

The World Through Pictures

Briefing sheets

Introducing students to nine challenges to development and the kinds of efforts Canada supports to address these challenges:

- A. agriculture and rural development
- B. child labour
- C. children of war
- D. disaster relief
- E. education for all
- F. pollution
- G. health and nutrition
- H. humanitarian aid for refugees
- I. water and sanitation.

Agriculture and rural development

A

What did you have for dinner last night? How far did the food travel before it got to your dinner plate? Most people in the developed world don't know the distance their food traveled before it reaches their plate. Most likely whatever we ate traveled a great distance— as much as tens of thousands of miles—before arriving at the supermarket.

On the other hand, in the developing world food is grown often much closer to where people live. While this is not true when nations receive food aid, local small-scale agriculture produces most of the food consumed in Africa, Asia and South America. But small-scale agriculture is about more than the need for food. It is also about poverty reduction, food security and environmental sustainability.

Agriculture is the main source of overall economic growth and poverty reduction in many poor countries. By improving incomes and nutrition, increased agricultural productivity can help break the cycle of passing malnutrition from one generation to the next. In addition, it is often the savings from agriculture that provide the means to meet expenses relating to educating children. Unfortunately, most of the land suitable for agriculture is already in production. Therefore, meeting current and future food needs in the developing world will require rapid increases in productivity.

To help developing countries make gains in agricultural productivity, agricultural projects must look beyond agriculture. They need to help the rural poor participate in local and international markets, diversify agricultural output and improve the quality of produce. As well, projects need to establish food processing capacity to add value to products grown. In short, projects need to look at the community's broader goal of rural development. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is working with various non-governmental groups (NGOs) to do just that.

In Afghanistan, a community renewal program provides effective alternative livelihood options and income-generation through community-based, integrated rural development. The CIDA project delivers preventative alternative development in three Afghan provinces where poppy cultivation is on the rise. The program offers farming families access to a livelihood that does not rely on growing opium poppies. One of the alternatives that the project provides is training in raising honeybees. The project provided six families in one village with two hives of bees each, basic training in caring for the bees and retrieving honey. Two hives produce 11 kilos of honey in four months so that women, who have few economic opportunities, are able to add to family income by selling the honey.

CIDA has also given significant support to an agro-forestry research institute in the tropics. In Malawi, soils are depleted because Malawian farmers remove more plant nutrients and organic matter from the soil than they put back. As a result, it is difficult to grow sufficient food. Farmers are encouraged to grow trees and shrubs among their crops and livestock. The results are improved soil quality, animal fodder provided by tree trimming, and no need to use expensive fertilizers. Some farmers have been able to quadruple their maize yields over those of other farmers. As well, since agroforestry encourages the planting of indigenous fruit trees, farmers can harvest and sell medicinal products

In Uganda, after a severe decline in world coffee prices, CIDA offered support for former coffee growers to raise vanilla beans. Most Ugandan vanilla is raised organically and the climate permits two harvests per year. Vanilla is a very labour intensive crop and well suited to small-scale farm production. Many thousands of Ugandans have switched to vanilla production.

Child labour

B

In the developed world, relatively few young children work unless by choice. True, some young people feel that the family chores they perform are not their choice. But, young children working outside of the home is not common. However, in the developing world, children as young as four years old often work long hours for little pay.

At the largest dump in Indonesia, 3000 scavengers work for 24 hours every day. 1000 of them are children, some only three years old. They usually work in family groupings, earning up 50-80 cents (US) per week for the entire family. In Haiti, girls as young as six work as domestic servants. A non-profit organization offers free afternoon classes for child domestic workers, but often they have too much work to do and are unable to attend. Estimated numbers of child domestic workers around the world range into the hundreds of millions. In Haiti there are an estimated 300,000 child domestic workers.

