entrust foundation

Project Report

THA-ITD-WSG-P02, Thailand
Reporting Period: January – June 2018

Water Resource and Development Project

Budget: $22,360 needed for Year 2 (total of $44,000). Year 3 begins 1 November 2018 - $60,000 needed

Update:

Our partners work in the golden triangle hill country of Thailand near the borders of Laos and Myanmar. The ethnic minority hill tribes live where cultivation of the opium poppy and drug abuse has contributed to families living in poverty for generations. This project seeks to improve the health of villagers by providing access to clean water and sanitation facilities in ten villages over three years. Poor water and sanitation is one of the factors that keeps these families in poverty due to ill health, especially amongst the children.

Year 2 funding includes village water systems for three villages (stream catchment, storage tank, cement pvc pipe, cement, sand, rock, charcoal filtration), bathrooms and gardens for the families and training.

To date, our partners have completed work in three villages (Year One and Two) and are working on the fourth. This is located in a village called San Mai Pattana. Thirty-three villagers have been helped to date in this village but hundreds more have been indirectly assisted. It is anticipated that this village will be finished by end 2018 as all is going to schedule despite heavy rains. Our partners say, *"We are building appropriate sanitation facilities for all families, family gardens, and are providing training in maintenance, hygiene, sanitation, watersheds and gardens over the course of this three-year project. This includes the construction of drinking/irrigation water supply systems for the whole village."*

Each family has a small cost share towards activities and water solutions are placed in a convenient location for the village. Our partners said, *"The community is working well together. A lot of preparation is done before we start a project to identify the key needs and to engage the local community to "own" the project. They are heavily invested as they know the benefits of clean water for their families."*

Mr and Mrs Chana live in the village with their three sons and a daughter (pictured). They are subsistence farmers, growing rice and corn. They said, *Our village did not have enough water and was not clean. Sometimes we had to scramble for water. Now, we are so thankful for the water project in the village. We have clean and enough water for drinking and consumption; to take a bath, wash clothes, dish washing, clean house and water in toilet. "We and the other villagers have better health. We would like to thank you for the support."*

The northern border region hill tribes receive less educational opportunities, suffer poor health and earn lower incomes than other groups in Thailand with most living below the poverty line. Most were traditional opium users, which aggravated the problem of opium poppy cultivation. This has now diversified into other drugs. Hill tribes want an alternative way of generating incomes and better opportunities to enter Thai society in a more sustainable way.

Thank you for helping to bring clean water to tribal Thai villages. Our partners have the experience and the passion to assist families into a healthier, more productive life.