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FALL 2018

NEIGHBORS



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Kenyan farmers at break



Dear Neighbor:

The beginning of fall is a time for change and excitement as everyone returns from their summer vacations, the weather starts to cool down and children head off to school. It is also harvest time in many parts of the world. At World Neighbors (WN), we continue our mission of helping people in remote rural environments to not only become self-sufficient, but to find the beauty and resources in their lands and in themselves. In June, I completed my fourth year as WN's President and CEO. Each year, I learn more and more about what makes this Organization so remarkable.

Over the course of the next few months I will be traveling to Bolivia, Nepal, Indonesia and Timor-Leste to work with our dedicated staff and partners. While traveling, we will monitor the progress of our programs, meet with

the farmers in all these countries, and continue to identify achievements and innovations that emerge from our unique methodology.

This issue of *Neighbors* shines a spotlight on our work in Kenya, Indonesia and Peru. These articles will give you insight into how WN helps with some of the most intractable and difficult problems facing poor rural communities throughout the world. However, they are just the tip of the iceberg. As many of you know, WN takes a holistic approach to development. We believe that all the issues contributing to poverty must be addressed in order for people to lift themselves up. That is why we stay with communities for eight to ten years and only leave when we, and they, are confident that they can sustain all their hard work and thrive without our assistance.

The other crucial aspect of our work is something that our founder, Dr. John L. Peters, understood 67 years ago—in order to succeed we must work together and form communities to continue the work. The cover photo of Kenyan farmers taken by Nicholas Duncan, one of our Board members, captures this essential tenet of our work. As Dr. Peters wrote in his book, *The Improbable Journey*:

“Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself” is not a casual option, it is a crucial imperative. What is required of us is a willingness to be used and a readiness to get involved.”

We thank you for your involvement in this important global effort! Please share *Neighbors* with someone you think needs to know about our Organization and feel free to share your thoughts with me about this issue. As always, we sincerely appreciate your support and dedication to WN and our mission.

Gratefully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate Schecter".

Kate Schecter, Ph.D.
President and CEO
May Ayers Milburn Chair



Two Peruvian women farmers with their babies



East Lombok home destroyed during earthquake

WN's Program Areas Badly Hit by Series of Earthquakes in Lombok, Indonesia

In late July and early August, Lombok, Indonesia, along with world-famous Bali, which is right next door, experienced a series of very strong earthquakes. WN works in villages in East, Central and West Lombok.

In total, approximately 560 people were killed, 83,392 homes were completely destroyed and 395,032 people have been internally displaced (IDPs). The recovery effort has been slow as it is proving difficult to reach some of the villages due to the extensive damage. Now, the most worrying problem for the recovery efforts is the living conditions of the IDPs.

In West Lombok, the Government's Disaster Management Agency (BPBD) and local NGOs met and agreed that approximately 5,000 temporary shelters needed to be built to house the IDPs. Many of the IDPs are living in evacuation camps, but there are still many others scattered throughout the island living under tarps that have been set up in dry rice fields or near their flattened homes.

Just as shelter is not available for all the IDPs, food and water are also hard to obtain outside of the camps. Local markets and small shops are not operating normally and the availability of food, medicine and supplies for infants and children is very limited. Access to water is also a

serious problem because it is the dry season and many of the water sources are dried up and the piped water systems that were functioning have been damaged. The Indonesian Red Cross is assisting with supplying water, as is the BPBD by providing water trucks.

Many of the health facilities have either been damaged or destroyed and sanitation/water facilities are very limited. We are noticing that related health concerns are increasing. It appears that many people are also suffering from trauma (PTSD) and are very hesitant to go inside buildings for fear of further earthquakes. More people are contracting dengue fever because they are spending so much time outside without protection.

Fortunately, WN works in Lombok to increase the resilience and disaster preparedness of communities and the government. We work to increase capacity in conducting disaster risk assessments, disaster mapping and disaster prediction, preparedness and response, increase communities' capacity in community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR), accessing state disaster management funding, planting and harvesting timing and techniques, conservation and protection of critical natural resources, agroforestry and community-based savings and credit groups.