These are not isolated incidences. Children work in the coffee plantations in Kenya without any protective gear. White dust from pesticides covers their faces and arms. The sharp spines of the coffee trees cause injuries that can easily get infected. At railway stations in India, boys sell bottled water to train passengers to buy food and daily necessities for living. Also in India, brick kilns and gravel quarries are a common sight. Over one-third of the children working at one kiln and one-quarter of the children at the quarry were shipped from other areas, where their parents were forced to either sell them into slavery or were dependent on the meager wages that the children could provide. The children are exploited 12-16 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Worldwide, more than 130 million children work to support themselves and their families. But there are different kinds of child labour. Some child labour is harmful to children's development, such as being exposed to dangerous chemicals when spraying pesticides, continuously lifting heavy loads that can curve a child's spine, or working in unsafe conditions. On the other hand, non-harmful child labour is often necessary for some children. That kind of work is often part-time and does not stop children from attending school. It can be beneficial by giving them an income, a sense of accomplishment, and useful social and work-related skills that will be of use to them in their future lives.

May children who work are to attend school, but this is often not so. Some children may work in order to pay for their school supplies, transportation, and tuition. Sometimes older children are asked to stay home and work so that the younger children can also have a chance to attend school. It is important to look at how work and school are balanced so that children benefit from both. Rather than trying to stop all child labour, it is important to ensure that children who work gain the knowledge, tools, and opportunities they need to achieve their full potential.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) realizes that some children must work. Children pushed out of labour often end up in more dangerous jobs, such as the commercial sex trade. Instead, CIDA's goal is to help working children lead lives free from exploitation, abuse, neglect, and discrimination. This means making sure their working conditions are safe and healthy, providing them with access to good-quality basic education. In Bolivia, boys as young as 10 crush rocks at mines. By the time they are 12, they shoulder pickaxes and descend into the dark underground, where their lungs darken prematurely from rock dust. CIDA is helping child miners find less-harmful work and get an education. Child labourers commonly work on the cocoa plantations in Côte d'Ivoire. CIDA is helping raise awareness among farmers and cocoa cooperatives of the need to protect children from pesticide exposure, carrying heavy loads, and using dangerous tools.

Children of war



War totally disrupts the lives of people of all ages. However, war is particularly devastating for children. Children in war-torn countries of Africa and elsewhere are often direct or indirect victims of violence. They are exposed to hunger, loss and death on a daily basis while many are orphaned or separated from their families. There are at least one million children separated from their parents because of war. Young girls and single women in the refugee camps are also exposed to sexual and physical abuse. In addition, both during and after conflicts, children remain exposed to the dangers of landmines and millions of pieces of unexploded ordnance - bombs, shells and grenades that fail to detonate on impact.

War-affected children often exhibit symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. This condition seriously affects a child's mental, emotional, and physical health. One of the symptoms is avoidance or numbing. Children will cut off of feelings and avoid situations that provide reminders of traumatic events. Many suffer from nightmares and flashbacks. Some, especially former child soldiers, exhibit aggressive behaviour. As well, former child soldiers may suffer from withdrawal symptoms from drugs they were given to overcome their reluctance to kill others. In treatment centres, some beat their heads or fists against the wall until doctors inject them with tranquilizers. Others remain mute for days, their eyes darting around like frightened animals. Sadly, those former child soldiers who return home may receive death threats from other villagers.

Currently, children are experiencing terrifying wars in 50 countries. In the last decade, war has killed two million children, disabled six million children, made homeless 12 million children, and orphaned one million children. Many carry psychological scars. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as CARE Canada, UNICEF, Save the Children, Doctors without Borders and the Red Cross-Red Crescent Society provide aid to war-affected children. Canadians, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), provide financial support to these and other NGOs.

Despite the distressing statistics, children play important roles in keeping communities together and in helping to build peace. For example, with CIDA's support, war-affected youth are designing, organizing and participating in community-based projects to prevent conflict and build peace. They are doing this in nine countries in Africa, the Americas and Southeast Asia. They are developing a global network that includes Canadian youth. This network promotes the rights of war-affected children. It also raises support for engaging young people in peace-building.

SOS Children's Villages, the world's largest international charity for orphaned and abandoned children, offer ongoing trauma treatment for war-affected children and women in Darfur. One camp houses around 80,000 refugees. Those interested are given school lessons. Others are trained in brick making, handicrafts and carpentry. They have group therapy and individual meetings with counselors.

In Sierra Leone, CIDA is helping to reunite families torn apart during almost a decade of civil war. In Northern Uganda, CIDA provides food aid, basic health care, clean water and sanitation for 800,000 displaced people many of them children. CIDA also provides counselling and vocational training to help former child soldiers return to their communities.

