

Development Workshop France

Extract from annual review ("*Rapport moral*")

to the

FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 24 and 25 JULY 2002
AT TREJOULS, FRANCE

The objectives of not for profit organisation DWF are to contribute to the capacity of communities to meet their basic needs, specifically in the context of human settlements: housing, sanitation, community facilities (health, education), building, planning, urban planning, rural development, and similar fields, with a particular focus on developing countries.

In 2001, DWF pursued activities in three regions: the Sahel, Vietnam, and Kosovo. These projects are in line with DWF's overall focus on :

- (a) vulnerability reduction and assistance to community rehabilitation, and
- (b) resolving habitat and environment related issues.

Promoting sustainable approaches remains at the core of DWF's activities.

2001 and beyond

- Work in central Vietnam, Thua Thien Hué province, has been the main focus of DWF activities in 2001. This included developing both an institutional and social framework, and strengthening and animation practices enabling families and the community to reduce the vulnerability of housing and local public facilities to storms and typhoons. Thanks to the example of the activities undertaken in ten communes, working alongside "commune prevention committees" set up by DWF and reaching 222 families, the reputation of the project is beginning to spread beyond the region of its immediate impact. Following an initial phase of activities funded by CIDA from 1999 to 2001, in 2002 activities continue with support from the Vietnam Canada Aid Foundation, Alternatives (Canada) and CIDA.
- In Kosovo DWF's main activity (in consortium with French NGO ACTED) in 2001 was the technical implementation and co-ordination of a project to assist the rehabilitation de 300 houses in Vushtrri, funded by the European Agency for Reconstruction. A significant effort was made to strengthen the capacity of the local team, which assumed increasing responsibility for project activities. However, despite the planning and rehabilitation needs of the town at Vushtrri municipal level, the working environment failed to enable the local team to take over from the DWF/Acted consortium with the next EAR contract, and the team was dispersed early in 2002.
- In the Sahel, DWF continues to assist the promotion of Woodless Construction.
 - In Niger, demand for Woodless Construction continues and today there are a large number of buildings. The sustainability of the techniques is no longer in doubt. DWF assists the Woodless Construction project with the dual aim of increasing the appropriation of Woodless Construction within the formal building sector and of developing training strategies suited to the socio-economic climate of poor villages.
 - In Mali, there was little activity in 2001, with delays in refunding of DW Mali (essentially from Lutheran World Relief) being resolved only in early 2002. Generally speaking, however, Woodless Construction remains too dependent on the project and NGO context. If these techniques are to be genuinely appropriated by the local population, this will require a significant training and awareness-raising effort.

- In Burkina Faso, DWF's partnership with the Burkina Red Cross comes to an end in 2002 and DWF trained builders, previously working essentially for Red Cross projects, become available for private clients. This plainly represents a major opportunity, but it remains important to increase the number of trained builders in order to be able to develop the Woodless Construction market. "Open Days" have shown that there is a genuine demand, and in 2002 DW France will be seeking the funding it requires to train more builders.

Fund-raising to pursue activities in Vietnam and Burkina Faso remains a priority in 2002 and now takes up a significant proportion of DWF office time.

Development Workshop France Report on 2001 activities

to the

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Developing popular capacity to prevent typhoon damage to housing, Central Vietnam

Location: Thua Thien Province, Vietnam

Duration: 3 years (1999 - 2001)

Funding: Canadian International Development Aid (CIDA, IHA)

Beneficiaries: Local population in Central Provinces of Vietnam

Partners in Canada: Alternatives (Canada), Human Settlements DW (Canada)

Partners in Vietnam: Provincial, District and Commune people's committees in Thua Thien Hué; the Thua Thien-Hué consulting and designing construction company.

Sectors: Shelter, disaster vulnerability reduction

The project promotes and assists preventative action to reduce housing vulnerability even when reconstructing after a natural disaster.

The focus is on exchange and communication with the people using an interactive approach so that in each village, animation activities raise awareness in the short and the long term of the need to take account of strengthening measures when building or rebuilding. In this way, it aims to provide a practical demonstration of how preventative measures can be applied to existing village buildings, showing sustainable and affordable responses, using locally available resources. DWF also takes part in strengthening the region's schools and markets in collaboration with the communes of the province.

Developing local capacity to reduce the typhoon vulnerability of housing, Central Vietnam

Location: Thua Thien Province, Vietnam

Duration: 2001 – 2002)

Funding: Vietnam Canada Aid Foundation & Alternatives (Canada)

Beneficiaries: 20 families; 20 000 people in both communes, Thua Thien Hué, central Vietnam.

Partners in Canada: Vietnam Canada Aid Foundation in collaboration with Alternatives (Canada)

Partners in Vietnam: Provincial, District and Commune people's committees in Thua Thien Hué; the Thua Thien-Hué consulting and designing construction company.

Sectors: Housing, natural disasters, micro-credit

In November 2001, the Vietnam Canada Aid Foundation, a NGO based in Montreal, Canada, set up to coordinate assistance to their country of origin from Vietnamese émigrés, collaborated with Alternatives, Canada, to provide funding to DWF for a transition programme in central Vietnam. This enabled new approaches to damage prevention to be tested with 20 families benefiting directly in 2 communes in Thua Thien Hué province:

- beneficiary families were organised into credit groups at village (hamlet) level; these will not only help to manage loans for strengthening houses, but also act as poles of information and exchange on the subject of prevention;

- introducing a small-scale village credit scheme for house strengthening.

