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FALL 2017

NEIGHBORS

Inside:

**Rainwater Harvesting and Storage Projects
in Indonesia and Peru
Agricultural Diversity in Kenya**





Dear Neighbor,

Autumn with its changing leaves, cooler weather and students returning to school is fast approaching. Around the world, our programs are starting new work plans for the new fiscal year. On June 30th, 2017 we celebrated our first year of renewed independence! The hard work of becoming an independent nonprofit organization that follows best-practices has paid off. In June, Charity Navigator gave us its highest-possible rating: FOUR STARS! This rating was based on our transparency, our sound fiscal practices and our overall viability as a charitable nonprofit.

Last year I had the great pleasure of traveling to many of our program areas. Several of the 13 countries where we work experienced natural disasters and political upheaval. Nevertheless, the work goes on despite the challenges that these poor isolated communities encounter. On my trips I have seen the strength and resilience of those we partner with, the commitment, sensitivity and knowledge of our global staff and volunteers, and have cherished the leadership of our long-term supporters and board members.

In this issue of *Neighbors* you will read about how World Neighbors and our partners are managing changing climates and preparing for natural disasters. Through rainwater storage tanks and agricultural innovations, communities around the world are better prepared to meet the changing extreme weather conditions. You will also see just a few of the amazing photographs that Nicholas Duncan, a young American who traveled to several of our sites over the past year, took on his travels. Nicholas is the son of Nick and Peggy Duncan. Nick served on our Board from 1983 - 1991 and also as Board Chair in 1988 and 1989. Nicholas' pictures capture the incredible beauty of the landscapes and people we work with, but also the dedication with which they are working to improve their lives.

As we enter this second year of independence, I want to once again thank you—our donors—many of whom have been giving to World Neighbors for decades! Our work could not continue to grow and encompass more and more communities that need our help without your dedicated generosity.

Please share *Neighbors* with your friends and family and feel free to share your thoughts with me about this issue. As always, we sincerely appreciate your support and commitment to World Neighbors and our mission.

With gratitude,

Kate Schecter, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer
The May Ayers Milburn Chair



Kate with Nicholas Duncan in Guatemala with
goods made in WN communities

Household Rainwater Storage Tanks Bring Health, Social and Economic Benefits to Lombok, Indonesia

Batu Nampar Selatan is a coastal village in the south of Lombok, Indonesia which regularly experiences terrible water shortages. Seventy percent of its nearly 600 households are categorized as poor or very poor, with most relying on the sea and their small farmlands for both their livelihoods and daily sustenance.

For cooking and drinking, people have to fetch water from a neighboring village that is 7 km away or are forced to buy water from a tanker which visits the village on certain days. In fact, most people use sea water for bathing, washing and defecating. This causes many health problems, especially in small children and pregnant women. There have been many instances when the tanker has failed to arrive as planned, and so midwives have been forced to use sea water when delivering babies, changing to use a small amount of bottled water only right as the baby is being born.

Water bought by the jerry can for drinking and cooking for a family of five costs around \$6.50, and will last about four days. For families who can store larger amounts of water in a household tank, they pay \$6.00 for an amount which can last around 14 days. For poor households - who can spend around \$100 a year on purchasing water for drinking and cooking, this is a huge expense. In fact, the poor households in Batu Nampar Selatan spend more on water than they do on food, health and their children's education.

To respond to this dire need, WN assisted the poor, elderly and disabled families to construct household rainwater storage tanks and catchment systems. The community and individual households provided 60% of the



A water storage tank installed with WN's assistance in Lombok, Indonesia

costs themselves. Since October 2016, 317 households (1,458 people) now have access to these systems. Apart from the obvious health benefits of having a ready supply of clean water, a number of families who previously practiced open-defecation have now built household latrines, which of course need water to function properly.

The much easier availability of water during the wet season has caused an unexpected behavior change too. Before, men would never be seen washing their clothes as this is considered women's work. They now do it much more openly and without embarrassment.

These household catchment systems have motivated a number of people to develop businesses, such as making and selling ice to the fishermen of the village. Families also save money in the dry season as now almost no one needs to buy water by the jerry can. All of this has brought much needed extra income.

This recent example from Batu Nampar Selatan shows that through a simple, inexpensive solution which WN implemented to address a critical challenge, a number of additional solutions have grown and flourished. This is holistic development!