In Sri Lanka, the Butterfly Peace Garden provides counselling and psychosocial support to children traumatized by the long-standing civil war. In fact, the Garden is a model worldwide for its psychosocial programming. In one activity, children play a genogram game with a counselor to help them work out emotional traumas due to the war. CIDA has been one of its supporters.

Imagine waking up in the night to sound of crashing furniture and a rocking, heaving house. Then it hits you, “It’s an earthquake!” You wonder what you should do. Then, luckily, the movement stops and there is little damage. Not so in some parts of the world.

In 2005, at least 80,000 were killed and three million left homeless after an earthquake struck the mountainous Kashmir district in Pakistan. A year earlier, an earthquake struck off the coast of Sumatra and approximately 250,000 people were killed in the tsunami that followed. Exactly one year before, another quake killed between as many as 43,000 people.

Earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, cyclones, fire, famine and drought all create havoc and loss of life – often on an immense scale. Three-quarters of the world's population lives in areas that experienced at least one earthquake, tropical cyclone, flood, or drought since 1980. In the destruction of homes and infrastructures, people are left with nothing. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the southern US, devastating New Orleans and surrounding area. Authorities estimate it will take 15 years to restore the area to its previous state—and this in a developed country. Authorities estimate that natural disasters cost the global economy \$181 billion in 2008.

Unfortunately, when disaster strikes in developing countries, the losses are magnified by the fact that people do not have the resources to help themselves. Fortunately, when disaster strikes, NGOs as well as private citizens around the world are there to offer assistance.

In 2005, Hurricane Stan swept through Central America. The torrential rains and winds spurred mudslides and flooding, which resulted in up to 2000 deaths. Two of the hardest hit areas were Guatemala and El Salvador. World Vision (WV) developed a program to deal with the most immediate basic human needs of the hurricane victims in the two countries. The goal was to maintain health, privacy and dignity by providing essential non-food items to disaster-affected people. The NGO delivered \$2 million worth of relief goods. The items included such things as accessible shelters, food, clothing, blankets, and medicines. CIDA contributed \$200,000 to the World Vision Appeal.

When the earthquake struck the Kashmir region of Pakistan in 2005, it was a Saturday morning when the shops and schools were open. The disaster destroyed hundreds of thousands of buildings, often trapping or crushing people inside. Over three million were homeless and many blocked off from aid. The goal of CIDA’s Canadian Relief Foundation was to improve the overall health of the millions of Pakistani people affected by the disaster. The fund contributed to over 20 NGOs who provided healthcare and medical attention to the victims. Since the quake occurred just prior to winter, the NGOs provided tents, clothing, stoves and other winterized essentials. They erected camps for displaced persons. Meanwhile, clean-up crews worked to clear the rubble so that reconstruction could begin. Canada’s financial contributions helped meet the initial and immediate needs of the victims. As well it provided for more long-term

With the threat of climate change and rising population growth and urbanization, the number of natural disasters will likely rise. While it is important to aid disaster victims, it is also important that communities build their ability to recover from disasters. Not all disasters can be prevented, but most can be reduced when a community is prepared and has the capacity to protect, respond and recover. Research suggests that for every dollar spent in disaster moderation will prevent the loss of \$7 when disaster strikes. Preparedness measures will not stop disasters from happening, but they could reduce the impact on people.

Things that are a part of everyday life are often taken for granted. For example, young people in the developed world who “have” to go to school seldom think that they are privileged. Yet in the developing world even basic education is unavailable to most. Imagine if you could not read or write or do even basic math. Imagine how limited your options in life would be if you could not sign your name, if you could not read direction signs, if you could not read warning signs. Imagine what Canada would be like if very few people could read and write.

Education is a human right. It is essential in order for people and societies to develop to their full potential. Yet, in countries such as Mali, only about one-third of all primary school-age children attend school, and the figure is even lower for girls. Of the total figure, only a limited number complete five years of education, which does not allow them to acquire basic literacy skills. Sending girls to school deprives the family of manual labour.

