperous and developing country. However, too many of its citizens—mostly from its ethnic minority communities—live in poverty and vulnerability.

Now, with expanded and more integrated programming than in past years, CWS and our donors are renewing our commitment to the empowerment of some of Vietnam's most disadvantaged communities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In the E² WASH initiative designed by the CWS Vietnam team through Week of Compassion partnership is building on recent successes and lessons to continue addressing Sustainable Development Goals 6.1.1 and 6.2.1. In partnership with communities, local government duty bearers and quasi-government Women's and Youth Unions, the project helps people improve their lives by continuing community mobilization households and community to improve their access safe and good quality water. The project supports improved hygiene and sanitation and increased focus on waste management in schools, clinics, and communities.

In communities where the water quantity and/or quality is tenuous, CWS and Week of Compassion are helping families, leaders and government partners improve their limited, inefficient, or otherwise lacking water sources and systems. As planned, we are using the Community-led Total Sanitation¹ approach to expand outreach and impact because of (i) its success to date and (ii) staff expertise in using it effectively to raise people's awareness and mobilize communities to achieve E² WASH aims in homes, schools, clinics and community Culture Houses.

Additionally, safe, low-cost (i) household bio-sand water filtration is being promoted alongside environmental sanitation improvement measures: (ii) family biogas education/production/use and (iii) community trash| garbage collection.

The project has two objectives:

1. Communities have expanded and improved knowledge of positive sanitation and hygiene
2. Communities have improved access to safe water and sanitation infrastructure

¹ Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) is a methodology for mobilizing communities to end open defecation starting with help in self-appraisal and analysis of their sanitation profile followed by action to become ODF (open defecation free). CLTS is designed to be provocative and fun and to facilitate/support community (not outsider) decisions to build low-cost sanitary latrines, and to reward ODF households and penalize OD ones.

E² WASH LOCATIONS and PARTICIPANTS

The people with whom E² WASH team members are working are from a number of ethnic minority groups living in mountainous communities in five Communes of Than Uyen district and three communes in Chiem Hoa district. Both districts are in northwest Vietnam, which is one of the poorest regions of the country. Almost a half of the people here live in poverty as it is defined by Vietnam’s government. For example, more than 40% of families in Ta Hua commune live on incomes well below the official poverty line of VND700,000 (\$31) a month.

In villages prioritized for E² WASH, women and children are most negatively affected by substandard hygiene and sanitation conditions. So, women, children and disabled people are prioritized in promoting and implementing activities with their active participation.

YEAR-END PROGRESS | RESULTS

	# people benefitting directly			# of people benefitting indirectly		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
<i>12 months: January – December 2021</i>						
< 5 children	746	782	1,528			
Children ages 5+ to 18	1,462	1,480	2,942	1,100	1,100	2,200
Adults	1,154	1,160	2,314	2,068	2,069	4,137
Total	3,362	3,422	6,784	3,168	3,169	6,337

Objective 1: Communities have expanded and improved knowledge of positive sanitation and hygiene.

- 33 community leaders, including 14 women, joined a Training of Trainers workshop and gained knowledge and skills about Community-led Total Sanitation for community awareness raising.
- From CLTS mobilization events, 637 people, about half (297) women, gained information and new knowledge about sanitary latrines, including why and how to build them.
- 35 women and 60 men gained technical skills to build sanitary latrines.
- 14 women and 20 young men from Women's / Youth Unions gained knowledge and information to become community garbage management and collection motivators.
- 679 villagers, 72% (492) of whom are women, have new information and knowledge about environmental sanitation, including single-use plastic trash and garbage management.
- Two bio-sand filter teams formed to produce low cost bio-sand water filters for home use.

Objective 2: Communities have improved access to safe water and sanitation infrastructure.

- 246 women and 250 men now know the benefits of using biosand filtered safe water.
- 337 families built sanitary latrines, and CWS verified that 100% are using them properly.
- 306 people in 68 families areas are using bio-sand water filters at home.
- 22 schools have improved access to safe water, improved sanitation, and healthier environments than before (E²) WASH: wells; sanitary bathrooms and kitchens; reduced-smoke, fuel efficient stoves; added sinks to help address COVID-19 prevention.
- A community-managed gravity-fed filtered water system built for 43 families and two schools.

