



Outcomes and impacts

« Household latrines construction project »



Hoa Binh province

Map of Vietnam

Location	Nam Phong commune, Cao Phong district, Hoa Binh province
Start date	August, 2008
Duration	3 months
Objective	Improve hygienic conditions through the construction of 45 double-vault household latrines
Number of beneficiaries	45 households (mainly Muongs)
Funding	2 500 €

1. General context and project justification

Even though access to sanitation is a basic human right, most Vietnamese households in Nam Phong commune do not have suitable latrines. People are used to using simple open air toilets that have no waste treatment system. As a result of using such unhygienic toilets, women are suffering from *reproductive track infections* and children are getting communicable diseases related to waterborne outbreaks. And yet children have the right to grow up in a healthy environment and enjoy the best possible personal health.

The local inhabitants involved in the project were supported by Un Enfant Par La Main and its local partner - ChildFund Vietnam - in order to build double-vault household latrines* which were critical to improve hygiene in the area. The new latrines are providing a proper way for human waste treatment and management that helps reduce popular diseases such as diarrhea and skin related ones. Apart from increasing sanitary conditions, treated waste can also be used for agricultural purposes.

***Note on double-vault latrines**

Double-vault latrines are dry toilets i.e. they function without water. In the double-vault system one vault is in use at a time. When the vault in use is nearly full, it is sealed with dry soil and the other vault is used. The contents of the first vault can be removed safely and used as soil conditioner. Removal of dry material can easily be done by shovel. Then the first vault can be used again when the second one has filled up. This alternating cycle can be repeated indefinitely.

2. Objective

The main project's objective is to improve hygienic conditions of 45 poor households of Nam Phong commune through the construction of double-vault household latrines.

3. Conducted and implemented activities

✓ Household selection

A meeting was conducted by facilitators from ChildFund Vietnam in close cooperation with local authorities and gathered in need households participants.

Forty five households were selected based on the following 5 selection criteria set and agreed by all participants :

- lack of latrine in the household ;
- low income household ;
- number of children in the household ;
- number of women in the household ;
- active household within ChildFund Vietnam's *Behavior Change Communication* (BCC) program on water and sanitation.

✓ *Training for households on construction techniques*

Two trainings on construction techniques were provided to beneficiaries. Each training was limited to 25 participants in order to guarantee its quality.

✓ *Supplying households with construction materials*

Benefiting households were provided major construction materials including cement, brick, plastic pipes and roof by the project's implementation unit team.

✓ *Construction of 45 latrines*

Beneficiaries constructed their latrines under the technical supervision from ChildFund Vietnam.

✓ *Training for households on usage and maintenance*

Two trainings on operation and maintenance were provided to beneficiaries.

4. Achieved results

The project, which has been realized in close cooperation with local authorities, is a success :

■ 45 latrines meeting current sanitation standards of the Vietnamese Ministry of Health have been constructed ;

■ the 45 benefiting households have been involved from scratch and trained properly.

5. Successes and encountered constraints

✓ *Successes*

As the project met an urgent need for the community, beneficiaries were willing to contribute partly to the construction cost and follow the project schedule strictly. In line with *Behavior Change Communication* (BCC) activities supported by ChildFund Vietnam for a long time, the project contributed to change community's behavior toward hygiene-sanitation. It will certainly reduce the water and sanitation born diseases in the future.

In addition, the project will help Vietnam achieve by 2015 the United Nations' *Millennium Development Goal* related to *water and sanitation*.

✓ Constraints

As demand was high in comparison with the project size, it was a challenge to select benefiting households with consensus of all other households.

Time is also required for local inhabitants in order to change behavior as they are deeply impregnated with their habits.

6. Budget

Heading / Expense	Foreseen budget	Expenses
1. Construction of latrines (x45)	2 293 €	2 411 €
2. Trainings on construction and usage (x4)	151 €	151 €
3. Follow-up	56 €	56 €
Total	2 500 €	2 618 €

Notes :

- the estimated budget was subject to change according to inflation and fluctuations in exchange rates at the project's implementation period ;

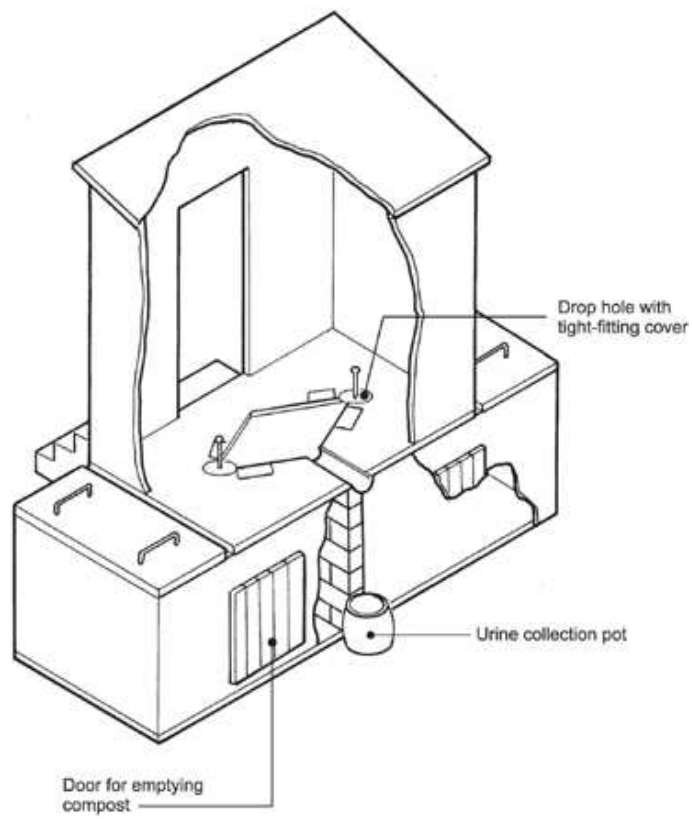
- the variance of 118€ (2 618 € - 2 500 €) was covered by ChildFund Vietnam.

7. Sustainability

In order to increase the project's sustainability, Un Enfant Par La Main and ChildFund Vietnam only supported 60% of construction cost. The remaining 40% have been covered by households. Their direct participation in the construction by providing in kind labor assures their ownership for further operation and maintenance and contributes to guaranteeing the sustainability of the project results. Besides, households have been trained on construction techniques, proper latrine usage and maintenance. They are now able to handle most occurring problems.

The construction of household latrines was carried out with strict concerns about environmental issues. The average life span of a double-vault latrine is ten years. ChildFund Vietnam capitalized knowledge on previous projects in order to avoid negative impacts to the surrounding environment. Also, as mentioned before treated wastes can be used for agricultural purposes.

8. Plan



9. Picture