Although there has been a marked increase in primary enrollment rates, especially among girls, more than 100 million children worldwide do not go to school. While adult literacy has improved, about 770 million people, more than half of them women, still cannot read or write. Even for those who do attend school, many do not leave with basic skills because of under-funded education systems and poor quality instruction. Barriers to access and completion are higher for girls, members of ethnic minorities, children living in geographic isolation, working children, children affected by conflict and disasters, children living with disabilities, and the very poor.

Education is the single best investment a country can make. It contributes to better health, higher incomes, and increased participation in community life. The gains are particularly high when girls are educated.

The world community has been committed to achieving universal primary education since 1990. Canada, a world leader in child-centred, girl-friendly education, has identified basic education as a program priority. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) supports initiatives that improve the quality, safety, and relevance of basic education. It supports projects that close the gender gap in education and provide education to prevent HIV/AIDS. Other CIDA funded projects provide education for girls and boys in conflict, post-conflict, and/or emergency situations.

During the rule of the Taliban in Afghanistan, CIDA funded the ‘hidden schools’ that continued to educate girls, though the teachers and families faced severe penalties if they were caught. Now, CIDA and CARE Canada are implementing primary education in over 100 public schools in Afghanistan, as well as providing courses for teachers, school supplies, and construction of classrooms.

Among other projects, CIDA funds a training centre for youths in Rwanda. The goal of the project is to reduce poverty by enabling the social and economic reintegration of young Rwandans who were unable to complete their basic schooling because of the lengthy civil war.

In Bangladesh, a CIDA funded non-formal education project provides education to the poorest of the poor, especially girls. 2 million children have been enrolled with a 90% completion rate. Today, it is operating 34,000 schools in which 1.1 million children are enrolled.

Environmental challenges in developing countries

The health of the environment plays a prominent role in everyday life. However, globally we have not always made wise decisions about ways to protect the environment. On-going changes in the world's climate are further increasing the environmental challenges we face.

African soil is some of the least productive in the world. As well, pests inflict untold damage to agriculture. Over the past 40 years, poor African nations were told that the only way to combat pests effectively was to use pesticides. Their governments purchased pesticides on a regular basis. As well, some countries donated pesticides, some of which were obsolete when they arrived. Most of the chemicals were stored in metal containers. Many containers have rusted and leaked contaminants into the soil. The stockpiles of the pesticides are growing more quickly than they are being eliminated. In addition, the tens of thousands of tonnes of now contaminated soil pose serious threats to health and contribute to land and water degradation. This is true for of both rural and urban populations, especially the poorest of the poor.

Land degradation—the loss of productivity in all kinds of soils—is a result of climate-induced drought and unsustainable farming and forest management practices. Desertification, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, contributes directly to freshwater scarcity, food insecurity, famine, migration, and conflict. Land degradation can lead to scarcity of food and water, loss of income, resource conflicts, and environmental deterioration. Land degradation and poverty are closely linked. The majority of the people affected by land degradation are the rural poor, who depend on the land for their survival. Often, they must compete among themselves for dwindling natural resources. Consequently, the land becomes further depleted and thus the cycle of poverty is perpetuated.

Some countries in the developing world have made decisions that have had serious environmental consequences. Farmers in China, desperate for irrigation water, dug wells into the shallow renewable aquifer. But decades of over-pumping have largely depleted the shallow aquifer and drillers now drill into the region's deep non-renewable aquifer. The water table under the North China Plain is now falling at an alarming rate. Since it takes 1,000 tons of water to produce one ton of grain, when the aquifer is depleted, the grain harvest will drop by 40 million tons—enough to feed 120 million Chinese.

The increasing concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has intensified the global warming phenomenon that leads to climate change. Droughts, floods, and higher temperatures threaten food crops, destroy habitat, threatening species, and increase the incidence of disease. All countries feel the effects of climate change; however, people living in poverty are the most vulnerable. As they lose their sources of food, fuel, shelter and income, their poverty deepens. Without assistance, the poor are unable to manage their own resources or protect themselves from the effects of climate change.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), along with numerous non-governmental groups, is working to help developing nations overcome some of these environmental challenges while growing their economies. For example, In Ghana, CIDA supports a project to protect stored grain by releasing a predatory beetle that will eat the eggs, larvae and pupae of grain borers. In the wild, the beetles will multiply, thereby reducing the need to use pesticides.

