

Focus In and Scale Up Using Evidence-based Outcomes to Transform the Work of Partners and the Quality of Life for Families and Communities

Scaling up evidence-based solutions to advance families and communities

Table of Contents

About Thrive Networks

Letter from the CEO and the Board Chair 3

Sanitation

- A Woman Community Mobilizer Observes Progress Within and Around Her 4
- Demonstrating Sanitation Ecosystems for Government Scale-Up 6
- Expanding the Role of the Vietnam Women’s Union in CHOBA 7
- Improved Data Collection Helps LAO, PDR Deliver Sanitation to Poorest Families 8
- Piloting Technology and Organizational Models for Fecal Sludge Management in Vietnam 10
- Testing Public-Private Sector Models to Scale-up Sanitation in Cambodia 11
- Community-Led Sanitation Outreach Scales-Up in Ten Districts in Lao, PDR 12

Water Systems

- Smart Incentives Encourage Private Sector to Build Rural Water Systems 14
- Clean Water, Monitoring, & Evaluation (pending) 16
- Output-Based Aid Delivers “Last-Mile” Clean Water Services 17
- Innovations in Public/Private Partnerships Deliver Rural Water Household Connections 18

Digital Monitoring & Evaluation System Receives High Marks 20

Health

Simple Health Solutions Keep Children in School with Evidence-Based Strategy 21

Education

- SPELL Scholarships Keep At-Risk Students in the Classroom 22
- The Gift that Shelters a SPELL Scholar 22

Financial Report 23

Knowledge & Learning 25

Major Donors 26

Board of Directors 27

Thrive Networks designs and tests innovative financing and service delivery models to bring reliable sanitation and water systems to the poorest communities in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Over three decades of work, we have built a reputation for high-quality research and crafted trusted relationships with local partners.

The evidence-based outcomes from our pilot projects are being utilized by government agencies, the private sector, and local civic organizations to scale-up proven solutions to dramatically improve the health and living standards of families across entire communities and regions.

Dear Friends,

For all of us at Thrive Networks, 2015 was an exciting and pivotal year. More than 345,000 people living in poverty benefited from our groundbreaking health, water and sanitation, and education programs, and we were able to translate the excellence of these programs into important new grants. We also further refined our strategic direction, bringing our emphasis on evidence-based programming to the fore while making important organizational changes that support our current and future programs.

“This sentence has five words. Here are five more words. Five-word sentences are fine. But several together become monotonous. Listen to what is happening. The writing is getting boring. The sound of it drones. It’s like a stuck record. The ear demands some variety. Now listen. I vary the sentence length, and I create music. Music. The writing sings. It has a pleasant rhythm, a lilt, a harmony.

I use short sentences. And I use sentences of medium length. And sometimes, when I am certain the reader is rested, I will engage him with a sentence of considerable length, a sentence that burns with energy and builds with all the impetus of a crescendo, the roll of the drums, the crash of the cymbals—sounds that say listen to this, it is important.”

GARY PROVOST
Writing with Style and Power



A Woman Community Mobilizer Observes Progress Within and Around Her

One of the goals of Thrive Networks' Community Hygiene Output-Based Aid (CHOBA) 2 program is to expand the role of Vietnam Women's Union (WU) members as community mobilizers. These women aim to dramatically scale-up the number of households that can be reached with financing and education about hygienic latrines. Funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, initiated in 2016, will build on the pilot program in which some WU members transformed into community leaders.

Women's Union members survey households to document what sanitation system each home has, if any. Next, they educate the heads of each household by discussing the health benefits of a latrine and answering their questions. Sometimes a WU volunteer meets with a household three or four times to answer all of the questions. The WU volunteer also provides guidance to the project management board, so the women have a voice and a role in the success of each installation. A stipend is paid to the WU volunteer for each verified installation.

As the scale-up got underway, Thrive Networks spoke with Ms. Nguyen Hong Hanh, a volunteer head of the Women's Union in Nghia Kep hamlet, to learn about her experiences as a mobilizer for CHOBA and CHOBA 2.

“Since my participation in the project, I have my own voice. My mother-in-law even said that, “I feel very proud about Hanh.”

MS. NGUYEN HONG HANH,
Volunteer head of Women's Union in Nghia Kep hamlet.

“Before CHOBA, I did not have much knowledge or communication skills. But since my participation in the project, I see clear improvement; now I am more confident to talk. There are also changes in my family. When I got married, my mother-in-law managed the household finances. Since my participation in the CHOBA project, I have my own voice and my mother-in-law trusts me. She allows me to make decisions about finances and any other thing. My mother-in-law even said that, “I feel very proud about Hanh.”

Since I started to mobilize people in the CHOBA project, I see that the sanitation and environment has been much improved. There is no more garbage spreading on the two sides of the road. Families classify their garbage and there is treatment. I feel happy knowing that I helped improve the rural sanitation in my commune.”