Activity	Participants	Results / Observed Change
11 CLTS start-up events for community awareness raising	637 people: 297 (46.6%) women	People improved their knowledge of sanitary latrines and hygiene behaviors
11 community events about home trash garbage classification and collection	679 people: 492 (72.5%) women	Villagers learned simple home trash garbage management practice
One training to raise awareness about trash garbage collection	20 women; 14 men	Community leaders gained knowledge / communication skills to mobilize trash/garbage management

Sharing sanitary latrine leaflets	2,000 villagers: 50% women	Families learned and encouraged in making sanitary latrines
Sanitation promotion: Billboards	1,900 villagers: 50% women	People learned and were encouraged to add sanitary latrines and improve their home trash garbage collection
Building family latrines	1,638 people; 50% women	337 families built sanitary latrines and use them
One CLTS Training of Trainers	14 women; 19 men	Participants improved their knowledge and skills to lead community CLTS start-up events
Cross-learning / peer sharing about bio-sand filter production	30 women; 26 men	People learned about bio-sand water filter construction and home use
Two technical trainings for bio-sand water filters safe water storage	25 women; 31 men	People learned to build bio-sand water filters Two bio-sand teams formed
Four communication events for bio-sand filter use	496 people; 50% women	People learned about and are encouraged to use safe water, using bio-sand filters
Bio-sand teams receive basic equipment to build filters	Six men	Two bio-sand teams can make filters for families to buy/use for safer water
	306 people (34% women)	68 families use bi-sand water filters for their quality water use
32 new sinks at schools (accelerated for COVID19 prevention)	4,470 children: 2,208 girls (49.3%)	Students and teachers in 16 schools can wash their hands with soap for COVID19 infection prevention/general hygiene
School WASH facilities improvement	451 girls; 509 boys	Students have improved access to WASH facilities
Community WASH facilities improvement	90 women/girls; 90 men/boys	46 families and 2 schools have improved access to safe water

CHALLENGES AND CHANGES

Vietnam had two COVID-19 outbreaks in 2020. The more serious one lasted from March to May. During the first six month of 2020, in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, many E² WASH activities were delayed, especially those requiring people to gather for workshops or community awareness raising events. In this context, CWS team members rescheduled project activities and focused on preparation for differently paced activities implementation once Government-mandated restrictions on movement and gatherings eased. Additionally, since relatively few people were involved and

gatherings not required to improve WASH facilities, including sinks, improvements in communities and in schools were completed.

In the second half of 2020, E² WASH progressed well. Delayed activities like mobilizing for sanitary latrine building and bio-sand water filter promotion gained momentum. Both homes and schools benefited. A School-led Total Sanitation Training of Trainers for teachers was facilitated right after COVID-19 restrictions were lifted in August and when the new school-year began in early September. The project got back on track and all activities were completed by the end of the year as planned.

All project participants in homes and schools told the CWS Vietnam team that they appreciated E² WASH's participatory approach to community improvements. Participants in three communes – all of which were new to CWS engagement – mobilized and brought a fundamental change in people's awareness, ways of thinking, knowledge and skills. For thousands of people, trust in the effectiveness of CLTS and SLTS approaches grew. One additional positive result, which CWS staff has experienced with other communities, is that the project helped strengthen solidarity among villagers. It increased both participation and accountability for responsible water-use by building up mutually agreed village rules for management and maintenance of project results.

FUNDS USE

All the fund of \$150,000 was used by December 2020 for activities and results as reported in the below summary.

Description	Budget (\$)	Actual exp. (\$)	Variance (\$)	% variance
Hygiene education	15,324.58	15,029.19	295.39	98.1%
Adult education and mobilization		6,635.40		
School-based children education/mobilization		4,066.71		
IEC materials		4,327.08		
WASH expansion	81,735.42	81,454.28	281.14	99.7%
Water supply		15,130.87		
Bio-sand home water filtration		4,333.89		
Household and school sanitary latrines		45,984.42		
Biogas production		818.13		
Sanitary kitchen/reduced smoke stove		8,910.55		
Trash/garbage management		6,276.42		
Monitoring/Evaluation	6,000.00	6,576.53	(576.53)	109.6%
Program Support (Admin & Personnel)	46,940.00	46,940.00	-	100.0%
TOTAL	150,000.00	150,000.00	-	100.0%

STORY OF CHANGE

Fair water access promotes peace in Cao Binh village

Cao Binh is a Tay ethnic minority village in Vietnam's northwestern mountains. Its name likely comes from its location: "Cao" means "high" and "Binh" means "flat". So, "Cao Binh" is the flat area on a high mountain.