The global community has responded to the growing threat of climate change with commitments to reduce greenhouse gases

The relationship between food, nutrition and health is one of the global challenges the world faces today. Nutrition is a major, changeable and powerful factor in promoting health, preventing and treating disease and improving quality of life.

In many countries medical care is not only unavailable, financially out of reach of most people. As a result, many people die and diseases spread. Lack of clean water and sanitation is a major factor in the spread of many diseases. As well, malnourished people, especially children, are more susceptible to disease. Children who are malnourished suffer irreparable damage both physically and mentally.

In the spring of 2009, an outbreak of cholera spread among people along the Kenyan-Ethiopian border. The spread was attributed to poor sanitation and water shortages, which led to the consumption of contaminated water. Left untreated, cholera can lead to severe dehydration and death. Population movement along the common border fuelled the spread of the disease. Hunger, water shortages and lack of medical care made the situation worse.

Even if food is available, it may be too costly for most of the population. In 2008, because of drought, the price of wheat flour in Afghanistan skyrocketed. By spring of 2009, prices for wheat flour, rice and cooking oil had dropped considerably. At that time, a bag of wheat flour cost about US\$21; a sack of rice US\$25 and a canister of oil US\$20. However, over ten million Afghans live on less than \$1 a day. A slight reduction on food prices is good news for many but it will not ensure everyone has access to adequate food.

Nepal has one of South Asia's worst malnutrition rates, with almost 50 percent of children under five stunted and suffering from chronic malnutrition. Acute malnutrition rates start increasing after six months of age and peak at 12 months. The main reason for this is poor feeding. The cost of food is a major concern. The country is highly dependent upon imported food and, in a time of rapidly rising global food prices and increased transportation costs, agricultural experts voice concern for the population. In 2008, rice – the main staple – increased by 24%, cooking oil by 30% and wheat flour by 18%. As prices rise, many people skip meals and eat less nutritious food.

Improving the delivery of health services in many developing countries is key to fighting disease and malnutrition. Nowhere is this truer than in Africa, which carries one quarter of the world's health burden. For this reason, Canada announced funding, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), of as much as \$450 million from 2006–2016 for the Africa Health Systems Initiative.

Throughout the developing world, CIDA works in partnership with the donor community to help reduce death and disability from diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis. The recent avian influenza threat is another example of how multilateral partners are working systematically with governments around the world to develop a global response to a possible pandemic.

CIDA's program to fight malnutrition demonstrates the effective use of limited resources for high-impact results. The right mix of small amounts of key vitamins and minerals can avert disabilities and deaths, help young bodies to grow and support children's cognitive and social development. An untold number of children have averted blindness by taking two doses of vitamin A each year.

Humanitarian aid for refugees



Conflicts between and within countries have always been a part of history. As armies clash, civilian populations suffer. Sometimes invading armies intentionally force people from their homes. Other times, people flee as armies advance. These people may seek refuge in other areas of their own country or in a neighbouring country. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are people who seek safety in another area of their own country. Not all IDPs flee because of war. When drought or disaster strikes in one part of a country, residents may move to other areas to find food and shelter. Today there are hundreds of thousands of IDPs in various parts of the world.

During the past century, thousands of refugees have fled their homes in such places as Afghanistan, the Darfur region of Sudan, Bosnia and Ethiopia, looking for safety elsewhere. Receiving countries face enormous problems trying to deal with the sudden influx of tens, or even hundreds, of thousands of people. The refugees have no shelter, clean water or food and their safety may be threatened from within as well as outside of the group. Often the majority of refugees are women and children. Without help, the refugees would die of starvation and/or disease.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as CARE Canada, UNICEF, Oxfam, CAUSE Canada, the UN's World Food Programme and the Red Cross-Red Crescent Society provide humanitarian aid to refugees. Canadians, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), provide financial support to these and other NGOs.

In the 1990s, thousands of refugees returned to Ethiopia. To escape fighting in their own country, they had fled to neighbouring Somalia several years earlier. Now fighting had broken out in Somalia as well. Although fighting continued in Ethiopia, people returned home. However, the Ethiopians no longer had homes and were forced to live in makeshift camps. The IDPs were joined in the camps by thousands of Somalians who were fleeing from the war in their own country.

