



THA-ITD-WSG-P01, Thailand
Reporting Period: July – December 2017

Water Resource and Development Project

Budget: Year 2 \$44,000 (of a three-year project. Year 3 begins 1 November 2018)

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 worked in two Lahu minority tribe villages, made up of 369 villagers and 98 households, to bring clean water solutions. 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. It is anticipated that two villages will be completed shortly. Our partners report that all stakeholders are working well together. Hydrological maps have been completed and village leadership has signed off on implementation plans, with Water Committees formed.

Each family has a small cost share towards activities and water solutions are placed in a convenient location for the village. Our partners said, *"We are putting in a gravity-fed water system that runs from the source into a filter tank then into a holding tank. From there it runs into each village house. Some villagers will also have bathrooms established on a needs basis. Each family contributes to the cost share of bathrooms and contributes the labour."*



Our partners add, *"Village Water Committees have been established to set water usage policies and to collect a water usage fee which will pay for maintenance and repairs when the project is complete. That way, the villagers take responsibility once the infrastructure has been put in place. We want the villagers to "buy-in" to the project as it helps ensure a high success rate. Family gardens and further training will also be incorporated into the project as the project progresses."*

Most hill tribes 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.
Without your help villagers would be unable to access clean water.**