



EXPANDING | ENHANCING WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (E² WASH) – SUPPORTING RURAL FAMILIES TO ACCESS SUSTAINABLE CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION IN VIETNAM DURING COVID-19
NEW IDEA 2022

OCTOBER 2021 – MARCH 2022
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE (CWS) VIETNAM

Interim Report



PROJECT BACKGROUND

New Integrated Development and Essential Action (New IDEA) is a multi-sector initiative designed to help communities and families address the challenges they face in attaining their right to dignified wellbeing. While Vietnam is a relatively prosperous country, it has too many citizens, mostly from among its ethnic minority and rural communities, who are vulnerable and live in poverty; this is especially salient for indigenous communities.

The **E²WASH** program, supported by Week of Compassion (WOC), CWS Vietnam aims to build on recent years' successes and lessons learned to continue addressing Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 6.1.1. and 6.2.1. In partnerships with communities, including local government duty bearers and quasi-government Women's and Youth Unions, key interventions to help people improve their lives will prioritize community mobilization for safe, quality household and community access to water, which will support improved hygiene and sanitation alongside increased focus on waste management in schools, clinics and communities.

In communities, where the water quantity and/or quality is tenuous, CWS will help families, leaders and government partners improve their limited, inefficient or otherwise lacking water sources and systems.

Further, the Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and School-led Total Sanitation (SLTS) approaches will continue to be used 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 for E2 WASH aims. Using CLTS and SLTS methodologies, improved WASH will be promoted in homes, schools, clinics and community Culture Houses.

Additionally, safe, low-cost (i) household biosand water filtration will be promoted as will a focus on environmental sanitation, which will include (ii) use of probiotics for safe and sustainable animal waste management, and (iii) community trash | garbage collection, which are complementary project components.

These all together are more important given the COVID-19 pandemic situation with Delta and Omicron variants continue to spread quickly and widely throughout the country. With WOC funding, the project on WASH improvement and public awareness raising about hygiene and sanitation is, therefore, more meaningful for Vietnam COVID-19 prevention.

The people with whom E² WASH team members will work are from a number of different ethnic minority groups living in mountainous communities in Than Uyen and Chiem Hoa districts in Vietnam north/northwest regions, where almost a half of the people are living in poverty as it is defined by Vietnam's government.

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.

PROJECT PROGRESS | RESULT

Project participants by age and gender:

	# of direct participants			# of indirect participants		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
October 2021 – March 2022						
< 5 children	0	0	0	0	0	0
Children ages 5+ to 18	139	119	258	0	0	0
Adults	499	510	1,009	295	290	585
Total	638	629	1,267	295	290	585

Project implementation and results

Activities	Participants	Results
Objective 1: Communities have enhanced knowledge of positive sanitation and hygiene behaviors		
Community events for awareness raising and mobilization for animal waste management	100 people (50 women)	After 2 workshops about safely waste management, there are 30 pioneer families committed to use probiotics for animal waste treatment
Sanitary latrine promotion Built new and repaired	630 people (310 women)	140 sanitary latrines built/repaired by families. Home and village environmental sanitation is being improved toward achieving open defecation free (ODF) status
Community events for awareness raising and mobilization for home trash garbage management	700 families (almost all women)	700 families practice home trash garbage collection and sorting. 2,000 eco-bricks were made from single-use nylon bags to build community works
Objective 2: Schools Communities have improved access to safe water and sanitation infrastructures		
Upgrade sanitary bathroom of Tri Phu commune health station	50 people (25 women)	Patients/visitors have sanitary facility to use when they stay/visit the commune health station
Make a water well and water filter for Trung Ha primary school	258 students (119 girls), and 44 teachers (35 women)	School students, especially the boarding ones, and teachers have improved access to clean water for drinking and handwashing
Sanitary kitchen and eating room for boarding students of Trung Ha primary school	100 students (46 girls)	Boarding students, who come from far villages, have sanitary and more convenient facilities for their learning and boarding at schools

Support community initiatives in the ODF-achieved villages: making a front-cover roof of Chieng Ban village cultural house	585 people (290 women)	130 families in the village have a safe and more convenient space for organizing community activities
--	------------------------	---

CHALLENGES AND CHANGES

During the reporting period (from October 2021 to March 2022), Vietnam has been seriously affected by COVID-19 epidemic. Both the Delta firstly and the Omicron variants later have continued spreading quickly and widely throughout the country. Hanoi remains the highest city/province affected. The city is categorized into zones from green to yellow, orange, and red depending on the pandemic situation.