One camp of more than 20,000 people was located near a very small town, which did not have the resources to help the people. The Ethiopian government had drained government resources that could have helped the victims. As well, it was reluctant to give the UN or other aid agencies full authority to deal with the situation. After the government fell, a successful UN-World Food Bank airlift brought some provisions to the camp.

Three hours away, 15,000 people settled in camps next to UN Peacekeepers. UNICEF and various NGOs made certain the internally displaced persons (IDPs) had at least the minimum for survival needs. UNICEF supplied plastic sheeting for shelters and the BP-5 high protein biscuits. German Agro Action distributed buckets, blankets and cooking sets purchased with funds donated by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

For decades there have been refugee camps and shanty camps along Afghan's borders with neighbouring countries. There are also refugee camps inside Afghanistan for the million IDPs. As well as war, drought has uprooted almost four million Afghans. There is little food and medical assistance is scarce. To make matters worse, fighting makes it almost impossible to deliver food supplies. People in Takhar province faced starvation. About 10,000 families were not receiving food aid from other sources. Foodgrains Bank and its Canadian partners shipped 2,400 metric tonnes of wheat, 217 metric tonnes of edible oil and 860 metric tonnes of beans to meet the nutrition needs of 8,000 families in the province. CIDA financially supported the six-month project.

How much water do you use? Humans need between 20 and 50 liters of water every day for their basic needs. However, there is quite a difference in the amount of water used around the world. A person living in sub-Saharan Africa uses between 10 and 20 liters of water a day. On the other hand, a person in Canada may use as much as 326 liters of water every day.

In the developed world we take for granted the ready availability of clean drinking water. In fact, even though our governments make certain that the water from our taps is safe to drink, many rely on purchased bottled water because they do not believe the water is pure. How very different it is in other parts of the world! In many developing countries there are no taps to deliver water – safe or otherwise. In fact, obtaining water of any kind requires considerable effort. Imagine having to walk several kilometers to a tap, well or river to collect water. Imagine having to carry home every drop of water you use for drinking, cooking, cleaning and bathing. Imagine repeating this process several times a day. And often the water is not clean. Drinking it or bathing in it might lead to disease or skin infection.

People need safe, clean water and good sanitation in order to lead healthy and productive lives. In developing countries, unclean water and poor sanitation causes about 80 percent of all illnesses. In the developing world every year there are about 4 billion cases of diarrhea, a major water-related sickness. Weakened by diarrhea and associated diseases, 2.2 million people die every year around the world—more than the population of Montreal. Most of the people who die are children under 5.

Over 450 million people today in 29 countries, mostly in Africa and the Middle East, are suffering from chronic water shortages. That is roughly one-fifteenth of the world's population. By 2050, researchers estimate that as many as two-thirds of the people in the world will face water shortages. As well as water shortages, water quality is a serious problem. Asian rivers—an important source of drinking water—are heavily polluted, in large part by human waste. Most of the 2.4 billion people who do not have access to basic sanitation facilities live in Asian countries. Through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Canada supports global commitments to provide access to safe, clean water and basic sanitation by 2015 to at least 50 percent of the people who do not have it now.

With CIDA's help, NGOs are working to restore safe drinking water in many locations in the city of Kabul, Afghanistan. In Iraq, CIDA, CARE Canada, and CARE International are helping to restore water and sanitation systems by sponsoring a team of engineers, electricians, and mechanics who make emergency repairs throughout the country. As well, in Africa, CIDA supports the Nile Basin Initiative, a program that helps countries that rely on the Nile River for water to better manage their water resources. By working together, the Nile Basin countries—some of the poorest in the world—are finding ways to protect the watershed that supports the lives and livelihood of their citizens.

In Ghana, CIDA contributed \$16 million to improve the health of rural communities affected by the lack of potable water in the eastern corridor of the arid northern region of the country. In an area where most people are engaged in subsistence farming, over 500 boreholes have been drilled and fitted with hand pumps and nearly 8000 household latrines have been installed since 1999. Each village had to provide a token sum to pay for its well and some people of each gender were trained to maintain the well. Also, people were educated in the importance of such things as hand washing. Women now spend less time fetching water and they can invest more time in their children and farms.