One of the key aspects of our CBDRR work is the creation and training of village disaster management groups (KMPB) who take responsibility for coordinating their villages should a disaster strike. These groups were able



Home destroyed during earthquake in West Lombok

to put into action what they've been trained to do when the earthquakes hit Lombok. This means that as soon as the earthquakes hit, the head of the KMPB communicated with our local NGO partner, who then informed the BPBD. They then erected evacuation tents in a pre-identified safe location, and made public announcements (usually through the mosque's loud speakers) for everyone to evacuate their homes.

KMPB members know where people live who have difficulty evacuating (elderly, disabled and pregnant women) and can assist them. Once everyone is evacuated, the KMPB has been trained to perform data collection on everyone and report to the local healthcare providers as to what aid is needed. They keep everyone informed of the situation and continue to coordinate with BPBD and the army in distributing basic necessities (such as food, drink and blankets). They are collecting data on the damage caused to village assets (rice fields, water distribution systems and houses) and reporting that to the relevant government agencies, and requesting their assistance. KMPB continues to be the focal point for receiving and distributing all assistance entering a village.

WN is no stranger to this kind of emergency. We know, through our work around the world, that the recovery effort will be very difficult. Preventing the spread of disease, securing immediate food and reconstructing housing for the communities will be our first priorities. Then, the communities that were thriving in 2018, with lush crops growing through our sustainable agriculture and agroforestry programs, and the villages that had built

their own sophisticated water catchment and irrigation systems through WN training will once again be able to return to the successful work they were doing to further lift themselves out of hunger, poverty and disease. Thank you for your ongoing help!

Community Health Workers – In Africa, the Key to Sustained HIV/AIDS Progress

This report from WN was originally published on ReliefWeb on April 25, 2018.

Public health leaders in the fight against HIV/AIDS have come to an ominous realization: progress in cutting new infections has slowed. A large reason is a persistent cycle of transmission among young women in sub-Saharan Africa.



Mobile health clinic in Tanzania

Areas that have prevented this transmission share certain things in common. One is a network of trained community health workers.

WN is one of the NGOs that works with partners to train these workers in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

Community health workers are unpaid volunteers, primarily women, who live in and with affected communities. WN's experience is that community members are much more open and honest with neighbors than with health workers from outside organizations. This is essential to countering the behaviors that result in HIV/AIDS transmission and testing of those who engage in them.



A health worker carrying out testing for HIV in Uganda

The centerpiece of these programs, carried out with local community groups, is voluntary counseling and testing. WN and community groups set up counseling clinics in villages. Community health workers educate at-risk neighbors about HIV/AIDS and encourage people to get tested. If positive, community health workers encourage infected persons to receive medication. These workers then help infected persons organize themselves into groups, where they discuss a variety of issues such as healthy and positive living, nutrition and drug management. These groups also act as psychological and moral support groups.

They also serve as the basis for economic development initiatives, including training in sustainable agriculture techniques, credit and savings groups and other activities to increase incomes.

Training and mobilizing community health workers is very effective in reducing infection rates, providing life-saving medication for those who are infected and helping infected persons remain productive community members.

Knowledge is Power



Renee taking care of her vegetable garden

For Renee Peralta, knowledge is the power that she needed to become a community leader and to dream big dreams. Renee's story starts in the Peruvian Andes in a community in Ocos Ayacucho where she lives with her parents and her daughter, Sayuri, who is seven years old and the apple of her eye. Renee's story is quite inspiring. She has become very successful and because of the knowledge she has acquired, she has lifted her family out of poverty and has helped to strengthen her community.

WN entered Renee's story in 2014 when she went to a neighboring community to attend a WN workshop. She was so impressed by what she learned at the workshop that she went back to her community, assembled a group of people who elected her as president of the group, and invited WN to come and give the workshops in her own village. Renee credits much of her success in becoming a respected community leader with attending the WN workshops.

