

THE JTI FOUNDATION NEWS



In Kayin State access to water is difficult due to lack of infrastructure

© JTI Foundation

A rule of three:

At the JTI Foundation, we often renew partnerships using a rule of three.

For programs that have successfully delivered on their initial implementation phase, we renew our support for an additional three years – it's our long-term commitment to creating impact, and building the sustainability of the programs we support. In this newsletter we catch up with two of our partners with whom we have done just that - Peace Winds Japan in Myanmar and Habitat for Humanity International. We also learn about their past successes and future goals.

A wellcome program in Myanmar

JTI FOUNDATION SUPPORTS PEACE WINDS JAPAN IN REBUILDING SAFE WATER WELLS

In September 2013 Peace Winds Japan (PWJ), together with the support of JTI Foundation, established a project to rebuild water tanks and wells in five communities in Kayin State, Myanmar. In November, this program was renewed for an additional three years.

The program includes workshops for maintenance and the appropriate use of scarce communal water resources. In this interview, Sakae Saito, Head of the Peace Winds Japan Myanmar team recalls the project's achievements and its goals for the future.

HOW DIFFICULT WAS IT FOR PWJ TO ESTABLISH THE PROGRAM IN KAYIN STATE ?

'The project has been established in villages whose control is contested by the national army and armed ethnic groups. The local authorities are, naturally enough, extremely cautious and often restrictive of our activities. It took some time for us to develop good working relationships with them, and we continue to make those relationships stronger.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF SAFE WATER MANAGEMENT, AND HOW DID YOU DEVELOP THE PROGRAM?

‘Safe drinking water is a basic human need. Our target communities have lived in conflict areas for half a century, and much of the infrastructure is underdeveloped. Restoration of access to water is important for the survival of local residents, and it is vital to hasten to resettlement of refugees and internally displaced people who are already returning to their home towns, and support those who may return to the region in the future.

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THE LOCATIONS FOR THE WELLS?

‘The first phase of the project was stakeholder field assessments. Based on a survey and information provided by the local authorities and civil society organizations operating in the area, we selected the villages that most suffered from water shortage. Their wells often dried up for a few months before the start of the rainy season, and they consequently became dependent on very murky water from wells or water from the river. This increased their risk of contracting waterborne diseases.

HOW MANY WELLS HAVE YOU CONSTRUCTED SO FAR, AND HOW MANY FAMILIES ARE BENEFITING FROM THEM?

‘Five wells have been constructed and more than 2,600 people of some 400

families now enjoy safe-drinking water from those wells.

THE PROJECT IS EXTENDING ITS REACH. CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE NEW ACTIVITIES?

‘Some of the villages in Kayin State are susceptible to flooding during the rainy season. We are therefore adding a component of disaster risk reduction. This means that, amongst other things, a local coordination mechanism for disaster preparedness and response will be established in 30 villages, an appropriate early warning system will be introduced, and community-based disaster drills will be conducted. We will also start social marketing of 450 solar lanterns in villages without electricity. The lantern, which can be quite useful equipment for disaster preparedness, can also be used in everyday life as a lighting device, securing prolonged productive hours for economic/domestic work and opportunity for children’s education after dark. The lantern can be also used as a charger for mobile phones, which could increase the opportunity for communication, and improve social and economic life. We will continue to construct or renovate 10 water facilities (either wells or gravity-flow water pipes).

HOW DO YOU ENSURE THAT THE WELLS ARE SUSTAINABLE?

‘Before selecting villages for project implementation we examine the capacity, cohesiveness, and attitude of the villages to ensure that they are capable of maintaining the wells.

We also provide them with the necessary mechanical tools and maintenance training.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES AND REWARDS OF THE PROJECT?

‘We have to plan and conduct our activities with uncertainty about the future of the national ceasefire being negotiated between the government and armed ethnic minorities. There is also uncertainty about the political situation leading up to the general elections late in 2015, and about possible repatriation of refugees from neighboring Thailand. All of these uncertainties affect our project either directly or indirectly. But despite the uncertainties, we are compensated by the joy of collaborating with project stakeholders – our colleagues, partners, counterparts and the beneficiaries.

