

## Water for Life!



Northern Thailand



Water

Total Budget

\$105,000

Project Timeline

JUN 20

JUN 23



### Overview

Our partners work among the ethnic minority hill tribes of Thailand near the borders of Laos and Myanmar, where cultivation of the opium poppy and drug abuse has contributed to families living in poverty for generations. This project sought to improve the health of villagers through the provision of clean water sources and hygiene training in six villages over three years (two per year). The project also aimed to increase family income through awareness building, community participation and obtaining better agricultural yields together with environmentally sound practices for all activities. All six water systems were completed, despite some delays due to Covid restrictions.

### Objectives

### Impact



Clean water for 6 villages

Over the three-year project, water systems in six villages have been completed, bringing clean water to 853 villagers for drinking, cooking, cleaning, bathing, toileting and agricultural irrigation. Clean water has been life-changing.



Family gardens & 1 fish pond per village

Some families were assisted in the construction of fish ponds and over 64 families established vegetable gardens, leading to more nutritional variety, better health and new opportunities to broaden income sources.



Training in maintenance and hygiene

Over 110 villagers were trained in maintenance of the systems, setting up water management committees in their villages. Training in hygiene and sanitation was also provided to maximise health outcomes.



Training in agriculture & aquaculture

Training in agriculture and aquaculture gave villagers new skills and attracted increased participation in income generation activities, resulting in higher yields and family income.



### Life change

- Better water and sanitation facilities has led to improved health as water-borne diseases decline and diets from home-grown gardens improve.
- Time spent collecting water is redirected to tending crops and gardens resulting in increased yields and more reliable income.
- Building awareness of sound agricultural and environmental practices improves the quality and productivity of farming.
- Villagers live more harmoniously as there is no fighting over water.



## Village head Sorayut Chati shares

The people of our village are delighted with their new water system. In the past few years, we have had very little fresh, running water as the old watershed had dried up and become contaminated from nearby farming. Since the new water supply was piped in from further upstream, there has been enough water all year-round. Families who previously had to share bathrooms due to old ones breaking down, are now enjoying their own private bathroom. Many families have been able to create small gardens around their houses for growing vegetables. It's made us all very happy!



Villagers tending their new vegetable garden

## Water changes everything!

Project managers Jenny Cramer and Ros Jones visited one of the six villages in February 2023 and saw first-hand the transformation that clean water brings to a village. Water is so crucial to lifting a village out of poverty. It opens up so many new possibilities for change and further improvement and has immediate impacts on health and wellbeing, nutrition, livelihoods, social cohesion, and education. It makes a world of difference for so many like Naylor Chongti, who says, "Before, I had to use my neighbour's toilet as I did not have one of my own. Thank you for your support and to the people who came to build a toilet for me. I am so grateful" Here is Naylor standing in front of her shiny new bathroom!

