



# EXPANDING | ENHANCING WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (E<sup>2</sup> WASH)

January - June 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 dignified wellbeing. Vietnam is, in many ways and places, a relatively prosperous and developing country. However, it has too many citizens, mostly from among its ethnic minority communities, who live in poverty and vulnerability. Now, with expanded and more integrated programming than in past years, CWS renews its commitment, with its donors, to the empowerment of some of Vietnam's most disadvantaged communities.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION / OBJECTIVES

In the *Expanding and Enhancing (E<sup>2</sup>) WASH* initiative, which the Vietnam team designed for the Week of Compassion partnership, CWS is building on recent successes and lessons learned to continue addressing Sustainable Development Goals 6.1.1. and 6.2.1. In partnership with communities, including local government duty bearers and quasi-government Women's and Youth Unions, key interventions to help people improve their lives are continuing community mobilization for safe, quality household and community access to water. This access 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, the Community-led Total Sanitation<sup>1</sup> approach is being 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 E<sup>2</sup> WASH aims in homes, schools, clinics and community Culture Houses.

Additionally, safe, low-cost household bio-sand water filtration is being promoted alongside two environmental sanitation improvement measures: family biogas education/production/use and community garbage collection.

The project has two objectives:

- a. Communities have expanded and improved knowledge of positive sanitation and hygiene
- b. Communities have improved access to safe water and sanitation infrastructure

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<sup>1</sup> Community Led Total Sanitation 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 certified as 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. It also means to reward open defecation free households.

## LOCATION & PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

The people with whom E<sup>2</sup> 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. Nearly half the people in this area live in poverty, as defined by the government of Vietnam. 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 E<sup>2</sup> WASH, women and children are most negatively affected by substandard hygiene and sanitation conditions. So, women, children and people with disabilities are prioritized in promoting and implementing activities with their active participation.

	# of program participants			# of indirect beneficiaries		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
<i>Current reporting period</i>						
< 5 children	746	782	1,528			
Children ages 5+ to 18	1,462	1,480	2,942			
Adults	947	582	1,529	900	900	1,800
Total	3,155	2,844	5,999	900	900	1,800

## PROGRAM RESULTS

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

- 33 community leaders joined a Training of Trainers workshop and gained new knowledge and skills about Community-led Total Sanitation for community awareness raising
- From CLTS mobilization events, 613 villagers have added information and new knowledge about sanitary latrines, including why and how to build them
- 34 people from Women's / Youth Union members gained knowledge and information to become community garbage management and collection motivators
- 679 villagers have added information and new knowledge about environmental sanitation; they learned simple ways to for trash (e.g., plastic bottle reuse) and| garbage management
- Two bio-sand 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

- 89 families built sanitary latrines and, with monitoring, 100% are using them properly
- 11 families area using bio-sand water filters at home
- 17 schools to have improved access to safe water, improved sanitation and healthier environments: wells, sanitary bathrooms, kitchens, reduced-smoke, fuel efficient stoves
- A community-managed gravity-fed filtered water system built for 43 families and two schools

Activity	Participants	Results / Observed Change
10 Community-Led Total Sanitation start-up events for community awareness raining	613 people (285 women)	People improved their knowledge of sanitary latrines and hygiene behaviors
11 community events about home trash  garbage classification and collection	679 people (492 women)	Villagers learned simple home garbage management practice
1 gathering to raise awareness about garbage collection	34 people (20 women)	Community leaders gained knowledge / communication skills to mobilize trash/garbage management
Sharing sanitary latrine leaflets	2,000 villagers (1,000 women)	Families learned and encouraged in making sanitary latrines
Sanitation promotion: billboards	1,800 villagers (900 women)	People learned and were encouraged to add sanitary latrines and improve their home garbage collection
Building family latrines	400 people (195 women)	89 families built sanitary latrines and use them
1 Community-Led Total Sanitation Training of Trainers	33 persons (14 women)	Participants improved their knowledge and skills to lead community CLTS start-up events
Cross-learning / peer sharing about bio-sand filter production	24 persons (6 women)	People learned about bio-sand water filter construction and home use
2 technical training events for bio-sand water filters   safe water storage	47 persons (14 women)	People learned to build bio-sand water filters   2 bio-sand teams formed
Bio-sand teams receive basic equipment to build filters	6 men	Two bio-sand teams can make filters for families to buy/use for safer water
	56 people (27 women)	11 families use bi-sand water filters for their quality water use
32 new sinks at schools (accelerated to address COVID-19 prevention)	4,470 children (2,208 girls)	Students and teachers of 16 schools can wash their hands   Special attention to soap use for COVID-19 infection prevention
School WASH facilities improvement	533 children (215 girls)	Students have improved access to WASH facilities
Community WASH facilities improvement	233 persons (113 women)	43 families and two schools have improved access to safe water