WHAT ARE THE LONG-TERM PLANS FOR PEACE WINDS JAPAN IN MYANMAR?

‘For now, we will concentrate our efforts on safe water management and disaster risk reduction. In the future however we would like to be able to design and introduce a unique approach to address the prevailing needs of local communities. It’s important to be able to identify beneficiaries – people’s vulnerability can quickly shift in this fast-changing society.’



Sakae Saito Head of mission Peace Winds Japan Myanmar

© JTI Foundation



Kan Nar villagers sourcing water from the well

© Peace Winds Japan



Ywar Kaing Kaung well maintenance training

© Peace Winds Japan



Ywar Kaing Kaung Village leader

© JTI Foundation



This tube well was built in Htan Taw and replicated in 4 other locations such as Ywar Kaing Kaung and Kan Nar

© Peace Winds Japan

Wells are changing lives in Kayin State

KAR NAR VILLAGE

Kar Nar Village has around 300 inhabitants and seven wells, but only two of them are public. During the dry season the wells dry up and villagers have to use water from a nearby stream or another village. During the wet season the village floods and they use rainwater or water from another village located one and a half hours away. As a farmer and member of a family of seven, Daw Saw Hla told Peace Winds Japan that she really appreciates the addition of the new tube well and says, 'When we didn't have the tube well, we fetched water for drinking from the river. But the water is not clean and sometimes we find rubbish floating in it. Sometimes animals such as cows and water buffalo also use the same water. It made me even more worried about the quality of the water. Now we don't have those concerns. Our well water is clear and clean'.

Daw Than Nu of the same family thanked PWJ saying, 'if I could ask for one more thing, I would like to request a water pipe connection directly from the tank to the houses of the elderly and handicapped in our village. This way, those who have difficulties fetching water could have access to water at anytime.'

YWAR KAING KAUNG VILLAGE

With support from JTI Foundation, PWJ built two tube wells in Ywar Kaing Kaung Village. The village is long and has just one hand dug well that provides water during the dry season. Because the well is located outside of the village it was very difficult for many villagers to fetch water for their home during the dry season. PWJ built one tube well near the center of the village where people often gather, and another one close to many houses. Restaurant owner Daw Mu Lar says, 'I own a small restaurant which requires us to have access to water for cleaning dishes and vegetables, so fetching water was always an issue.'

During construction of the well, PWJ's Field Assistants, who are experienced community facilitators, visited the village and organized a hygiene promotion workshop for children and adults to learn about the importance of a clean environment in order to improve health. Participants learned how washing hands properly and keeping their hands clean also meant keeping themselves healthy. Village leader Daw Pa Ka is very happy to see that her village does not have to worry about water anymore.

'Many families now have access to good water, especially elderly people who are happy because they can fetch water easily. We will take good care of these wells for a long time. Thank you.'
 – Ywar Kaing Kaung, Village leader.

Disaster proof foundations



Reconstruction of houses after the 2008 8.0 earthquake that hit Pengzhou City China

© Habitat for Humanity International

The JTI Foundation and Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) partnered in 2013 to support victims of hurricane Haiyan, Philippines, by providing hygiene and shelter repair kits. One year on, we have forged a new three-year partnership that aims at increasing the capacity of Habitat for Humanity's National Organizations (NOs) to deliver impactful disaster risk reduction and disaster relief interventions.

WHO ARE NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS?

Habitat for Humanity International was founded in 1976 in the United States with the aim of addressing poverty living issues. Although HFHI operates worldwide, it is the global hub that shares best practice and expertise with local HFHI organizations, known as National Organizations. These NOs are the local entities that implement programs either with the support of HFHI or independently. For example, the JTI Foundation's program with HFHI in the Philippines was jointly implemented by the local Habitat Philippines team.

Habitat for Humanity International has become a global leader in addressing substandard housing, it works in more than 70 countries and supports over 3,000 communities worldwide.

WHY IS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL'S PROGRAM IMPORTANT?