DWF continued to carry out animation activities in villages and to strengthen kindergarten schools in both communes involved in the project.

Support from the Vietnam Canada Aid Foundation and from Alternatives enabled the DWF team in Vietnam to remain intact in anticipation of more substantial a funding for activities in Hué. Field activities began in January 2002.

In 2001, DWF made two presentations on its activities in Vietnam to the Canadian International Aid Agency (CIDA) in collaboration with Alternatives and Human Settlements DW (Canada). CIDA subsequently approved funding for a 5-month programme in 2002. Following contact with the EU representative to Bangkok in 2001, a funding application has also been to the ECHO prevention programme in 2002.

Assistance to self-help housing reconstruction, Vushtrri, Kosovo

Location: Kosovo

Duration: March 2001-February 2002

Support: European Agency for Reconstruction (AER)

Beneficiaries: 300 families in Vushtrri municipality

Partners: Acted, Paris (in consortium)

Sectors: Shelter rehabilitation

DWF has been working in Kosovo since 1999, assisting French NGO, ACTED. Following the first rehabilitation assistance programme funded by the European Agency for Reconstruction in 2000, DWF formed a consortium with Acted in 2001 which jointly made a successful bid for the EAR 2001 programme. This included assistance to families for the reconstruction of 300 houses in Vushtrri municipality. DWF provided co-ordination and technical management of the project. Assisted by two expatriate architects, the local team gradually took on greater responsibility for the day-to-day running of activities.

In parallel to the EAR project, the team launched a small number of secondary projects in collaboration with the municipality of Vushtrri and the representation of the UN Mission to Kosovo (UNMIK). For the second year running a group of architectural students from the University of North London visited on a two-week visit to Vushtrri, and this further developed existing links between DWF, the School of Architecture of Pristina, and the University of North London.

DWF activities in Kosovo came to an end in early 2002.

Institutional support for Malian NGO 'DW Mali, Habitat and Environment'

Location: Mopti and Gao regions, Mali

Duration: 1997 - 2002

Support: Core support from Lutheran World Relief; specific inputs from *Terre & Humanisme* and from Else Traerup.

Beneficiaries: Local NGO, and local woodless construction builders.

Partners: DW Mali - Habitat and Environment.

Sectors: Institutional development, natural resource management, training.

DWF has been providing support to local association DW Mali based in Mopti in a number of ways: specific DWF inputs, provision of trainees/volunteers, and contract negotiation for local training and building initiatives.

Activities managed by DWF in 2001 included:

- Training course and practical site work (woodless construction) at Saaba, near Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso;
- Design and organisation of a woodless construction training programme at Tacharane, Goa region, on behalf of French NGO *Terre & Humanisme*;
- Institutional support from UK architect Henry Fletcher .

Woodless Construction, (A Hope in the Desert Project), Burkina Faso

Location: Northern Burkina Faso

Duration: 1996 – 2000; 2001-2002

Support: Danish Red Cross

Beneficiaries: Local builders; local population; village youth groups

Partners: Burkina Red Cross

Sectors: Housing, environment, builder training, local capacity development.

Following on from activities funded by the Danish Red Cross since 1995 to promote woodless construction, DWF successfully negotiated a new 18-month programme with the Burkina Red Cross effective from January 2001. This programme aims to consolidate woodless construction skills and reaches 60 trained builders in the provinces of Oudalan and Soum.

In addition to technical training and refresher courses for builders in these two provinces, a major activity in this period has been developing complementary skills amongst builders. Thus DWF has run courses for builders in management, marketing and how to draw up estimates for clients.

Activities were interrupted in May 2001 for five months to allow for the resolution of financial difficulties between the Burkina Red Cross and its funding partner, the Danish Red Cross, and as a result certain DWF activities planned for 2001 were delayed until 2002.

The Burkina Red Cross project, "A hope in the desert", comes to an end in 2002. DWF will seek to pursue activities to assist the builders in this region, as at present the existing numbers of builders is insufficient to ensure the sustainability of woodless construction in the region, despite strong indications of local demand.

Technical assistance to the development of Woodless Construction in Niger

Location: Niger

Duration: 2001-2003

Support: Danida

Beneficiaries: Local woodless construction project team; builders and architects.

Partners: IUCN (The World Conservation Union); Woodless Construction Project (PCSB)

Sectors: Housing, environment, training.

As part of a second phase of activities to promote Woodless Construction in Niger with Danida funding, since May 2001, DWF has been providing technical and teaching assistance to the PCSB. Activities have included the following:

- DWF has developed new training strategies for builders in rural areas; these aim to reduce project "presence" in the villages, as this can sometimes work against traditional systems of mutual help, and on the contrary encourage inflated monetarisation in payment for the services of trained builders;
- DWF has evaluated training and monitoring activities in the field;
- DWF revised all training tools being used by PCSB;
- DWF prepared a Woodless Construction reference manual, for publication in March 2002;
- strategies for training architects and technicians were also drawn up.