## **STORY OF CHANGE: Quality Water Means Peace in Cao Binh Village**

Cao Binh is a Tay ethnic minority village in Vietnam's northwestern mountains. It is in Chiem Hoa district in Tuyen Quang province. The name Cao Binh likely originates in the location of the village itself: "Cao" means "high" and "Binh" means "flat." So, "Cao Binh" is the flat area on a high mountain.

For drinking water, the people of Cao Binh use a small stream a little less than a mile from the center of the village. The stream is small and its flow rate changes seasonally. Families often face water shortages in the dry season, which runs from December to March.

In this situation where water is a limited resource, villagers prioritize quantity over quality. Their main concern is for how much they can collect, not how clean the water is.

Not surprisingly, water access can be a source of tension among families, especially during acute shortages. In the past, better-off households could afford to build simple pipelines to tap upstream. This left other households with little or no water.

With support from Week of Compassion, CWS has been able to help Cao Binh address their water crisis as part of our New IDEA 2020 initiative. In the context of other New IDEA activities, in early 2020 CWS joined community leaders to initiate a needs assessment and water supply survey in Cao Binh. CWS staff met with Mr. Thang, the head of Cao Binh head, to brainstorm about addressing the water crisis. We also consulted Women's Union members, school leaders, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commune People's Committee and other village leaders.

In two community-wide meetings at the Culture House, everyone had a chance to share ideas and come to a consensus for the design and use of a gravity-fed piped water system. In all, 43 households registered to join a newly formed Water Users' Group and agreed to contribute their labor to dig the pipeline trenches and transport building materials. Additionally, each family agreed to a

\$13 fee to buy a water meter and smaller pipe to connect the main pipe to their house.

An operation and maintenance team was also proposed, and everyone agreed on a three-person team, which was duly elected. CWS helped the new team create a water use and water fee collection record to ensure transparency of the system's operation. Water-use fees were also agreed to cover maintenance and ops costs: VND 1,000 in rainy season and VND 2,000 in dry season for every cubic meter of water used. The fees will be collected by end of July 2020.

Mr. Thang, shared his thoughts with CWS staff: *"People are now satisfied with the water supply system. It is well designed and, as planned, easy to operation and maintain. With household meters in place to show use and fees due, people are more responsible in using water. Also, households at the end of the pipeline now have enough water. Also, village solidarity is improved and conflicts over water no longer happen."*



## CHALLENGES AND CHANGES

During the first six months of 2020, in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, many New IDEA 2020 activities were delayed. In particular, we suspended activities requiring people to gather for workshops or community awareness-raising events. In this context, CWS team members focused on preparation for differently-paced activities implementation once Government-mandated restrictions on movement and gatherings eased. Additionally, since fewer people were involved and gatherings were not required the team focused on WASH facilities improvements in communities and in schools.

Nonetheless, some activities are still delayed, such as a School-led Total Sanitation Training of Trainers for teachers. Also, mobilizing for sanitary latrine building and bio-sand water filter promotion for homes are delayed, though progressing now.

The Vietnam team estimates that project implementation will lag by four to six weeks by the end of 2020 because of COVID-19.

## FUNDS USE

From January to June, we used \$74,090 (49% of \$150,000) for activities and results as reported.