HFHI is one of the leading experts in the provision of decent housing to the most vulnerable communities. In some countries however, addressing poor living conditions is only half of the picture and often the population most at risk of poor housing is also threatened by environmental or man-made disasters, which as a cycle negatively impacts their living conditions. To break the pattern and minimize the impact of disaster on housing, HFHI has developed a Disaster Risk Reduction and Response (DR3) Department. DR3 aims to develop innovative housing and shelter assistance models that generate sustainable interventions for people vulnerable to or affected by disaster or conflict. The JTI Foundation is providing support to the DR3 Department to enable it to increase its provision of tools so that NOs are prepared to include a disaster risk reduction component in all their programs.

'This program will provide support to develop a more systematic approach to shelter humanitarian response, create knowledge sharing mechanisms, generate useful field documentation, provide opportunities for capacity building for Habitat NO staff, and foster the reduction of vulnerability within families and communities'
 – Habitat for Humanity International

HOW WILL THE PROGRAM EMPOWER THE NOs TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE ?

The project will enable NOs to contribute to disaster preparedness, risk management, and response initiatives and equip them with the latest industry standards, operating procedures, field guides, technical documents and tools to utilize for scaling-up approaches proven to produce measurable results. Strategic learning opportunities will be created through online, virtual and face-to face training and resource sharing platforms.

Habitat for Humanity International's DR3 Department has prioritized 20 countries, and 10 of them will

get the most direct support – Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic. The other ten countries are also expected to benefit from the material developed but will not be the focus of interventions.

WHAT WILL WE ACHIEVE ?

We expect to see an increase in NO engagement and leadership in community-based risk reduction and response activities, particularly those located in disaster prone countries. Improved capacity and consistent quality training will help prepare NOs – trained NO staff will be able to access resources and incorporate knowledge and expertise into practice. In the medium term, we also expect that there will be 10 disaster-prone countries with disaster management plans, more regional personnel available to support NOs and increased local capacity for rapid response scale-up and community rebuilding. In the long term we expect to see safer and more resilient communities

as a result of NOs being better equipped to engage disaster-prone and vulnerable communities globally in disaster preparedness, risk reduction measures, and more resilient housing solutions.

To this day, HFHI's DR3 initiatives have contributed technical expertise in humanitarian response, home building and sustainable shelter construction to serve more than 200,000 families in 44 countries. This includes building more than 66,000 homes; improving more than 88,000 homes through repairs, rehabs or incremental building; distributing over 58,000 shelter kits; and providing training, mitigation and other services to over 184,000 people. Our program will support HFHI build on this success and further its achievements.

'The support from the JTI Foundation will result in an enhanced capacity, not only to respond to disasters but to also help communities at risk in the reduction of vulnerability and the building of resilience.'
 – Habitat for Humanity International



© Habitat for Humanity International



© Habitat for Humanity International



© Habitat for Humanity International

Some examples of Habitat for Humanity's resilient housing programs :

DOLJESTI, ROMANIA, 2008

In 2008, more than 110 families received assistance with rebuilding their homes in Doljesti, and area devastated by flooding. In 2013, JTI Foundation supported Habitat for Humanity Romania to rebuild more resilient housing and provided disaster awareness training to communities in Cudalbi, Romania, who had also been hit by floods that same year.

LEOGANE, HAITI, 2012

Habitat's five-year disaster recovery program, that aimed at helping more than 50,000 families or approximately 250,000 individuals in Port-au-Prince, Léogâne and Cabaret, was completed ahead of schedule. The disaster recovery program included the distribution of emergency shelter kits with partner organizations, construction of transitional and upgradeable shelters, house damage assessments, home repair and rehabs and new permanent home construction. Habitat also trained thousands of individuals in construction techniques, financial literacy, damage assessments, disaster risk reduction and business development. In addition, approximately 2,100 job opportunities were created through the program.

SANTA FE AND CEBU, PHILIPPINES, 2014

Habitat for Humanity Philippines (HFHP) is building 108 duplexes and two single-family homes on an unused parcel of land in a village that was nearly destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013. Only three months after the disaster, HFHP began major reconstruction efforts in the ravaged area. Before and during the construction process, HFHI trained the beneficiary families and local labourers in disaster resistant construction techniques to ensure long-term and sustainable effects of the interventions.

WWW.JTIFOUNDATION.ORG