Innovation: Poultry, Dairy Goats and Crop Variation Avert Drought

This article was originally published by The Star on June 17, 2017.

That we are in a season of drought in Kenya, with food shortages experienced countrywide, is not news any more.

Lack of most basic commodities, such as maize flour, sugar and milk, has led to moments of panic

across the country, with the government stepping in to subsidize prices of maize flour.

However, for shrewd, small-scale farmers such as Edward Ouko, known in the community as Eddy, the effects of the drought have bypassed their homes. He has learned to farm other crops successfully, thanks to advocacy efforts and community groups that work together to encourage farmers.

For communities in Busia and Kisumu, growing alternative crops enables them to make a living and meet



their family needs. Their efforts are now bearing fruit, as they get bounty harvests and surplus for sale.

This is thanks to community-based organizations working with World Neighbors, who train farmers on alternative crops to grow and different methods of crop production and livestock husbandry.

LESS FARM INPUTS

World Neighbors, an NGO based in Oklahoma City, runs community-based agriculture programs in Kenya's Busia and Kimumu counties in 1,800 households and 22 villages.

Along with their local partners, World Neighbors has helped introduce new crops, greenhouses, solar technology and sustainable methods that reduce the use of farm inputs and encourage rooftop water harvesting for farming.

The farmers are grouped in common interest groups to learn from one another, depending on their interests. For instance, a group of farmers interested in keeping dairy goats can be formed so that farmers can learn best practices from each other.

"World Neighbors introduced rearing dairy goats and poultry-keeping to us," Eddy said.

"I also cultivate maize, sorghum, butternut, beans, mangoes and an assortment of traditional and exotic vegetables. I have acquired enough skills in agronomy, and now I engage in farming as a business rather than just for subsistence. I am happy to say the fortunes of my family have improved. I can produce enough maize, sorghum, beans, groundnut and cassava for household consumption and for the market."

In his group, they have farmed tomatoes, watermelons, cowpeas, green pepper, butternuts, eggplants and amaranth.

Out of his farming activities, Eddy has been able to educate his children. His daughter is now waiting to join college, while his son is in form two.

CLIMATE-EFFICIENT

He attributes his ability to do all these, even build a new house, to embracing new climate-efficient agricultural practices.

"Two years ago, I was recognized by the Kisumu government as a model farmer and chosen to host the annual World Food Day, during which many farmers and government extension

workers came to learn from my farming experiences."

World Neighbors trains farmers in the production, processing and marketing of their produce, as well as how to run successful, small-scale businesses as other forms of income generation.

Eddy's words of advice to other small-scale farmers is to grab the opportunities climate change has brought.

"In spite of numerous challenges, climate change has also provided opportunities for innovation in the way agriculture is practiced. It cannot be business as usual, but we can manage the threat of water scarcity by adopting innovative soil and water management techniques, planting improved seeds and keeping improved varieties of livestock."

He recommends shifting from the monoculture of maize production to diversifying crops and restoring soil fertility by using compost manure as well as green manure cover crops.

Chris Macoloo of World Neighbors says farmer participation in agricultural value chains and particularly in value addition and marketing improves their incomes. It also cushions them against the predatory and exploitative activities of middlemen or intermediaries, who buy cheaply at farm gate prices and sell at exorbitant profits.

He says farmers have teamed up to establish cereal banks, where they collectively store some of their produce during harvest when prices are low and then sell later when prices improve, thus increasing their earnings from agricultural produce.



Through WN programs, farmers in Kenya have been able to harvest more from their crops

Snapshots from Around the World

Nicholas Duncan recently completed his year-long journey visiting several World Neighbors locations around the world. We have been very lucky to have Nicholas and his incredible photography skills to help us show the world our programs. Nicholas visited World Neighbors programs in Nepal, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Bolivia and Guatemala. We share with you a handful of the hundreds of amazing pictures Nicholas took for World Neighbors.



A farmer feeds his livestock in a WN community in Uganda



A group of Nepalese women participate in a health class



A small-scale farmer in Tanzania shows off the fruits of his labor



An Indonesian man cuts open a coconut to share



A Kenyan farmer takes a break from working her field



Nicholas Duncan with a family in Uganda



A rainwater collection pond in Peru, built with training from World Neighbors

Peru: Showing Resilience in the Face of Natural Disaster

The devastating floods and landslides that hit Peru in March of this year have gone, but the people of Peru are still recovering. With your help and the help of World Neighbors, several communities in Peru received training on how to prepare for and respond to natural disasters. Capacity-building training empowered 932 residents to organize to build trenches and barriers to protect their communities from flooding and mud slides, as well as form groups to identify vulnerable families and help them evacuate.