The situation is also increasing in project locations. The District People's Committee decided to stop or postpone activities with large groups of people gathering, especially project training and community awareness raising events, to focus on COVID-19 control and prevention. Travels to and from the districts are more restricted, especially those from Hanoi, with self-quarantine applied if people come from orange or red zones.

This, as a result, has caused some slowness in project implementation. However, CWS staff and local partners have worked together to build more suitable timeframe for project activity implementation to meet with the situation.

FUNDS USE

A project budget of US\$49,527 was approved by WOC for a 12-month period from 01 October 2021 to 30 September 2022.

By the end of February 2022, a total of US\$15,308.30, which accounts for 31% of the budget, was used for project implementation.

STORY OF CHANGE

Story of Ms Dau building sanitary latrine

Noong Ma village has 43 families of Kho Mu and H'Mong ethnic minorities living on the high mountainous area. The village is about 7km away from the commune center.

Earlier, the whole village had only 8 families, who use latrines. These families are village head and those have family members go far to do business. All other families do not have latrines and people practice open defecation around the forest and along streams. No ones know of any sanitary latrine models.

To change the situation, CWS led community awareness raising sessions to introduce and to mobilize people to build and use sanitary latrines. By using local languages that are friendly and easy to understand for people to introduce and explain the fecal-oral transmission route

and disease transmission route, people get to know why it is necessary to stop doing open defecation as well as why to build sanitary latrines.

Ms. Ly Thi Dau, a 47 year-old H'Mong woman, who has a family of 6 people including her husband and their 2 sons, her daughter-in-law and a grandson, shared: *"I participated in the communication session. Now I understand the need to build sanitary latrine and the reason why my grandson get stunted. It's because he is infected with worms and couldn't grow well. Before, I didn't understand why, but now I understand that it is because our family defecated in an open hole behind the house, which was so polluted. I discussed with my husband to build a latrine as introduced by the project, but my husband and I only know how to do farming, not sure if we can build a latrine or not. Hiring a mason is very expensive, we cannot afford it"*. Ms. Dau's concern about how to build a cheap sanitary latrine is also the concern of other people in the village.

In October 2021, CWS organized a training on how to build sanitary latrine in the village. Ms. Dau enthusiastically participated in the training. CWS and project partners from district Health Center and commune Health Station, People's Committee worked with villagers to together build a sample sanitary latrine. Ms. Dau added: *"The training is easy to understand. I joined in*



digging the septic tank, installing the mold to make the septic tank and the squat pan. Now I can do it myself. I discussed with my husband to do it immediately as instructed. The estimated cost of the latrine is about 1,500,000 VND, not as much as I thought”.

After the training, Ms. Dau had mobilized 5 more families of Ly A Dao, Ly A Khay, Ly A Giang, Vang A Phua, and Sung Thi Tra, who also participated in the training, to build latrines together to save money for material purchase and for sharing transportation cost of the materials to the village. They also worked together to share their labors for speeding up the progress of making the latrines.

During the process of latrine making, the officials of People's Committees and Health Station of the commune regularly supervised and guided the families to make the latrines technically right. By November 2021, the 6 families completed the building and started using their latrines.

Ms. Dau happily shared: *“Before, my family had not built a latrine, and most of the village did not have latrines, so it was very difficult when there is a need for defecation. When it rained, the road was slippery, and the smell was bad. As in the dry season, it was very embarrassing because the forest is poor this season, there is no shrubs to cover when going out. It was easy to be met by the others and very shy. Now that I have a latrine, my life is much better”.*

In Noong Ma village, the families live in different residential clusters. CWS conducted technical training and making the latrine model for all participants together in the village. Then, after training, families in each residential cluster join together to build their latrines. By this way, they save the cost of buying and transporting construction materials, avoid technical mistakes as well as accelerate the progress of making latrines, towards achieving the open-defecation free (ODF) status of the whole village.