MS. NGUYEN HONG HANH,
Volunteer head of Women's Union in Nghia Kep hamlet
Mobilizer for CHOBA and CHOBA2

A Woman Community Mobilizer Observes Progress Within and Around Her

One of the goals of Thrive Networks' Community Hygiene Output-Based Aid (CHOBA) 2 program is to expand the role of Vietnam Women's Union (WU) members as community mobilizers. These women aim to dramatically scale-up the number of households that can be reached with financing and education about hygienic latrines. Funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, initiated in 2016, will build on the pilot program in which some WU members transformed into community leaders.

Women's Union members survey households to document what sanitation system each home has, if any. Next, they educate the heads of each household by discussing the health benefits of a latrine and answering their questions. Sometimes a WU volunteer meets with a household three or four times to answer all of the questions. The WU volunteer also provides guidance to the project management board, so the women have a voice and a role in the success of each installation. A stipend is paid to the WU volunteer for each verified installation.

As the scale-up got underway, Thrive Networks spoke with Ms. Nguyen Hong Hanh, a volunteer head of the Women's Union in Nghia Kep hamlet, to learn about her experiences as a mobilizer for CHOBA and CHOBA 2.

"Before CHOBA, I did not have much knowledge or communication skills. But since my participation in the project, I see clear improvement; now I am more confident to talk. There are also changes in my family. When I got married, my mother-in-law managed the household finances. Since my participation in the CHOBA project, I have my own voice and my mother-in-law trusts me. She allows me to make decisions about finances and any other thing. My mother-in-law even said that, "I feel very proud about Hanh."

Since I started to mobilize people in the CHOBA project, I see that the sanitation and environment has been much improved. There is no more garbage spreading on the two sides of the road. Families classify their garbage and there is treatment. I feel happy knowing that I helped improve the rural sanitation in my commune."

MS. NGUYEN HONG HANH,
Volunteer head of Women's Union in Nghia Kep hamlet
Mobilizer for CHOBA and CHOBA2

A Woman Community Mobilizer Observes Progress Within and Around Her

One of the goals of Thrive Networks' Community Hygiene Output-Based Aid (CHOBA) 2 program is to expand the role of Vietnam Women's Union (WU) members as community mobilizers. These women aim to dramatically scale-up the number of households that can be reached with financing and education about hygienic latrines. Funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, initiated in 2016, will build on the pilot program in which some WU members transformed into community leaders.

Women's Union members survey households to document what sanitation system each home has, if any. Next, they educate the heads of each household by discussing the health benefits of a latrine and answering their questions. Sometimes a WU volunteer meets with a household three or four times to answer all of the questions. The WU volunteer also provides guidance to the project management board, so the women have a voice and a role in the success of each installation. A stipend is paid to the WU volunteer for each verified installation.

As the scale-up got underway, Thrive Networks spoke with Ms. Nguyen Hong Hanh, a volunteer head of the Women's Union in Nghia Kep hamlet, to learn about her experiences as a mobilizer for CHOBA and CHOBA 2.

"Before CHOBA, I did not have much knowledge or communication skills. But since my participation in the project, I see clear improvement; now I am more confident to talk. There are also changes in my family. When I got married, my mother-in-law managed the household finances. Since my participation in the CHOBA project, I have my own voice and my mother-in-law trusts me. She allows me to make decisions about finances and any other thing. My mother-in-law even said that, 'I feel very proud about Hanh.'"

Since I started to mobilize people in the CHOBA project, I see that the sanitation and environment has been much improved. There is no more garbage spreading on the two sides of the road. Families classify their garbage and there is treatment. I feel happy knowing that I helped improve the rural sanitation in my commune."

MS. NGUYEN HONG HANH,
Volunteer head of Women's Union
in Nghia Kep hamlet
Mobilizer for CHOBA and CHOBA2

Output-Based Aid – Building Accountability into Sanitation Systems for the Poor

Output-Based Aid (OBA) is an innovative model to expand access to basic services for the poor and to ensure sustainability. Under traditional aid programs, the donor provides funding to implementing partners before the work begins. OBA delivers payment based on verified results after implementation. The donor and service provider agree on a payment level that is profitable to the service provider and cost effective. The service provider mobilizes funds to pre-finance the work. The OBA model builds in accountability, design to meet the needs of users, and incentives to encourage delivery of “last mile” services – the final, and often most expensive, leg of a delivery network.

OBA LESSONS LEARNED

Water Supply: Paying for each new household connected to an existing system incentivizes utilities to deliver “last mile” coverage, which often includes poor households.

Sanitation: Small rebates paid to households upon verification of properly built and used latrines encourages the poor to build hygienic latrines now, not later.

Cost: OBA delivery costs are far lower than other approaches, while both leveraging local investment and reaching large scales.

TRADITIONAL INPUT-BASED APPROACH

Donor Funds Project

Service Provider Paid

Installation Service Completed

OUTPUT-BASED APPROACH

Donor & Service Provider negotiate payment amount for each installation

Service Provider Mobilizes Financing

Installation Service Completed

Verify Household Results

Donor Reimburses Service Provider for Verified Output