World Neighbors training also helped these communities find a silver lining in these devastating floods by

allowing them to collect rainwater that will support agricultural production. With your support, 550 farmers worked together to build infiltration trenches as part of the construction of five community rainwater catchment and harvesting systems. With El Niño becoming increasingly unpredictable, the people of Peru and other countries Latin America will need to remain resilient. World Neighbors works with communities around the world on disaster risk reduction to do just that!

Commemorative Gifts Received

April 1st – August 18th

IN HONOR OF

Charles and Carol Blackwood
Harbour Winn

Faith and Dick Duhring
Gregg Biggs

Emily Estes
John and Ruth Estes

Kate Schecter
William and
Catherine Dillon

IN MEMORY OF

Burt and Rose Barth
John and Joyce Lunde

Evangel Bettridge
Bill and Joan Davis

Susan Ferrell
Donald and Sally Ferrell

Hannah Denise McCarty
Jack McCarty

“Ours is a partnership.
We give them
nothing except our
understanding, genuine
love and interest. We
expect them to put as
much into the deal as
we do.”

- Dr. John L. Peters

Search **YouTube** for World Neighbors to watch our documentaries



World Neighbors' work in
Lombok, Indonesia



World Neighbors' work in
Bihar, India

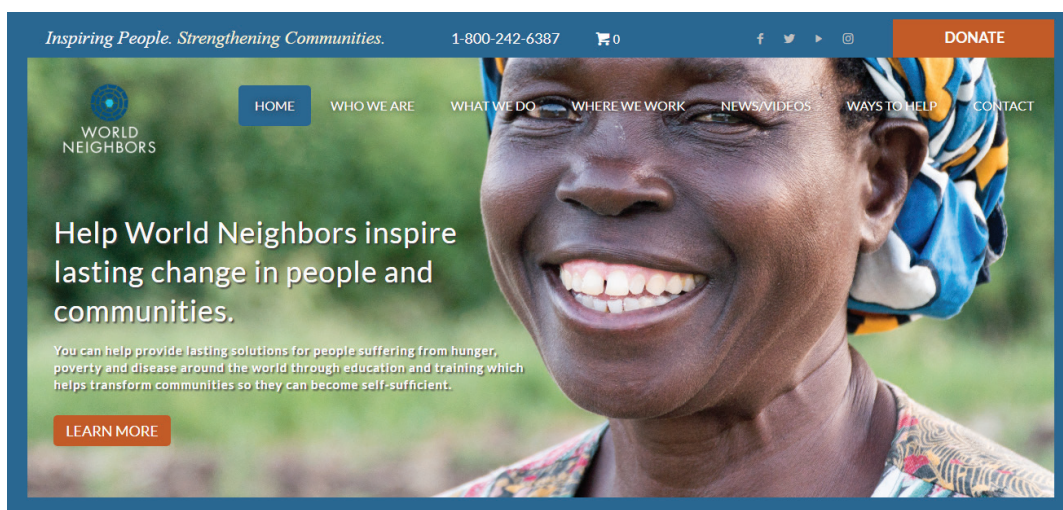
Did You Know?

Planned giving helps World Neighbors secure long-term stability, which allows us to spend more time on the vital work that we undertake.

Through a planned gift, your legacy can give World Neighbors financial security that allows us to spend less time fundraising, and more time focusing on our mission. There are many ways to do planned giving, and gifts can even be made in the name of loved ones. If you are interested in supporting World Neighbors' growth and establishing your legacy, consider planned giving.

To learn more about the many ways to make a legacy or planned gift, please contact Johnathan Yeung at 405-286-0592 or jyeung@wn.org.

Please Be Sure to Check Out Our New Website – WN.org



OUR MISSION

World Neighbors inspires people and strengthens communities to find lasting solutions to hunger, poverty and disease and to promote a healthy environment

5600 N. May Avenue, Suite 160, Oklahoma City, OK 73112-4222
405.752.9700 | 1.800.242.6387 | www.wn.org