As a result of what she learned, Renee realized she had a keen interest in nutrition. She wanted to learn all she could to help her family become healthier, but she didn't

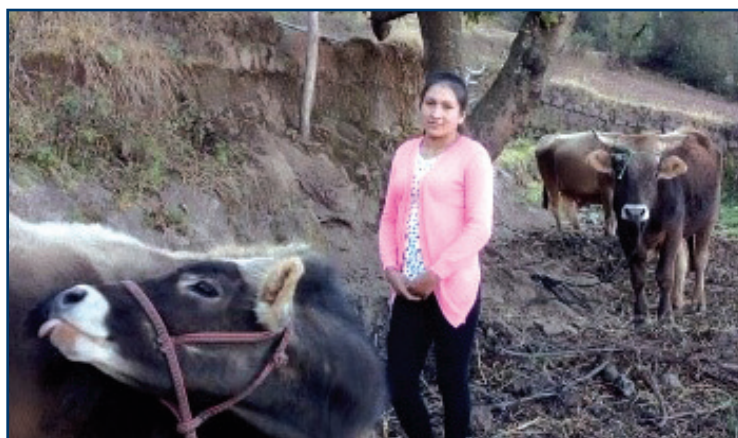


Renee and her garden

stop there. Not only did she learn about the nutrients in their typical diet, she then learned about the nutrients in locally-grown crops. She wanted to grow healthier food to feed her family and she wanted to grow a lot of it to generate some income, so she began to attend workshops on improving the productivity of her land, cattle and beehives.

Today, Renee grows crops year-round instead of just once a year and she has learned how to make the most of her dairy cattle and honey production to generate more income. She is, also, frequently asked to share her knowledge about agricultural productivity and management. She is able to proudly provide a much improved and healthier life for her family with her successful kitchen garden and crops, her beehives and the cattle that she breeds.

The knowledge she has gained has given Renee the confidence she needed to dream big! She has become a successful small business entrepreneur who now dreams of operating her own agricultural enterprise. Because of her own success, Renee believes her daughter will be able to grow up and become a successful professional, too. She said, "Some time ago this was only a distant,



Renee and her cattle

almost unreachable dream, but now I feel strong enough to achieve it."

For Renee, knowledge has become the power she needed to make bold decisions relating to how she manages her agricultural business and generates income from it. She agrees with WN that being given knowledge and training are much more valuable gifts than receiving a one-time physical gift. She says that people can actually see the lasting difference they make.

Did you know your gift can have twice the impact?



WN has been given an incredible opportunity to receive a very substantial matching gift! The Paul Milburn Gift Fund through the Oklahoma City Community Foundation has awarded WN a matching grant in the amount of \$50,000. If we raise \$50,000, WN will receive \$50,000 from the Paul Milburn Gift Fund. This means that all your donations between now and June of 2019 will be doubled! I hope you are able to take advantage of this incredible matching opportunity which will help WN plan for a very bright future.

Paul Milburn was a very generous man during his lifetime and we are very grateful for all he did to support our work and for his generosity with his past and present financial resources. He was a long-time advocate for WN and had a great commitment to improving the lives of those less fortunate around the globe.

Your support has also had a great impact on WN’s programs and we would be grateful if you would consider sending another gift to help us fulfill this incredible challenge. Will you please help us to continue WN’s mission of finding lasting solutions to hunger, poverty and disease?

Please feel free to contact Kate Schecter if you have any questions. She can be reached at (405) 286-0547 or kschecter@wn.org.



Commemorative Gifts Received

March 27-August 31, 2018

IN HONOR OF

- Carol and Charles Blackwood
Roger and Dorothy Erickson
Harbour Winn
- Simon Isabel Horan
Sarah Gribbin
- Jim Morely
Susan Morely
- Dr. Kate Schecter
St. Luke’s UMC-Builders Class

- Coralee Toal
Dr. Kate Schecter
- Susan Updegrove
Erin Updegrove
- Jenny Windsor
Scott Windsor

IN MEMORY OF

- Christine Anthony
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- John Browne
Anonymous
- Martha King
Anonymous
- John Kirkpatrick
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Beyond the Box

A BETTER WAY TO GIVE

The holidays are coming! Visit our gift catalog at wn.org/beyond-the-box to find a great selection of gifts that improve communities around the world!

These unique gifts are *symbolic* and represent the work of WN and the many items that the communities we serve around the globe use to lift themselves out of poverty. WN inspires people and strengthens communities. Notice of your gift purchase with a lovely card will be sent to the gift recipient on your behalf. This takes all the guesswork out of gift giving!

GIFTS
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\$10!



OUR MISSION

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

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