For drinking water, people here use a small stream about a mile from the center of their village. The stream's flow changes seasonally and families often face water shortages. This is especially so in the dry season from December to March. Because of the challenge of having *enough* water to drink, cook with and bathe, villagers do not care much about its quality. They care about the quantity they can collect.

Not surprisingly, especially during shortages, water is a cause of conflict. Since water-sharing among families was not a past practice, the situation was bad. And, since better-off households had money to build simple pipelines to tap upstream water, this left others without much, if any, water.





Facing the challenge and opportunity to help Cao Binh families address this water crisis, CWS was blessed to have funding from Week of Compassion to help. In the context of a larger program to support ethnic minority communities, in early 2020 CWS joined community leaders in a needs assessment and water supply survey in Cao Binh. With findings in hand, Mr. Thang, the official Cao Binh leader, met with Women's Union members, school leaders, respected villagers and People's Committee leaders. And, with CWS staff, these groups thought through, discussed, and planned a solution to their water crisis.

In two community meetings, everyone had a chance to share ideas. Then, there was consensus for the design and use of a gravity-fed piped water system. In all, 43 families registered to join a new Water Users' Group. Importantly, they also agreed to contribute their labor to dig trenches and transport materials. Additionally, each family agreed to pay 300,000 Vietnamese Dong (\$13) to buy a water meter and small pipe to connect the main pipe to their house.

An operation and maintenance team was also formed. Everyone agreed on a three-person team. Then, water use fees were agreed for operations and maintenance costs. Each family agreed to pay 1,000 dong per cubic meter of water used for the first 20 cubic meters, and 2,000 dong if they used more water. After these agreements, CWS helped the team create a water use and fee collection record keeping system to ensure transparency and sustainable simple accounting and accountability.

Mr. Thang, Cao Binh village head, shared his thoughts with CWS staff, "People are now satisfied with the water supply system. It is well designed and, as planned, easy to use and maintain. With household meters [that show use], people are more responsible in using water. Also, homes at the end of the pipeline now have enough water. And village solidarity is improved and conflicts over water no longer happen."

“If there was not a CWS project, I would go to the stream for defecation my whole life”

Pa Chi Tau is a small village with 25 Thai ethnic minority families. The village is five miles from the commune center along a poor quality road. There is no public electricity service, limited piped water for homes and, as such, almost no home sanitation. Until recently only four families had latrines, and open defecation in streams and forests is the people’s habit.

In mid-2020, with support from Week of Compassion, CWS introduced Community-led Total Sanitation in Pa Chi Tau and was one of the women among those joining the project start-up session. At the session, Yen learned the importance of stopping open defecation as the main cause of illness for her family and others in the village. So, right away, Yen wanted to have a sanitary latrine. But, she did not know how she could afford to have one. "I have heard people say that making a sanitary latrine is very expensive – about 30 million Vietnamese Dong (\$1,300)," she said. This is also the concern of other families, most of whom are quite poor.

Despite misgivings by most many villagers, CWS organized a community event for people to understand how to build a low-cost sanitary latrine.

Using a simple design locally available materials, families learned that they could build a good quality latrine for just one-tenth the cost they imagined; 3 million, not 30 million Dong!

With this awareness, Yen was very happy, and she decided to make one. With technical help from CWS staff and district health workers her family sanitary built in September 2020.

Showing CWS team members her finished latrine, Yen said, "Without CWS help, I would have gone to the stream [instead of using a latrine] for my whole life. Thanks to this project, my family has built this latrine".

She added, in the end, "The cost was about 2.5 million Dong. If I knew this [was possible], I would have built a latrine a long time ago".



By the end of November 2020, other families built and started using sanitary latrines. The village was appraised by district Health Center then certified and honored Pa Chi Tau as an Open-Defecation Free village.